

School Board Governance



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

4 Main Roles of School Board Members

Focus:
Student Achievement

Representative

Representative

Leader

Leader

Advocate

Advocate

Steward

Steward

Balancing Act



- Serving each child
- District beliefs, vision & goals
- District resources
- Laws, policies, regulations
- Stakeholder interests
- Governance team
- Modeling civic responsibility
- Personal beliefs & values

Governance Team

Individual Member

- ***Individual Board Member:*** Elected state official but have no inherent power by reason of holding office.
- ***Member of a board made up of other members:*** Can only exercise limited power through official action



Governance Team

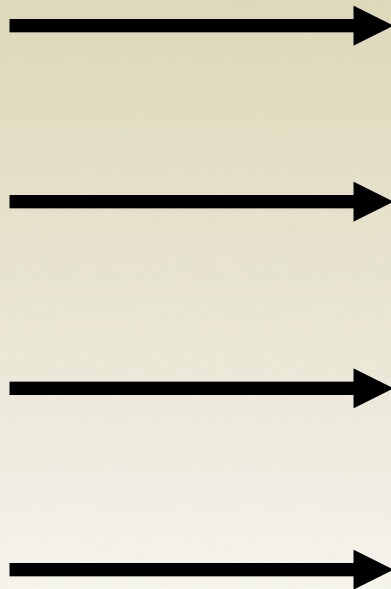
School Board President

- Conduct board meetings & maintains order
- Holds no additional power just added responsibilities
- Sets agenda items with the superintendent
- Bridge between board & superintendent
- Team builder & mediator
- Voting member of the board
- Voice of the board – meetings & media

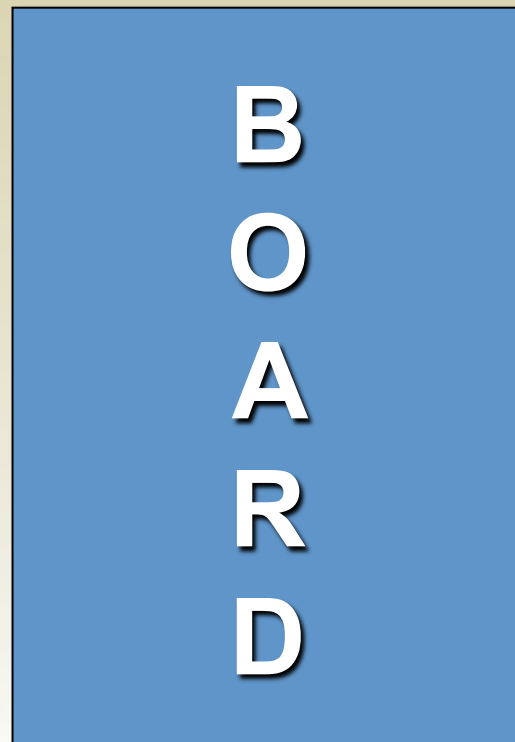


School Board Governance Communicating with Community

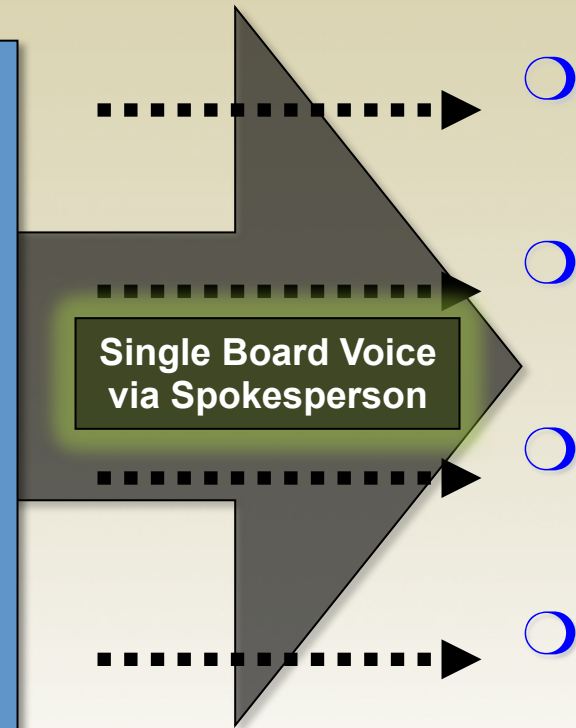
Individual Board
Member's Input



Board Deliberations
and Official Action



Individual Board
Member's Statements



Governance Team

Superintendent

- **Chief Executive Officer**
 - Enforces all provisions of laws, rules & regulations relating to management of district
 - Operates & Manages: day to day operations, staff (evaluations), students, programs, facilities, etc.
 - Implements board policy through creation of regulations
 - Manages the allocation of resources

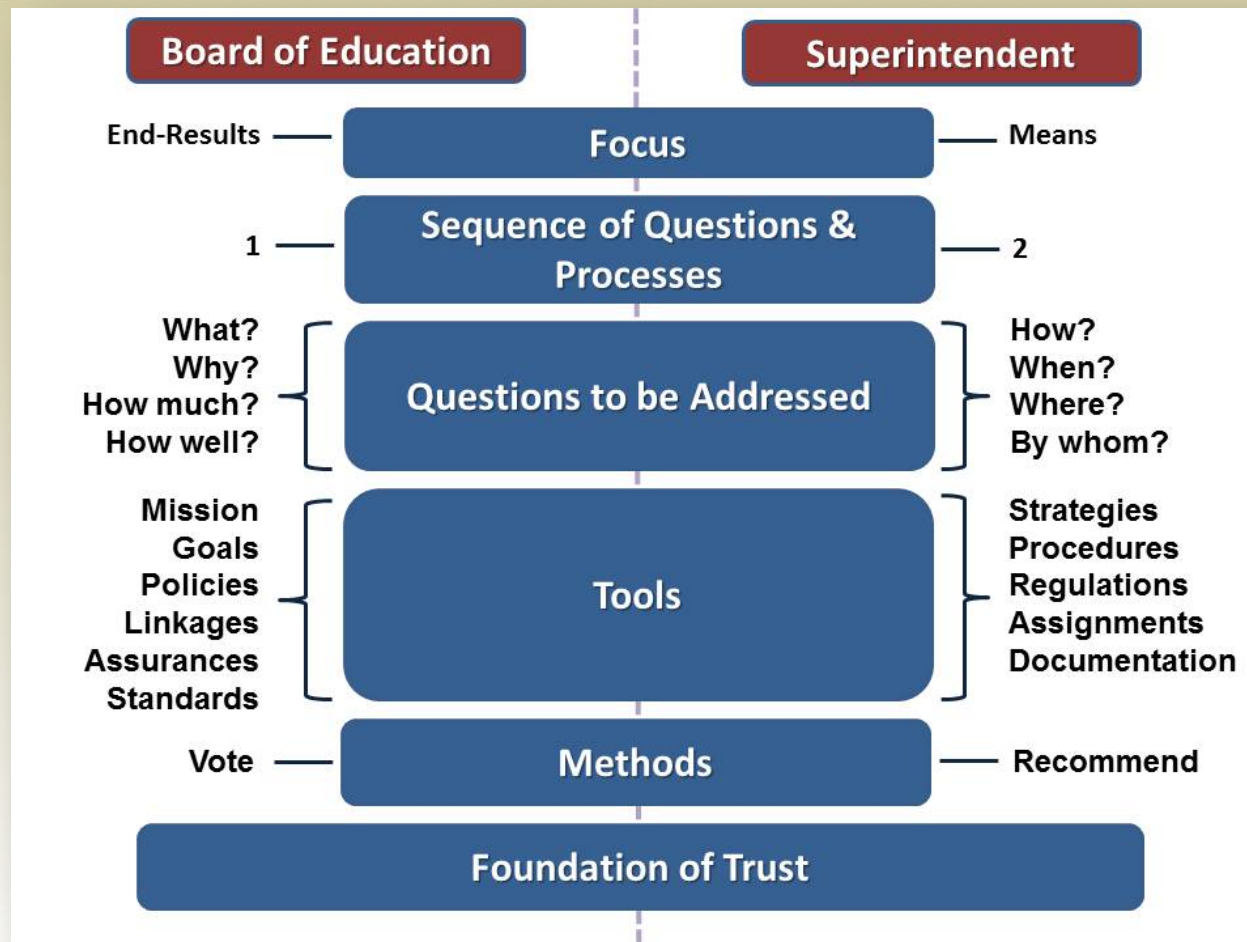


Governance Team Superintendent

- **Specialist**
 - Advisor and counselor on all matters of public education
 - Recommends: budget, policies, programs, curriculum, goals and best ways to achieve them
- **Communicator**
 - Voice of the district and communicates with community and media
 - Link between the district and board



Governance Team in Action



School Board Governance

General Responsibilities

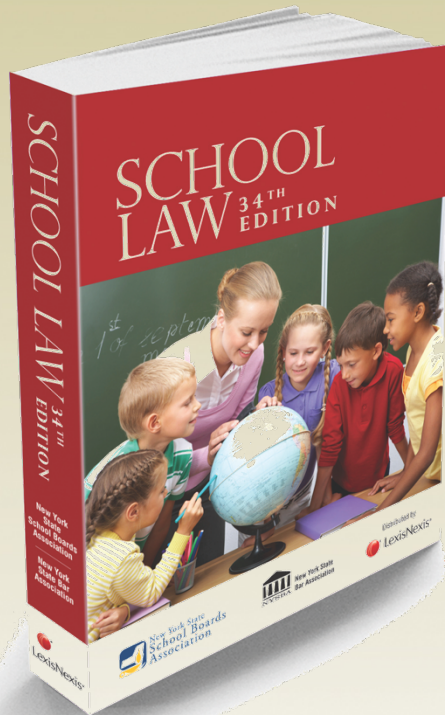
- Responsible for the education of all students residing in the district –
Admission, instruction, discipline, grading & when appropriate, classification
- Oversee the management of the district to ensure its assets are used properly, laws and regulations are followed & public interest is best served



Source: *School Law 34th Edition*

School Board Governance

General Responsibilities



Policy-Making:

- Means by which a school board leads & governs its district
- Ensures the district performs its stated mission and operates in an effective, uniform manner
- Establish the standards and objectives to be reached by the district
- Form the rules and bylaws for governance to which the board, students, and administrators are held accountable

The responsibility for implementing policy is delegated to the superintendent

Source: School Law 34th Edition

School Board Governance

General Responsibilities



- Complete fiscal oversight training & general school board governance training within first year of service
- Hire and annually evaluate the superintendent
- Annually approve & adopt the budget
- Make decisions on superintendents recommendations regarding personnel matters
- Approve contracts entered into by the district

Source: *School Law 34th Edition*

School Board Governance

General Responsibilities



- Review & approve all courses of study and textbooks
- Oversight of school facilities (*Ex. insurance, maintenance, equipment, supplies, etc.*)
- Adjudication & Investigation: Hear appeals on issues involving board policy
- Two way communication link between the community & superintendent

Source: *School Law 34th Edition*

Executive Sessions

Most common reasons to enter executive session:

- Discussions involving proposed, pending or current litigation
- Collective negotiations
- Medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of particular person or corporation



******Note law allows audit committees to enter executive sessions for additional reasons

Executive Sessions

- Requires majority vote of board to enter
- No time limit for executive session
- Board may invite guests
 - No formal vote needed, do not have to identify guests in motion to enter
 - Only remain for segment asked to participate in
- Charges against a tenured teacher (3020-a)
 - Discuss and vote on in executive session as per law



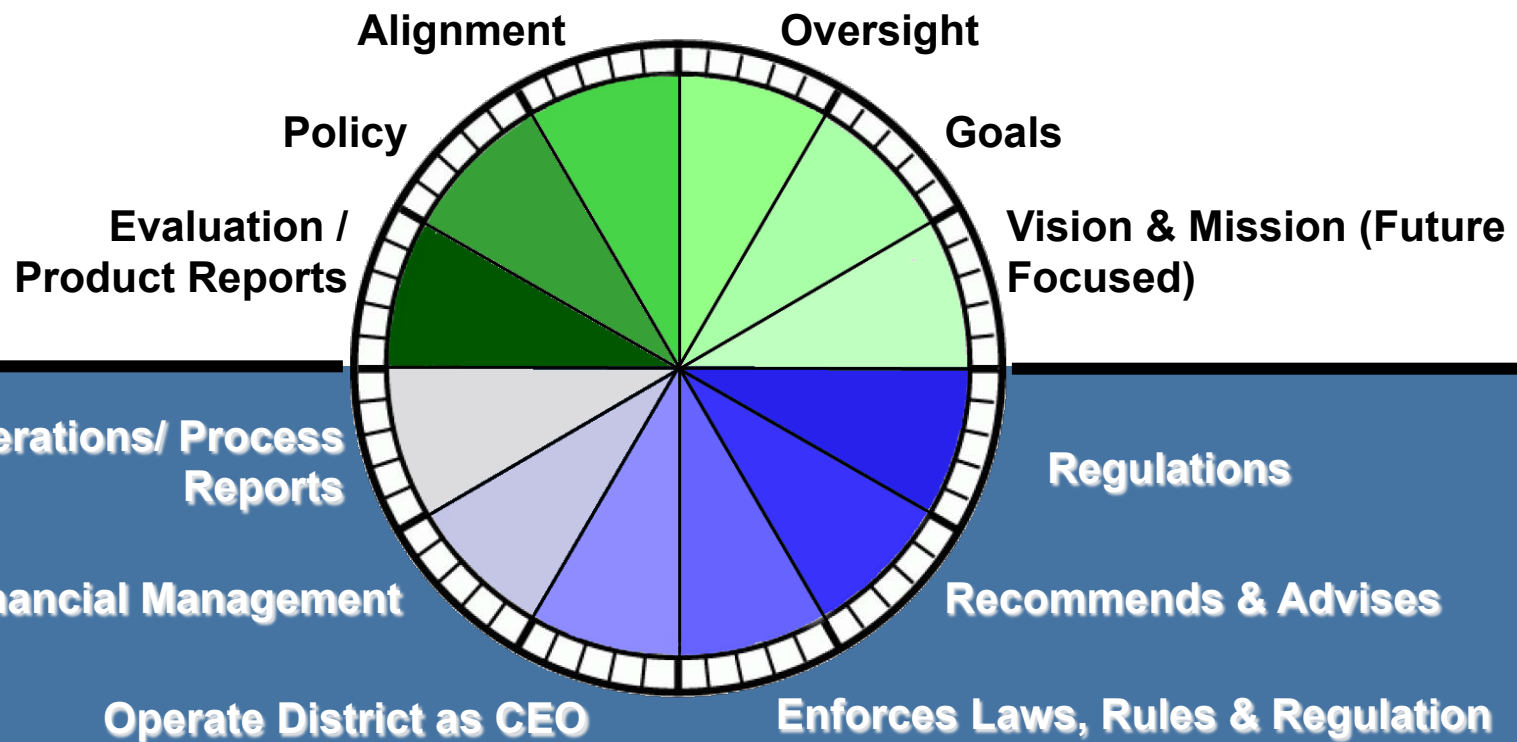
Maintain the 30,000 ft. View

“All too often, school board members are like fire fighters on the ground, battling the flames when they should be in a helicopter above the fire, able to see how extensive the blaze is, which way the wind is blowing and where the resources need to be deployed.” -Anonymous



Governance Domains

Board of Education



Superintendent