



## Essential School Leadership with Keith Nix and Andrew Smith

### Lesson 8: Working with Your School Board (Part 2)

#### Outline:

How should a head of school keep an ongoing dialogue with the board in understanding how to deliver classical Christian education?

What did you start thinking about as you planned for training for the board as an audience?

- You can have a discussion rather than a presentation.
- With a few people, you can tailor what you say and get a sense for the words that the people use, the ideas people have, and the depth that is there.
- It is a natural conversation.

What did you hope might happen? What happened?

- Andrew hoped for a group that was not hostile.
- They discussed some fundamental quotes rather than just talk about general ideas.

What happened among the board members?

- Keith observed humility and eagerness among the board members.
- There was a genuine desire to understand what was read.

What content did you go through?

- Talked about 8-10 quotes with the participants in the room.
- How do we think about classical Christian education structurally?
- Andrew gave a brief rundown of PGMAPT from The Liberal Arts Tradition.
- The teacher is the curriculum.
- This gives a common vocabulary even if you have not read all of the same books.

If you could do it over again, what changes would make it even better?

- It would have been good to know the participants better ahead of time, then it could have been tailored more to them.

What would you recommend to other schools if they were to do something similar?

- The challenge is how to clone and multiply.
- Put the training on the calendar.
- The board has to understand the model of education so the decisions they make can be informed by the most distinctive thing about your school.
- There is nothing better a board can do. Take an already scheduled time to do this, and nothing will be compromised.