Be the Best School Board Member You Can Be
In Planning for the Reopening of School

1. **Practice good governance.**
   As the situation changes daily, using best practices in your role as a member of the governing team is more important than ever. Decisions need to be made, bills still need to be paid, and the staff, students, and community need your consistent and stable presence.

2. **Support your Superintendent.**
   Your superintendent must manage your district right now. Superintendents are trained and equipped for this. Support them by adhering to the chain of command and remaining in close communication as a team. Give superintendents the flexibility they need to react in a changing environment in a timely manner.

3. **Unify your message.**
   It is important for the board and superintendent to share a consistent, positive, and calm message with your community. The superintendent should be the voice of the district with the board supporting their message. Do your best to be factual and reassuring.

4. **Stay updated and educated on emergency mandates and important resources.**
   In this emergency our local, state, and federal governments have been acting swiftly with executive orders that directly apply to your school board. Read and have a clear understanding of emergency measure changes to the Open Meetings Act and other laws governing board meetings and the reopening of schools. The ASBA website has a listing of many valuable resources.

5. **Be flexible and willing to learn and adapt to new virtual meeting venues.**
   With the importance of social distancing and the temporary suspension of some in-person meeting requirements, boards will need to find new ways to meet via the internet in one of the many digital venues available. For some, this will be a new challenge. The same will apply to different venues of student learning. Be open to change!

6. **Encourage your team.**
   This is likely not the first time your team tackled a crisis together, nor will it be the last. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused fear and anxiety among many, perhaps even your board colleagues. Reach out, take care of each other, and be a friend.

7. **Ask Questions**
   Your role as a board member requires you to have essential information for making important decisions. You must also be able to directs parents and patrons to pertinent district information during this time of change.