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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
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JSGS Governance Program

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Workshop Agenda

The use of Committees as part of your
Governance Model





The Board's Role

- To administer and manage the educational affairs of the school division, and to exercise general supervision and control over the schools – through bylaws and resolutions. (based on Education Act S.85.1)
- Boards govern – provide a framework or limits/or margins of acceptability for the superintendent and staff to operate. The Board provides oversight. Superintendent and staff manage operations.





The Education Act

80(1) Every meeting of a board shall be open to the public, but a person may be excluded for improper conduct.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) but subject to subsection (3), a board may determine, by resolution, that any matter should be dealt with in closed session

(3) A board may conduct a vote on any matter only in a meeting that is open to the public.





The Purpose

The real purpose of establishing your governance model is to set yourself up for success in making wise, informed decisions that are consistent with the needs, values and expectations of the communities you serve.





Options

- Always meet as a Board - public meeting and then move to closed session for specific items;
- Establish a Committee of the Whole to discuss specific items and recommend a decision/resolution to the Board.
- Establish Standing Committees to address specific areas (Audit & Risk, Governance & Human Resources)





Pros & Cons

Pros of Committees

- You can draw expertise to a specific area;
- More time for discussions - maybe allow for presentations to the Committee
- Generally more informal than a Board meeting
- Ability to have advisors support work of Committee





Pros & Cons

Cons of Committees

- Need a terms of reference established by the Board to keep Committee focused
- Need to determine if it is to be a closed session or open (Sec. 80(2) or open to public - so notice of meetings are required. (Labour relations issues, Contract negotiations, specific personnel matters)
- Takes more time of staff in supporting the committee
- The Big Risk - other Trustees wanting to rehash the recommendations



What worked? What did not work?





Public Sector Governance Program

Live Classes September 29, October 20 & November 17, 2023 (9:00 am to 12:30 pm)

- 3 Day Governance Certificate Program
- Online offering includes pre-work and live online sessions;
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