

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

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**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

## Catholic School Advisory Board

- Is advisory in nature *without* legal responsibilities
- The corporate board is the final governing authority
- May be elected or appointed (and removed!)

## Public School Board

- Is a jurisdictional/fiduciary board with legal responsibilities
- Is the final governing authority
- Is elected

# 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 **decide**.
2. Committees **work**.
3. Agendas **govern**.
4. Executive Committees **think**.
5. Principals **share**.
6. Everyone **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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