Leading Your School Advisory Board to Success: An Asset, not a Burden

2023 MNSAA Conference
Shakopee, MN
November 3, 2023
Our Roadmap

● What even is a Catholic school advisory board anyway?!
● What is a board member’s responsibility?
● How do we go about accomplishing that work?
● A few practicals.
# Catholic School Advisory Board vs. Public School Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catholic School Advisory Board</th>
<th>Public School Board</th>
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<td>● Is advisory in nature <em>without</em> legal responsibilities</td>
<td>● Is a jurisdictional/fiduciary board with legal responsibilities</td>
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<td>● The corporate board is the final governing authority</td>
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<td>● May be elected or appointed <em>(and removed!)</em></td>
<td>● Is elected</td>
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What School Boards Do

- Embody and enact “trusteeship” of purpose supporting the vision, mission, and goals
- Understand the broader religious, economic, social, and political environment as it may affect the school
- Help the principal shepherd the strategic direction of the school
- Bear some responsibility for stewarding the financial resources and sustainability of the school
- Advise on policy
What School Boards Don’t Do

- Administer the day-to-day operations of the school
- Act as a grievance committee or conciliators for any group or party
- Hire, evaluate, or terminate faculty and staff, nor do they advise principals of their responsibilities in personnel matters.
- Implement policy
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Responsibilities of Board Members

1. Duty of **Obedience**
2. Duty of **Care**
3. Duty of **Loyalty**
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Board Work

1. Boards \textit{decide}.
2. Committees \textit{work}.
3. Agendas \textit{govern}.
4. Executive Committees \textit{think}.
5. Principals \textit{share}.
6. Everyone \textit{writes}.
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Practically Speaking

• Be present
• Assume positive intent
• Maintain confidentiality
• Unified front
• Board matrix
• Motivate board members
Questions?

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