



## Choose Your Top Three Tips

Ask participants to read over the list of tips below (3 minutes) with the intention of finding three they believe will help them in their work.

Ask them to turn to their elbow partner and share their top three tips and explain their reasons (6- 8 minutes).

Finally, ask them to decide together which of the tips they discuss they will try to put into effect before the next board meeting.

1. Take the time to get to know your colleagues and to learn about their values, beliefs, strengths and weaknesses.
2. Articulate your personal vision and participate in developing an inspiring shared vision for the board.
3. Challenge the status quo – ask questions like:  
“What’s new?” “What’s next?” “What can we do better?”
4. Make room for and respect differing opinions.
5. Set aside your personal ego.
6. Agree to resolve conflict constructively.
7. Encourage participation from all stakeholders in your district.
8. Strive for continuous improvement by looking at promising practices and asking what could be better.
9. Assess the processes and relationships in the board and identify areas for improvement. Then set goals and devise a plan to improve.
10. Be transparent and responsive to constituents and stakeholders.
11. Develop a code of conduct for your board.
12. Start each board meeting with a quote, video or activity that will reinforce collegiality and focus trustees on their moral purpose.
13. Be open to innovation and exploring different approaches.



14. Ensure that people feel trusted and competent.
15. Align your decisions with the goals of the board and education in Ontario.
16. Fulfill your legal responsibilities.
17. Be accountable for your actions and the results.