

Governing with Clarity

Strengthening Transparency, Accountability, and Decision-Making

Great governance doesn't happen by accident.
It happens by design.



Welcome & Introduction

Meet Your Session Speakers

simbli
by eBOARDsolutions

WHO WE ARE

We help boards lead and govern effectively and operate efficiently.

Through Simbli, we provide board governance software and solutions designed to streamline work, strengthen communication, and support student success.



Dr. Dennis Coe

Business Development Representative
and Former Superintendent



Charlie Rigby

Business Development
Manager



Mark Willis

Assistant Executive Director, GSBA
and Chief Operating Officer,
eBOARDsolutions

A SUBSIDIARY OF GSBA

eBOARDsolutions is a wholly owned subsidiary of GSBA, supporting school boards through innovative governance solutions.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



**MISSISSIPPI
SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION**



Strong Governance. Stronger Schools. Brighter Futures.

Together, we're building a better future for public education.

The Trust Challenge in Public Education: 5 National Realities School Boards Can't Ignore

New national data shows why trust, confidence and transparency matter more than ever — and **what's at stake** for our schools.



1



28%

of Americans report “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in public schools nationally — down from **41% in 2020**.

Source: Gallup, 2026

2



Republican
confidence
34% to 14%
since 2020



Democratic
confidence
48% to 43%
since 2020

National confidence in public schools is now sharply polarized by party.

Source: Gallup, 2026

3



48%

of voters nationally say their confidence in public education **has declined** since the pandemic, and **47%** say it declined within just the past year alone.

Source: The Hunt Institute
national voter survey

4



90%

of K-12 parents nationally report at least a fair amount of trust in their school or district leadership — but a persistent 10% report low or no trust, and that group overlaps heavily with parents who feel unheard.

Source: Alchemer 2026
K-12 Parent Trust Report

5



85%

of parents nationally agree that technology improves transparency, and 85% say it makes engagement with their school easier.

Source: Alchemer 2026
K-12 Parent Trust Report

When people say,
**‘The board
isn’t transparent,’**
what do they
usually mean?



How have you seen school board governance change over the years?

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Governance continues to evolve.
The mission remains the same: student success.

Public Education Has Evolved. So Has School Board Governance.

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From the past to today, school boards face more complexity than ever—while remaining focused on what matters most: **student success**.

THE PAST



Paper Agendas



Simple Meetings



Limited Information



Local Oversight



Fewer Stakeholders



Traditional Learning



THE PRESENT



Digital Governance & Secure Collaboration



Complex Discussions & Strategic Decisions



Data-Driven Information & Real-Time Transparency



Increased Oversight & Accountability

Federal & State Mandates, Policies, Compliance



More Voices, Higher Expectations

Students, Parents, Staff & Communities



Expanded Student Needs

Mental Health, Safety, Equity & Well-Being



Growing Competition for Students & Resources

Enrollment Pressure, Funding Challenges



Complex Compliance & Risk Management

Policies, Regulations, Cybersecurity & More



OUR FOCUS

Helping school boards navigate today's complex landscape with clarity, confidence and the right tools—so they can lead boldly and ensure every student thrives.

Four Pillars of Effective Governance



Transparency



Accountability



Alignment



Trust



Where Boards **Struggle**

-  **Information** | Scattered, hard to find, and not always up to date.
-  **Preparation** | Too much to read, not enough time.
-  **Meetings** | Discussions drift, time runs out.
-  **Decisions** | Hard to prioritize, risky to get wrong.
-  **Follow-through** | No clear owner, things fall through the cracks.



Common pain points

- Too much information
- Last-minute changes
- Unclear priorities
- Lost institutional knowledge
- Difficulty tracking decisions
- Disconnected systems
- Manual processes
- Limited visibility



Better Governance Starts **Before the Meeting**

Meeting quality is determined long before the meeting begins.



Agenda preparation

Build a focused, clear, and purposeful agenda.



Review

Thorough review leads to better understanding and decisions.



Collaboration

Work together early to leverage insights and reduce surprises.



Supporting documentation

Provide the right information to inform and decide.



Strategic alignment

Ensure every item advances our shared priorities.

Not during the meeting.



Every Decision Should Answer **Three Questions**

For every board decision:

-  **1** Why are we doing this?
-  **2** How does it support our goals?
-  **3** How will we know it worked?



Everything else is **governance mechanics**.



How has social media changed public expectations of board transparency?

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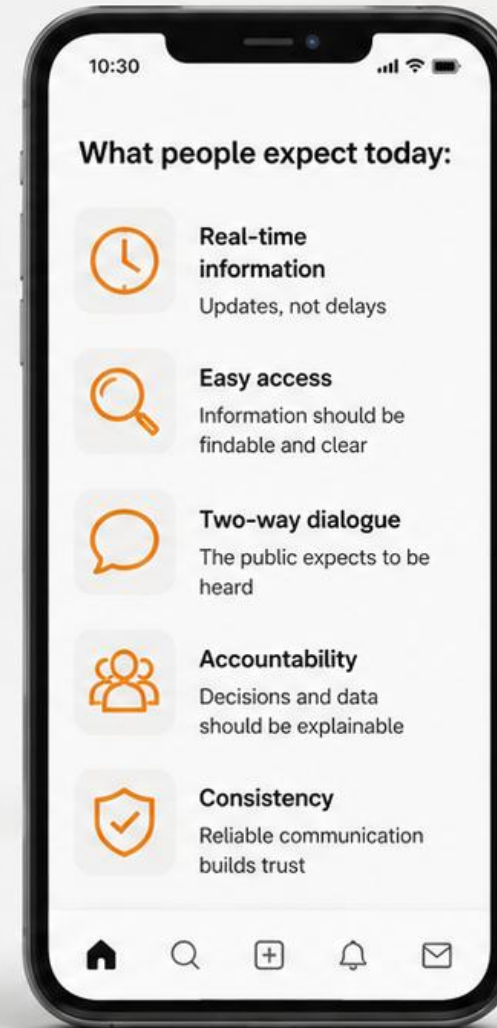
"Why wasn't I
made aware of
this sooner?"



"Where can I find
this information?"



"Show us the
process and
the outcomes."



"Hold our board
accountable."



"I should be able
to watch and
understand."



"Transparency
builds confidence
in leadership."



Information spreads
faster than ever.



Visibility is no
longer optional.



Engagement
is expected.



Transparency isn't just
good governance—
it's good leadership.

Transparency **Without Chaos**



Public access



Confidential information



Legal requirements



Trust



Sharing the **right information** with the **right people** at the **right time**.

Technology Should **Support Governance** – Not Drive It



GOOD GOVERNANCE PATH



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Clear principles and accountability set the right direction.



GOOD PROCESSES

Efficient, repeatable, and transparent processes turn principles into action.



TECHNOLOGY

The right technology powers and enhances good processes.

VS.



CHAOS PATH



NOT TECHNOLOGY

Technology without direction leads the way.



CHAOS

Disconnected tools and unclear processes create confusion.



MORE CHAOS

More complexity, more frustration, no real progress.

Governance That Connects **Everything**



Simbli Demonstration

See how a tool like **Simbli**
can help your board.

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#Support Public Education

Strong public schools build stronger communities and brighter futures for all.



Invest in Students

Quality education opens doors and creates opportunity.



Empower Communities

Strong schools strengthen local communities.



Inspire Futures

Every student deserves the chance to succeed.



We're In This Together

Together, we can build a better future through public education.



We Believe in Public Education

Public education is the foundation of a thriving society. Let's continue to support, advocate, and invest in the schools that shape our future.



*Strong Schools.
Strong Communities.
Brighter Futures.*