



# **United We Stand, Divided We Fall**

**Building a Strong  
Superintendent & School  
Board Relationship**





# Introduction

**Vern Henshaw** – Retired Superintendent

**Amber Shill** – Canyons District School Board Member  
and USBA President-elect

**Linda Hanks** – Juab School District Board Member  
and USBA Vice-president

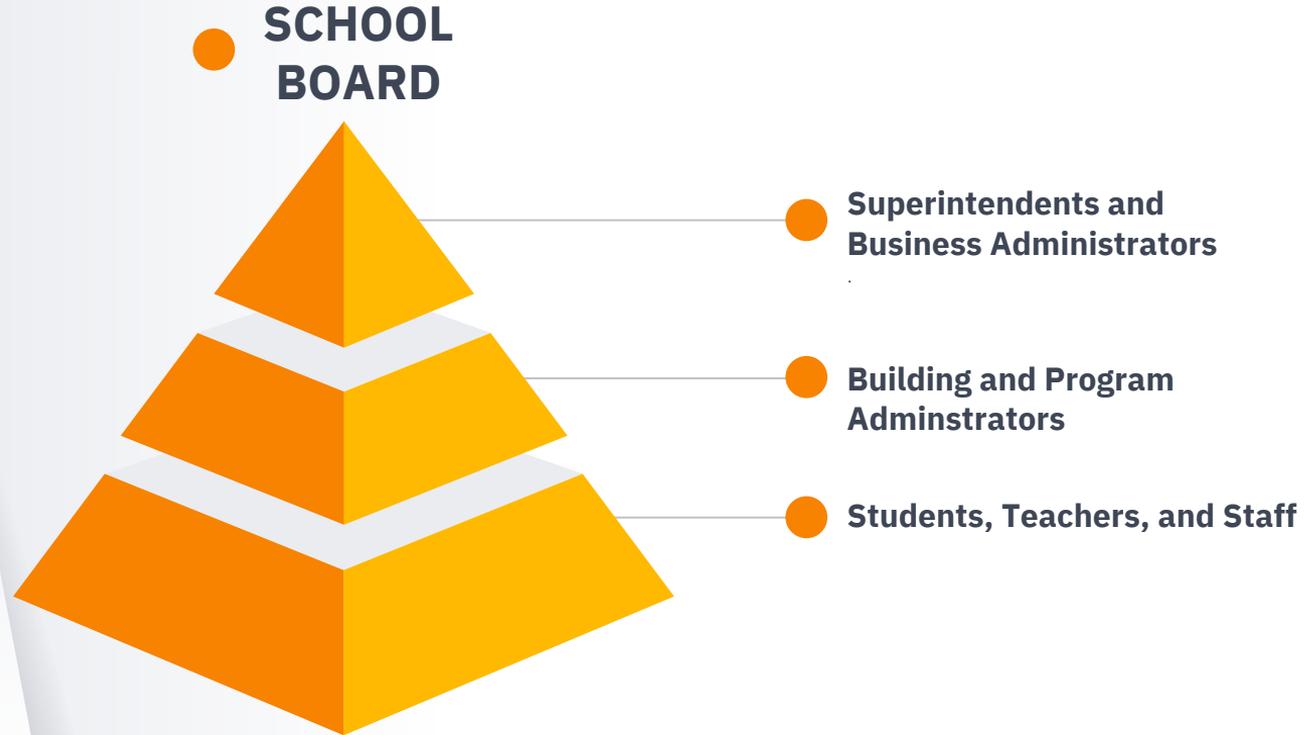
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**The success of a  
school board comes  
only one way—  
strength  
through unity.**



**Often, we think of the school board, superintendent, and district administration sitting at the top of an organizational pyramid**



# This is Incorrect!

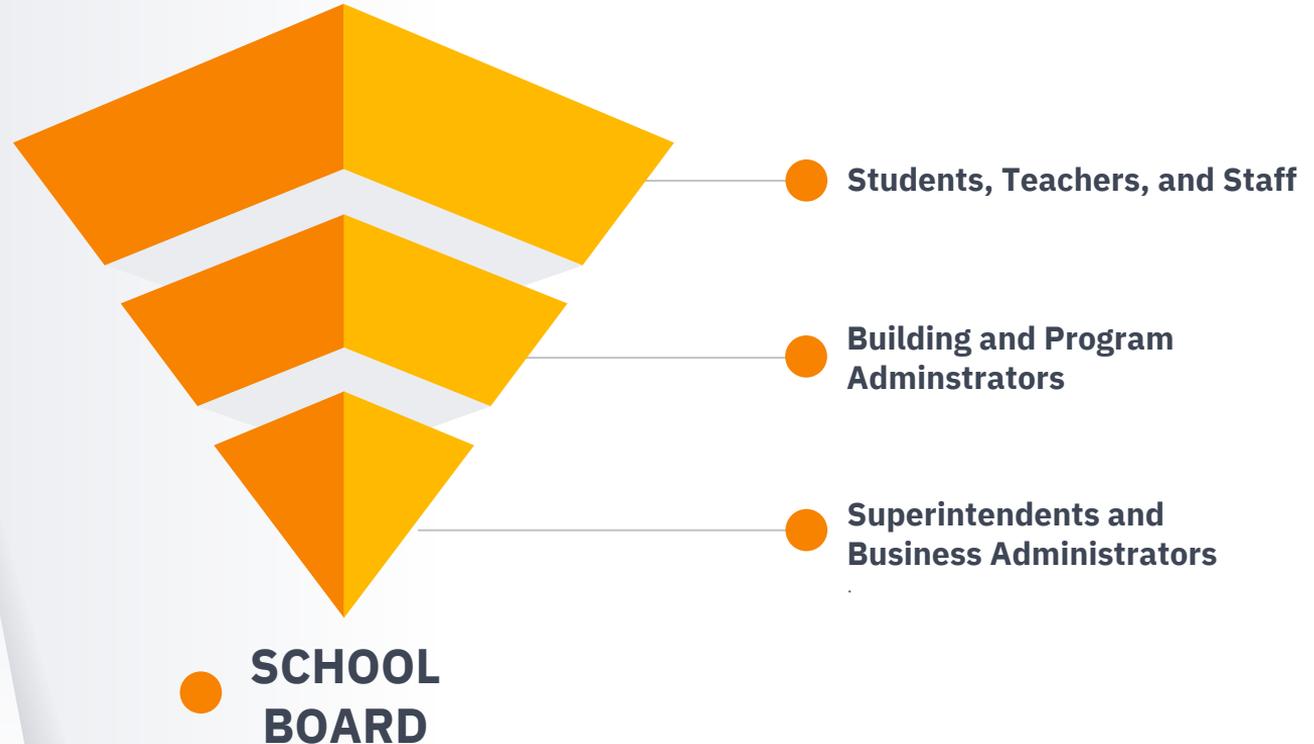
● **SCHOOL BOARD**



- **Superintendents and Business Administrators**
- **Building and Program Administrators**
- **Students, Teachers, and Staff**



**School board members should think of their district's leadership structure opposite – with the position of the board being at the bottom supporting the rest of the district.**





**A school board's authority is derived from shared action.**

**The more that authority is used in unity, the more powerful it is.**

**UNITY SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE GOAL.**

**The strength of the board to lift and support from the bottom only comes from standing firmly together.**



# School Board

Team consisting of:

5 or 7 elected members of the public  
Superintendent  
Business Administrator

The relationship between the board,  
superintendent and the business  
administrator is obviously key to the  
health of the entire district.



# ***QUESTIONS:***

*What does unity of a board mean?  
Whose responsibility is it to unify a board?*



*What do you think an effective  
Board/Superintendent relationship looks like?*



*What have you done to build a strong Board/Superintendent relationship?*



*How does a board support the Superintendent as the educational leader in a district?*



*What can harm the  
Board/Superintendent relationship or the  
unity of the board?*



*What are the roles and responsibilities of a superintendent?*

*What are the roles and responsibilities of a board member?*

- a. Best practice when a board member asks for information.*
- b. Best practice when a board member wants to (or does) investigate an issue.*
- c. Personnel*
- d. Communication*
  - 1. Written Informative*
  - 2. Business Informative & Collaborative*
  - 3. Relationship Building/Advocacy Centered*
- e. How would you best answer who is the boss of your district.*



*What advice can you give to board members to help them be effective?*



*If you were superintendent again what would you do more of or less of?*



# Questions?