Growing Responsible, Ethical and Sustainable School Board Governance

Toronto Catholic District School Board
November 6 2010
Our Moral Purpose
Goals

- Set context for focus on governance
- Anchor governance in mission & vision
- Define good governance
- Identify role of parents in good governance
Context

• Ministry Supervision
• Bill 177
• Provincial Interest Regulation
• System Priorities
• Good Governance & Leadership & Learning
What is Governance?

• Provides a framework and process for decision making powers.
• Good governance is the exercise of these powers through ethical leadership.
• Effective school board governance is the exercise of authority, direction and accountability to serve the higher moral purpose of public education.
Bill 177

• Student achievement
• Effective stewardship of resources
• Development of multi-year plans
• Establishing an audit committee
• Supporting, monitoring and evaluating performance of the director of education
Provincial Interest Regulation

• Academic achievement of students
• Student health and safety
• Good governance of the school board
• Performance of the board and director
• Parent involvement
To educate students to their full potential in a learning community formed by Catholic beliefs and traditions.
Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

- A discerning believer
- An effective communicator
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker
- A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner
- A collaborative contributor
- A caring family member
- A responsible citizen
Student Achievement

Students Parents

School Community

Public Education Governance

Partners, Advocates and Interest Groups

Ontario Citizens

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Support staff
- CPIC
- CSAC

- School board trustees & district staff
- Ministry of Education
- Other government ministries and agencies serving children

- Parish
- Professional associations
- Unions
- Community Groups
- Media
No School Board is an Island

Authoritative Linkages

Legislative Assembly & Cabinet

Minister of Education

Ministry of Education, Children and Youth Services

Education Act & Regulations

School Boards

Administrators
Teachers
Support Staff

Archdiocese & Catholic Electorate/Community

Schools
Students
Parents
Good Governance

• Focused on accomplishment of stated purpose
• Purpose and the means to achieve it are clearly articulated and widely shared in a multi-year plan
• Clarity of distinct nature of roles and meaning of collaborative leadership
• Deliberate with Many Voices: Act with One
Board of Trustees: A Corporate Body

- Trustees have no individual authority; only the elected board as a whole has the authority to make decisions

- Trustees as a corporate body recruit and hire a Director of Education to lead and manage operations
Board of Trustees: A Corporate Body

- Board of trustees work collaboratively with Director to establish multi-year plans and set policy.

- Director of education is accountable to the corporate body of the board of trustees.

- All staff are accountable to the Director of Education.
Board of Trustees: Roles

“Steering not Rowing”

- Governors
- Advocates
- Community Leaders
System Practices and Procedures

- School & School Board Improvement
- Fostering a Culture of Professionalism
- Leadership Development
- Administrative Structures
- Parent and Community Supports
- Succession Planning
Board of Trustees as Governors

• Strategic direction
• Oversight and evaluation of the delivery of quality education programs
• Stewardship of resources to achieve the annual goals and priorities of the board that are in place to maximize the achievement and well-being of all students
Board of Trustees as Advocates

Inform and influence public perceptions and provincial education law and policy.
As community leaders, Trustees engage with the public to build understanding, guidance and active support for publicly funded Catholic education.
Code of Conduct

• Catholic faith, Community and Culture
• Integrity and Dignity of Office
• Civil Behaviour
• Complying with Legislation
• Upholding Decisions
• Respect for Confidentiality
• Conflict of Interest and Personal Advantage
• Accepting Gifts and Hospitality
• Additional duties of the Chair
Genuine Partnership

• Improved student achievement
• Reduced absenteeism
• Better behaviour
• Increased confidence among parents
Communication Policy

• Parents are encouraged to communicate directly with child’s teacher and/or school principal

• School supervisory officer should be contacted if concern not resolved
Communication Policy

• Trustees will direct parent to the teacher and/or principal
• If the concern is not resolved the trustee will direct the parent to the School Supervisory Officer
• And/or make the inquiry on behalf of the parent to the School Supervisory Officer
Change vs Transitions

- Change is situational: new legislation, new policy, new trustees
- Transition is the psychological process people go through to come to terms with the new situation (the change).
- Change is external. Transition is internal.
Learning Our Way Forward

• An adaptive challenge
• Learning with heart & mind
• A shared vision & moral purpose
"Act Justly, Love tenderly and walk humbly with your God". (Micah: 8)
Learning happens in collaboration.

Sir Ken Robinson.
A sacred heart is a reflection of God’s promise not to keep you out of the fire and water but to be with you in the fire and water.

Heifetz