

Figure 10 Board of Mentors Process

Directions: Use this tool to support your novice teacher in discovering who is in her support system. You are only one person, and you cannot meet all the social and emotional needs of your mentee. If you are using *The First Years Matter* book with your novice, have her bring it to a meeting so she can write in her book.

Invite your mentee to print her name in one of the chairs at the table. Discuss how she is her own leader and that she guides her practice by reflecting. There is a line near every chair and the line is the "role" this mentor plays on the Board of Mentors. For example, the mentee's line would say "reflective practitioner." Your name will be in one of the chairs, and on the line it will say "district mentor." Through conversation, help the mentee find other people in her life who support her in different ways.

These mentors help the novice in life. For example, if she is moving to a new apartment, her best friend might be her mentor. We all have mentors who help us with finances, social networking, spiritual support, and educational decisions. Your role in this process is to help her acknowledge that she does have other people to help her. Consider doing the Board of Mentors for yourself and sharing your support system with her so she understands we all need support from time to time.

