

Board chairs: Leading the transformation

Unlock your potential conference

January 20, 2014

- Heather Welwood, Education Consultant
- Jim Gibbons, Senior Education Advisor

Agenda

Introduction of participants

The Research

- Jim Gibbons – School board chair 2011 study, ASBA Governance Task force recommendations, new Education Act/Regulations
- Heather Welwood- Summary of your feedback to Board Chair email #2

The Discussion

- Table Talk
- Written feedback to help ASBA plan for future board chair development

Moving forward

- Wrap up of the day's work – Heather Welwood

Inspiring Education

Engaging Albertans in creating the future we all want



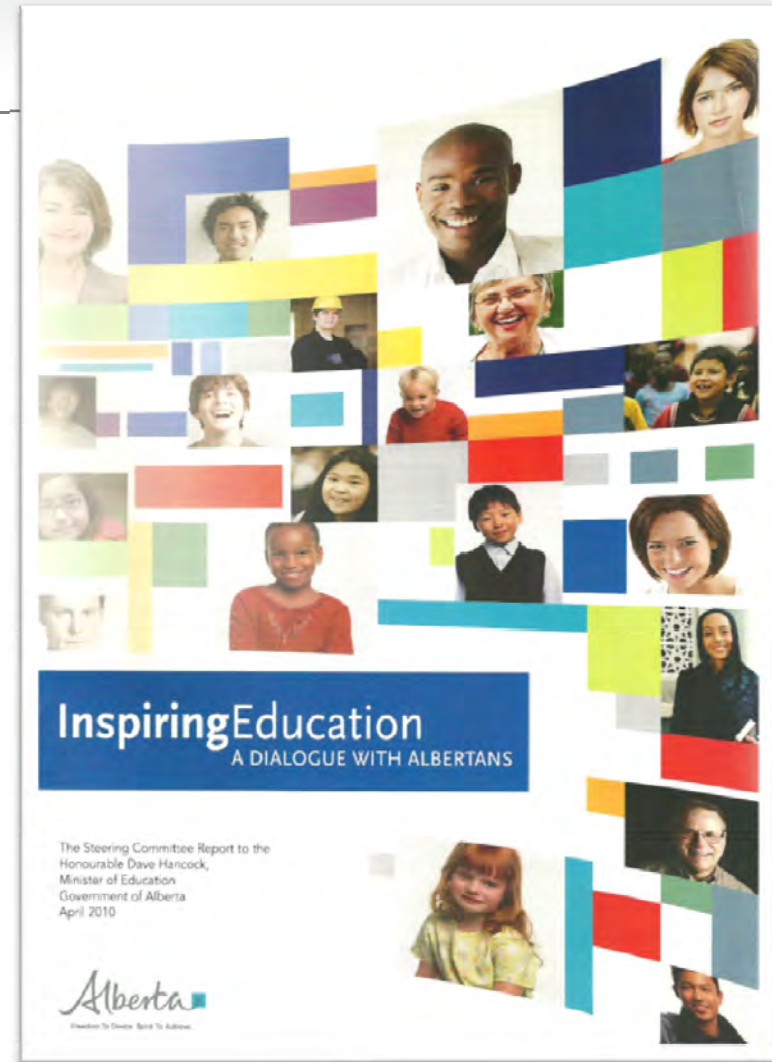
*“We need to prepare kids for
their future, not our past.”*

~ Dr. Richard Moniuszko

The context:

Inspiring Education suggests that board governance:

...assume a more public role, one that engages the community in an ongoing dialogue to deepen everyone's understanding of issues and trends and to generate ideas
(p. 35)



Governance – *Inspiring Education*

LESS Rules-based
Operational focus
Central influence
Accountability to bureaucracy

MORE Principles-based
Governance teams
Local direction
Accountability for learning
excellence

Governance in Transformation: Alberta School Board Chairs' Perspectives

~Seel & Gibbons

ANSERJ

ANSERJ
Canadian journal of nonprofit and social economy research /
Revue canadienne de recherche sur les OSBL et l'économie sociale



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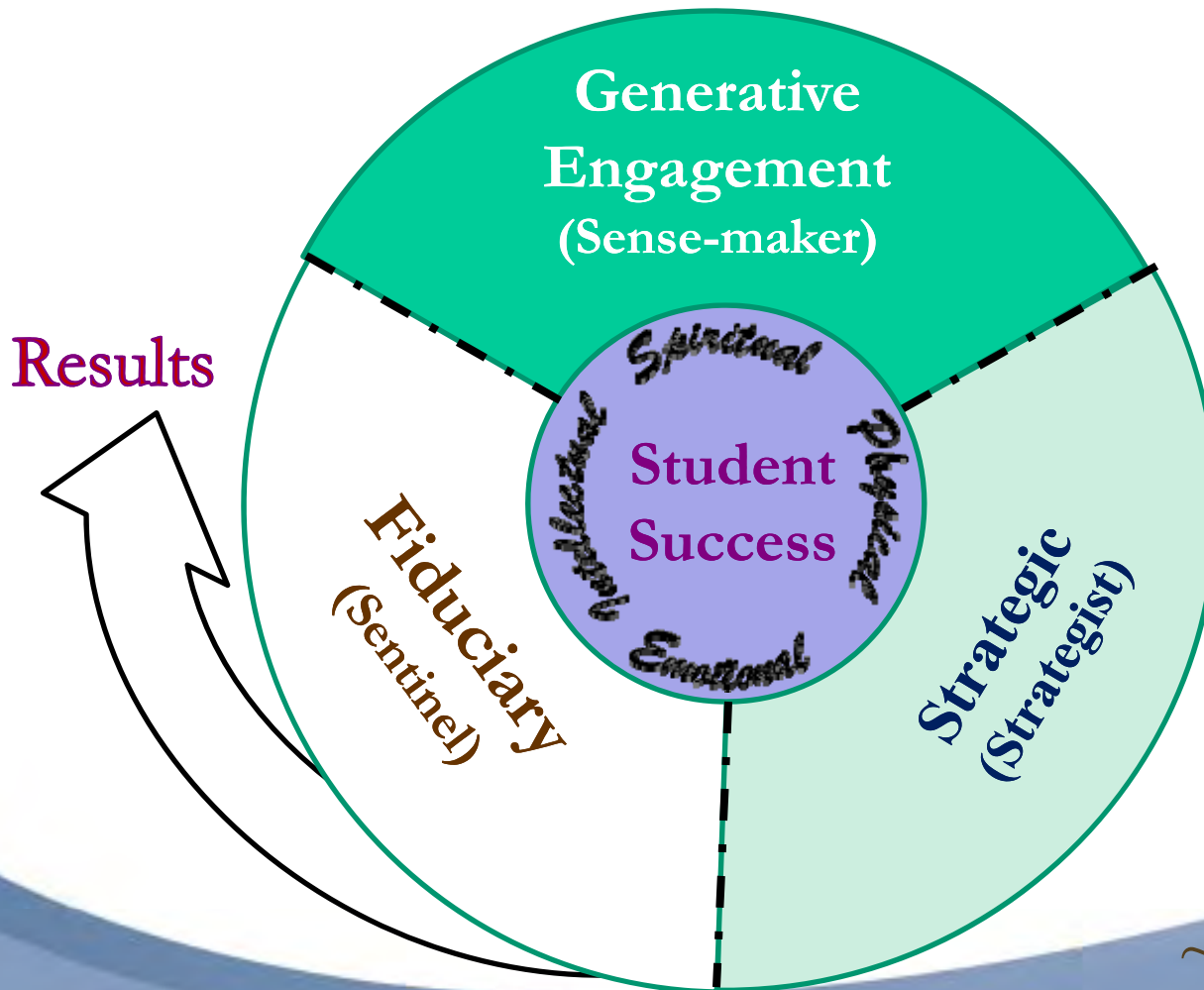
Official journal of the
Association of Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER)

Revue officielle de
l'Association de recherche sur les organismes sans but lucratif et l'économie sociale
(ARES)

Theoretical Categories

- Role ambiguity
- Engagement dilemma
- Cautious optimism
- Administrative mindset

Governance as leadership (Chait, Ryan, Taylor)





Policy-Role of the Board Chair

- Preside over meetings
- Be thoroughly familiar with agenda items
- Be in regular contact with the Superintendent
- Convey concerns and provide counsel to the Superintendent
- Act as chief spokesperson for the Board
- Ensure assessments are made of Board effectiveness

Research- Board Chair as Leader

- Ensures each trustee has the opportunity to speak and is respectfully listened to
- Ensures that the mission/vision are at the forefront
- Is familiar with and shares provincial issues and trends
- Shares leadership with trustees
- Facilitator of change/conflict resolution
- Models the way

Help find
ways to deal
with...



working
TOGETHER

Collaborative Practices and Partnership Toolkit
supporting alberta students



Reimagining school board governance: A call to action

ASBA Transformation of School Board Governance Task Force Report



Transformation of governance

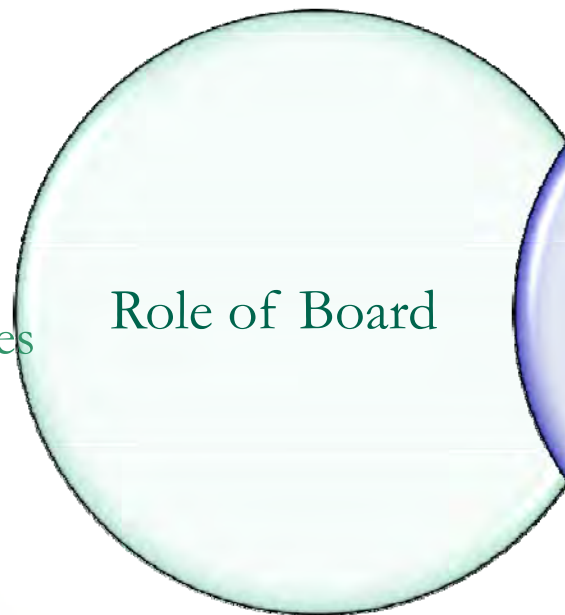
Themes/14 recommendations

1. School boards are local governments
2. School boards are a form of representative democracy
3. School boards are change agents
4. School board chairs are leaders
5. The CEO is the school board's one employee
6. Task force recommendations to ASBA

Governance and System Leadership: *The First Team*

**100,000 feet
(Vision/Direction)**

- Values
- Beliefs
- Principles
- KPIs
- Monitoring
- Key Outcomes
- Assurance



**Ground level
(Implementation)**

- Research
- Data analysis
- Strategies
- Interventions
- Measures
- Reporting
- Results



Province of Alberta

EDUCATION ACT

Statutes of Alberta, 2012
Chapter E-0.3

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Education Business Plan 2013-16

Education's mission is to ensure inclusive learning opportunities that enable students to achieve success as engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit



Goal four: *Engaged and effective governance*

Outcomes:

- The education system demonstrates collaboration and engagement with Aboriginal communities, business, industry, and the public.
- Students and communities have access to safe and healthy learning environments.



Table talk/discussion

1. As the role of the school board chair evolves, what knowledge, skills and attributes are essential to be an effective school board chairs? What do they mean to you as a leader?
2. Are there barriers to becoming an effective board chair? What are they?
3. What do you want to learn?
4. What supports would you like A to provide to you as a school leader?