

Suggested Ways of Enhancing Relationships between School Board Members/School Staff



By David Cadavero

Dear Educational Team:

Christian greetings!

Please find below several suggestions that the Office of Education believes will enhance the professional tone/atmosphere at school board meetings and/or develop a greater sense of “oneness” between the faculty/staff and school board. Having these in place during the school year will assist the school in creating a positive tone:

- 1) **Executive Committee to be held before school board meetings**
If the school board has not done so already, they should appoint an **Executive Committee**. Membership should include (but not be limited to) the principal, school board chair, treasurer, and constituent pastors. The **Executive Committee** should meet before the school board meeting to review/discuss the entire agenda for the upcoming meeting (a day or two ahead or earlier that day). Questions relevant to the school operation and finances, as well as questions where there may be serious differences of opinion, should (hopefully) be “ironed out” at this meeting, therefore creating an atmosphere of unity among several key players who serve on the board. The unity among the “inner core” of individuals is key in helping create harmonious relationships among school board members.
- 2) **Teachers to attend school board meetings**
A member of the faculty (on a rotating basis) makes a presentation to the school board (perhaps a 10 minute segment of each school board meeting can be reserved for this purpose). At this time, the teacher mentions some of the wonderful “happenings” in their classroom (i.e., class projects, special fund-raiser for classroom, Christian service activities, educational field trips, special guest speakers, answered prayers, classroom “wish list,” etc. This will help school board members develop a deeper appreciation for the substantive contributions teachers make in their quest for excellence in education.
- 3) **Prayer partnerships between school administration, faculty, and school board**
Board members and faculty/staff team-up as “**Prayer Partners**.” This will provide an opportunity for the board members to encourage and lift up the faculty/staff. The board member will pray with his/her partner either in person or over the telephone, as well as in private prayer. In addition to this, at least once per month, a board member will send a note of appreciation, birthday card, Christmas card, etc., to the faculty/staff member.

- 4) **Agape communion service**
Have an **agape communion service** exclusively for the principal/faculty/staff and school board. This service can be a wonderful way of setting a spiritual tone for the school and build the morale of the faculty and staff. It also gives the school board and school staff the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with each other's spiritual gifts and help to create a sense of solidarity.
- 5) **"Circle of Prayer" before every school board meeting**
Before each school board meeting, an opportunity should be provided for all school board members to participate in a season of prayer on behalf of the church school. At this time, board members may want to share some answered prayers. The principal may have answered prayers from the faculty and students that he/she may desire to share also.
- 6) **School board members serve as connecting "links" to school**
School board members will be assigned 3-4 parents of children who attend the school. Parents are to receive a letter informing them of the school board member who has been assigned to them to serve as a "link" between themselves and the school. School board members are to call parents at least **once per month**. Conversations should center on:
 - a) parental observations (in which parents express positive aspects of the school program. Should any concerns be expressed by the parent, the board member should encourage the parent to pursue this issue further directly with the person and **not with the board member**)
 - b) developing rapport with the parents
 - c) praying with the parents
 - d) developing a caring attitude that demonstrates that you want their child to succeed in school
- 7) **Home visitations**
The church education secretary of each church within geographic proximity of the school is to provide a list of prospective students. Board members, administration, and faculty will be assigned to visit each family either at the family's home or at the school, whichever the parents prefer. This will go a long way to help market the school effectively. The video **Safe and Sound** (provided at no charge by the Office of Education) would be a good starting point in discussing the benefits of Christian education. From the home visitation, the parents/prospective students should be invited to an open house (on a designated day in April or May).

The Office of Education is requesting that the school board/school faculty give careful consideration to implementing each of these items. Together, you can make a **real** difference in creating a sense of family at each of our schools that are part of our system of education. The Office of Education is committed to assisting you make this happen.

May God's guiding hand continue to surround your school, and may you be blessed in His service.