



Education Partners
Practice & Policy

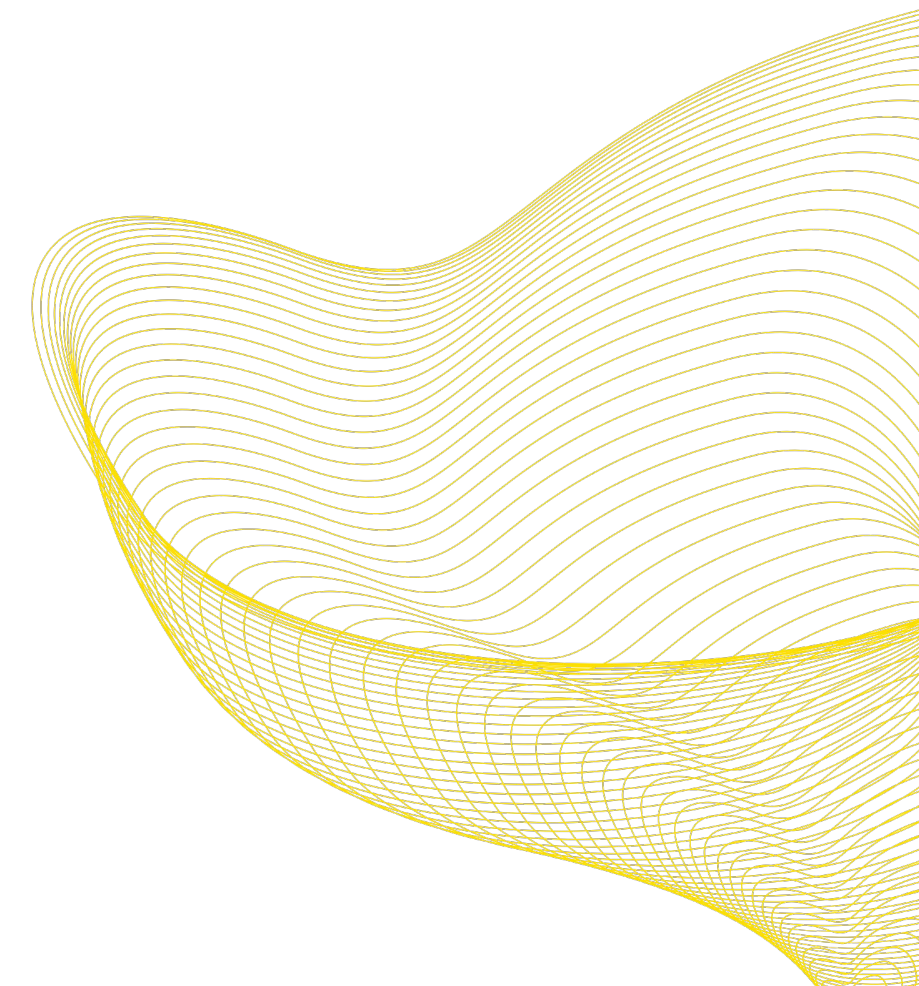
“STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE in a REACTIVE WORLD”

“THE POWER OF US”

Targets for Presentation



1. Celebrations throughout day
2. Who we are
3. Context on National, State and Local Scene
4. Roots of your Service
5. Review your Decision Making Drivers
6. Challenges to your service
7. United Decision Making Via Core Values (Elevated)
8. Examining Core Values through lens of V-M
9. Effective Governance
10. Guidelines for service-Compliance and Legal Obligations
11. A Strategic Plan Purpose-Possibilities-Priorities
12. Next Step Review





Dr. Gregory J. Pilewski

- Superintendent of the North Little Rock School District since 2020, bringing more than 25 years of experience in education leadership and school improvement.
- Previously served as Deputy Superintendent for Queen Anne's County Public Schools in Maryland and held multiple leadership roles focused on curriculum, instruction, and innovation.
- Recognized for expanding student opportunities through initiatives including Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Early College Academy, arts, world languages, and virtual learning programs.



Dr. Rochelle Redus

- President of the North Little Rock School District Board of Education and proud graduate of the North Little Rock School District.
- Represents Zone 3 and brings a strong commitment to serving students, families, and the broader NLR community.
- Earned a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Behavioral Health from Grand Canyon University.
- Author of *No Longer Broken*, focusing on mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

North Little Rock School District

- 7,480 students (down 300 from last year)
- 99% free and reduced lunch
- 61% minority population
- 1,320 total staff





Dwight D. Jones

Founder & President



Ardena White

Executive Consultant



Mike Poore

Executive Vice President



Dr. Ericka Burns

Vice President

Education Partners is a trusted firm that brings together experienced education leaders to help schools and systems achieve their goals. We leverage a broad network of content experts and deep experience across classroom, district, and state leadership to deliver tailored, high-impact support aligned to each client's unique needs.

We are committed to customized solutions and strong, lasting partnerships with organizations focused on improving student experience and outcomes, providing personalized and holistic support for schools, networks, and districts.



Nisha Ashley

Vice President



Nicole Piggot

Director of Operations



Vickie B. Turner

Senior Advisor



Keith Hartbauer

Senior Advisor

Are Texas' five largest school districts still growing under statewide enrollment loss?

By **Scott Huddleston**, Staff Writer
June 22, 2026

Denver Public Schools defend gender-neutral bathrooms despite threats from Department of Education

\$22 million in contracts fraudulently obtained from LAUSD in record-setting scam, D.A. says

Former DeKalb County schools superintendent arrested on assault, child cruelty charges

Clark County School Board authorizes employee COVID-19 vaccine mandate

21st Century Deliverable



What Makes You Tick?

How Do You Align That with Your School District?

- What are your core internal values?
- What core value is essential to achieving your 5-year goals?
- How can core values drive long-term success for your district?



Decision-Making Styles

What type of decision-maker are you?

How do we work best together?



Deliverables

“Wildcat Way”



Core Values

- Achievement
- Accountability
- Acceptance
- Assets

Vision

“Our Community.
Our Schools.
Where Your Future Begins.”

Mission

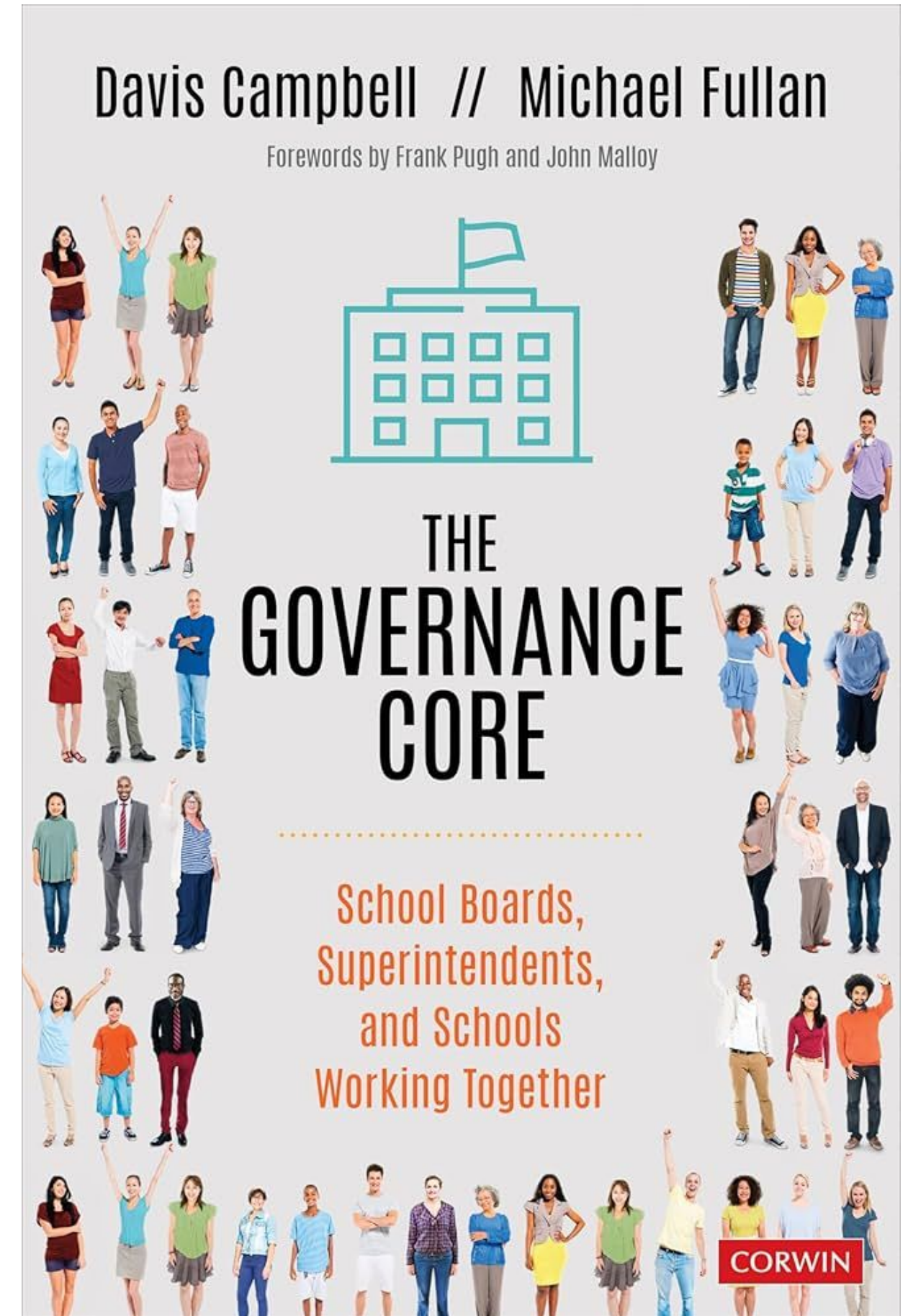
“The NLRSD will prepare all students for their future by offering a well-rounded rigorous, relevant and innovative education that allows each child to achieve their full potential in a safe, supportive learning environment to be future ready.”

What if?



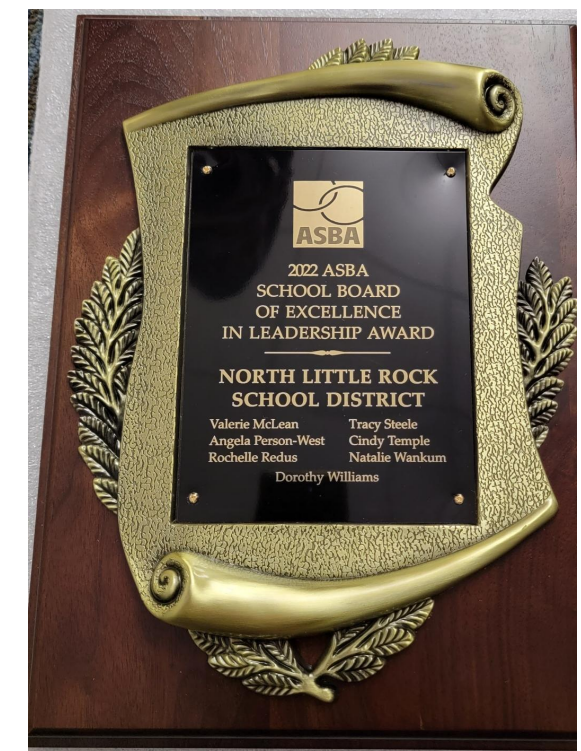
“The Governance Core”

Davis Campbell and Michael Fullan



Challenges of being a Board Member

- **You are an Elected Official**
- **You Represent a Zone**
- **You are told to vote for good of the entire school district**
- **Represent one of the largest economic engines in region**
 - Employer
 - Produce a Future Workforce
- **Complexity of School Business**
- **Local Control? State Control? National Control?**
- **Personality/Leadership Styles**
- **Churn of Board members**

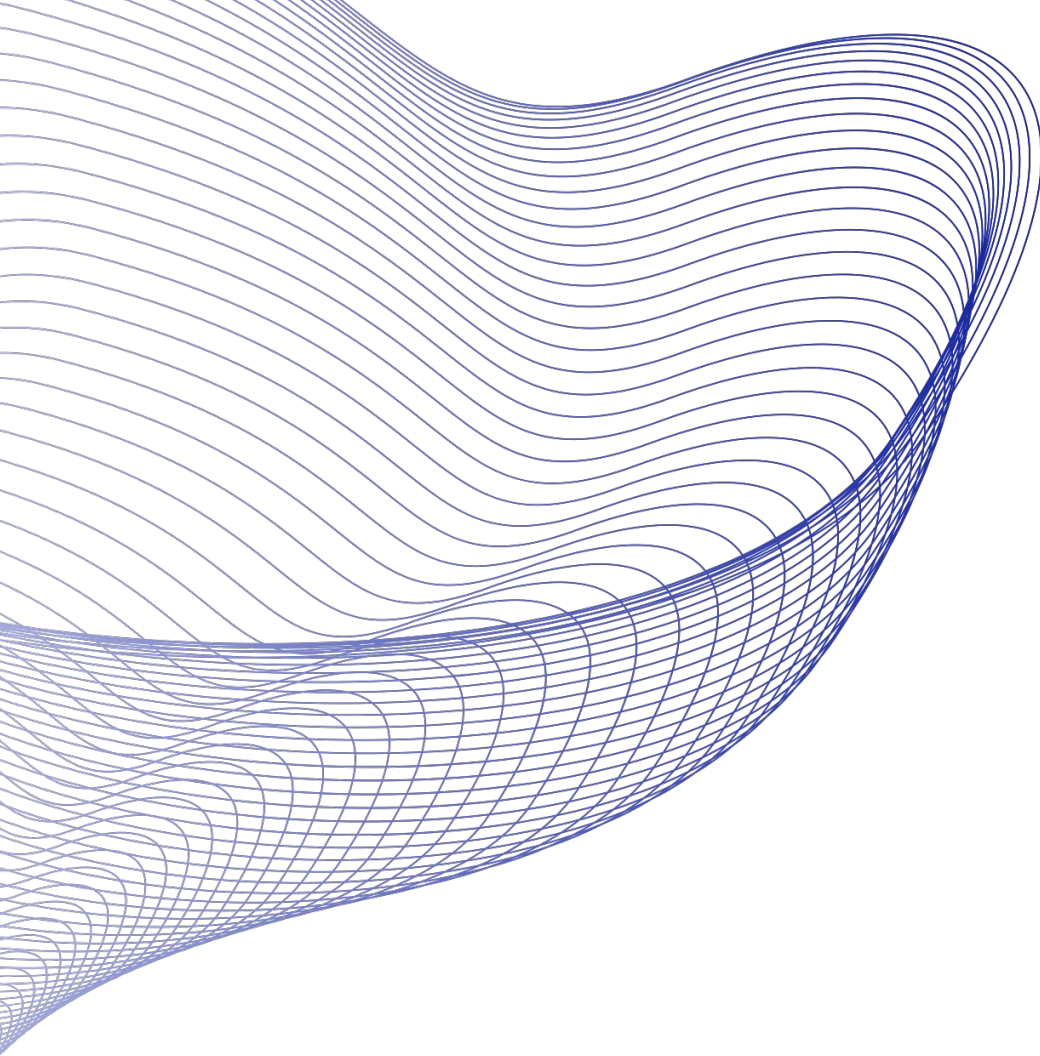






Governance

- **Governance=Steering**
- **Management=Rowing**
- **True Governance**
 - BOE determines "the What"
 - Administration does "the How"
- **Unity of Purpose**
- **Mission Statement**
- **Strategic Goals**
- **Core Values**



Systems Thinking



Strategic Focus



Deep Learning

Managing Public Manner

**Four Essential
Characteristics of an
Effective Board
Governance**

Systems Thinking

- Macro v Micro Mentality
- Examples of how Board should handle this responsibility
- Need to understand “Interconnectivity”. Board helps connect dots
- This is how we cook!
- Challenges for this Target

Strategic Focus

- Key Responsibility of School Board. The Board Governs the School District
- Long Term Goals tied to Mission and Vision
- Fullan's 3 key words– "FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS!"
- Assess your own Board meetings! How is time spent?
- Challenges for this target

Deep Learning

- Individual Board Prep– True Commitment
- Be aware, competent, and understanding of educational developments at local, State, and National levels
- Concise, accurate reports and data that share history and comparisons
- Challenges for this Target

Managing Public Manner

- As a Board member your life suddenly feels like you live in a fishbowl
- How we communicate
- Dealing with the Votes
- Build on Positives
- Challenges for this Target

Guidelines for Serving



- Reserve Judgement
- Listen Emphatically
- Focus on Content not behavior
- Stay true to Board Core Values/Norms
- Don't let it get personal
- Systems Thinking
- Positive Builds — Negativity Divides
- Deal and Own the Negative Quickly

Reality of Superintendents

- Styles of Leadership
- Strengths in Background
- Realities of this Job
- Governance commitment takes partnership



Scenarios

Amazing Grace | Michael Jr.





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