

### March 2025 Board Communication

#### ❖ **Enhancing School Board Performance: Quick and Impactful Assessment Opportunities**

Effective school board governance is essential for student success, school improvement, and long-term stability. Yet, how often do board members take the time to reflect on their effectiveness and the performance of their Educational Service Provider (ESP)? To support this critical aspect of leadership, we are introducing two streamlined, high-impact surveys designed specifically for public K-12 school boards:

- **The Board Effectiveness Self-Evaluation**
- **The Survey to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Educational Service Provider**

These surveys are designed to be quick, meaningful and beneficial for every board. Each survey consists of only 10 multiple-choice questions and takes less than five minutes to complete. Despite the minimal time commitment, the insights gained will be invaluable in driving better governance and informed decision-making.

#### **Why Participate?**

1. **Insightful Self-Reflection:** These surveys provide board members with an opportunity to assess their collective strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring continuous growth and development.
2. **ESP Performance Assessment:** A clear, structured way to evaluate the effectiveness of the Educational Service Provider, ensuring that their support aligns with the board's expectations and the school's needs.
3. **Effortless and Convenient:** The surveys are accessible online via a simple link. They require minimal time yet yield meaningful data.
4. **Actionable Results:** We will compile the responses, analyze the data, and present the findings in an engaging slideshow format.
5. **Guided Discussion:** At a future board meeting, we will facilitate a discussion of the survey results, providing valuable context and recommendations for next steps.

#### **The Power of Data-Driven Governance**

By participating in these surveys, your board is taking an essential step toward fostering strong leadership and accountability. The results will not only highlight successes but also pinpoint areas where strategic adjustments can lead to greater effectiveness.

Board service is a commitment to excellence in education. Taking just five minutes to complete these surveys is a simple yet powerful way to ensure your board remains on the path to continuous improvement.

#### **Make Your Voice Count**

Your perspective matters! When you receive the survey link, take a few moments to complete it and contribute to a stronger, more effective board. Let's work together to build better schools through thoughtful, data-driven leadership.

For any questions or additional information, feel free to reach out to your FSU Field Representative. We look forward to collaborating with you on this journey toward excellence!

## ❖ Important Epicenter Deadline

March 17, 2025 – Board of Directors Application (for May 9, 2025 FSU BOT meeting)  
April 2, 2025 – Student Count

## ❖ Important Dates

February 14, 2025 – Ferris State University Board of Trustees meeting  
March 4, 2025 – Board Professional Development Webinar  
[Acquainting Yourself with Board Policy](#)  
April 1, 2025 – Board Professional Development Webinar  
[Cultivating Relationships as Part of Good Governance](#)

## ❖ Virtual Board Professional Development Opportunities

The next virtual session in our 2024-2025 board professional development series, [Board Governance Etiquette](#), will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The topic will be [Acquainting Yourself with Board Policies](#). This webinar will highlight the role board policies play in effective governance. Adopting and following board policies are an essential role of a public school board.

Mark your calendar for April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm for [Cultivating Relationships as Part of Good Governance](#). In your board role and in cooperation with the legal structure under which you operate as a board, there are many relationships to understand, acknowledge and cultivate. This includes the relationship between the board and authorizer, the board and management company, the board and the Michigan Department of Education, etc. This session will outline these roles and discuss how respectful, trusting and transparent relationships with all critical stakeholders will aid in the success of your governance operations and the school over which you govern.

Board members look for an email invitation from AirWin Educational Services with registration information for both sessions.

In case you missed previous virtual board professional development sessions below are links to the recordings. If you would like a copy of a presentation or handouts, please contact Sharon Hopper at [SharonHopper@ferris.edu](mailto:SharonHopper@ferris.edu).

[Navigating Your Role as a New Board Member: Part 1](#)

[Why Can't We All Just Get Along](#)

[Establishing a Positive Board Culture](#)

[Bringing Order to Meetings](#)

[A Practical Guide to Becoming a GREAT School Board Member](#)

## ❖ Board of Directors Question Toolbox

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office is happy to provide you with a few questions to help further your conversations this month. The question focus could come from one or more of our four School Support Pillars: Academics, Fiscal, Operations, and Compliance.

Please note that this is meant as a reference, some items may not apply to all schools, and that there are many questions a board member may choose to ask. If you have questions, please reach out to your Field Representative or the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office.

**We will focus on Pillar #4 Compliance/Governance:**

- Has the school finalized the school calendar for 2025-2026?
- Are the board's policies and procedures working effectively? Are any changes needed to improve the board's functioning, and if so, what might those changes be?
- How is the board maintaining a presence and active involvement in the school community?
- Does the board have a plan in place to step back and review its own performance and overall strategy? What development opportunities would the board benefit from?
- Has the board started its process to evaluate school leadership and/or its management company against the goals and priorities set at the beginning of the school year? Does the board have sufficient information to support these evaluation processes?

**❖ Any Questions?**

You may contact your FSU Field Representative or Sharon Hopper if you have any questions regarding this Board Communication. Important and/or urgent information that cannot wait until the next Board Communication will be sent to you by email.