Purpose of Board Debrief

The primary purpose of a **board of education debrief** of the board meeting, under the **Coherent Governance Model** developed by the **Aspen Group**, is to help the board **govern its own behavior** and **ensure its effectiveness** by reflecting on its performance against its internal standards.

This debrief typically focuses on the board's **Governance Culture policies**, which define its own work, processes, and conditions.

Key Objectives of the Board Debrief

The board debrief is a form of **board self-assessment** and focuses on **process and discipline**, not the operational decisions made by the superintendent. The main objectives include:

- **Monitoring Board Performance:** The board assesses how well it adhered to its own **Governance Culture** policies, which outline the standards for board behavior and performance. This addresses the Coherent Governance principle that "The Board is responsible for its own performance."
- **Self-Discipline:** It helps ensure the board is **active but not intrusive**, a key principle of Coherent Governance. The debrief checks that the board stayed focused on **governance matters** (like policy-making and monitoring results) and avoided getting immersed in **administrative or operational details** delegated to the Superintendent.
- **Acting as a Unit:** The process reinforces the principle that the board **acts as a unit** (**Board Voice**). It's a chance to confirm that all official actions were taken by formal board vote and that individual members did not give direction to the superintendent or staff outside of that formal process.
- **Continuous Improvement:** By reflecting on the meeting's **process, tone, and focus**, the board identifies areas for improvement in its future meetings, such as agenda design, efficiency, and adherence to its policy framework, thereby enhancing the overall quality of its governance.

In essence, the debrief is a dedicated, formal time for the board to practice **self-correction** and maintain the discipline required to operate within the defined roles of the Coherent Governance model.

Debrief Objective	Corresponding GC Policy (Example)	Corresponding Debrief Questions
Monitoring Board Performance	GC-3 Job Description (Quarter 1)	1. Did we stay focused on governance (policy, outcomes)? 2. Did we drift into operational details?
Self Discipline	GC-7 Code of Conduct (Quarter 2)	1. Did we speak through the chair? 2. Did we stay respectful and on topic?

		3. Did anyone “take over” or go off track?
Acting as a Unit	GC-2 Governing Commitments (Quarter 3)	1. Did we act as one board, or as individuals? 2. Did anyone try to direct the superintendent outside the group?
Continuous Improvement	GC-2 Governing Commitments (Quarter 4)	“Keep doing” “Consider doing”