



Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference and Trade Show

November 7 – 10, 2010

Greater Columbus Convention Center
Columbus, Ohio

Getting to governance – what is (and isn't) the board's role

Board development

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

9:00 a.m.

C 120–122

Cheryl Ryan, school board services consultant, OSBA

Paperless Board Meetings

OSBA is working for you to provide the means for paperless board meetings.

BoardDocs is an innovative system that saves districts times and money. BoardDocs enables school boards to enhance communication among the administration, the public and the board through online, paperless board meetings.

Developed for school boards, this e-governance solution provides a means of immediately publishing and revising agenda items, support documents, policies and procedures via the Internet.

For more information contact Amanda Finney at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. More information can also be found at www.boarddocs.com.

OSBA Mission

OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service and creative solutions.

Ohio School Boards Association

8050 North High Street, Suite 100
Columbus OH 43235-6481
(614) 540-4000 fax (614) 540-4100
www.osba-ohio.org

Getting to Governance:
What is (and isn't)
the board's role

Cheryl W. Ryan

Ohio School Boards Association
Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Getting to Governance:
What is (and isn't)
the board's role

Cheryl W. Ryan
Ohio School Boards Association
Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Consider this:

- On any professional football team, the quarterback, center, linebackers, coach, and owner are all part of the same team, but each has a distinct role that must be followed in order to achieve success.

- While each position is critical for success, they are responsible for totally different functions.
- Some have broad responsibility, some have a much narrower focus.
- Depending on the time of year, or the opponent of the week, different positions receive different amounts of attention.
- Without any of these positions, the team's record would likely be 0-16.

Knowing your role...

- ... is imperative in order to achieve success as a school board.
- ... as well as the roles of others in your district will ensure that everyone is appropriately accountable.

When roles are fuzzy or when they conflict

- ... expectations between individuals can be misunderstood
- ... some work goes undone while other tasks are "over-worked"

An example of poor governance



Where have they missed the mark?

- Do they understand who they are serving? (unity of purpose)
- Have they behaved ethically? (code of ethics)
- Have they followed policy or statute?
- Have they behaved professionally? (protocol)

Where have they missed the mark?

- Have they acted transparently?
- Are they being good financial stewards?
- Are they effectively engaging their public?

Governor or Manager? Five questions to ask yourself

1. Do we all agree upon and understand our mission?
2. Do we understand our role is to set policy for others to implement?
3. Are we accountable to our district and do we demand accountability at all levels?
4. Are we committed to transparency?
5. Do we work consistently to engage our community in district affairs?

7 Keys to good governance You are the district's governors!

1. Mission statement (unity of purpose)
2. Code of ethics (or governance norms)
3. Dedication to board and district policy
4. Process to create or alter protocols
5. Commitment to transparency
6. Positive financial stewardship
7. Effective public outreach

Your board's unity of purpose

- Why are you here?
- What is your district's calling card?
- What do you (as a group) stand for?
- To whom are you responsible? Do you all agree?
- What are your expectations for the coming year? Are they shared?

Your board's governance norms

- How will you as individuals and as a team behave toward the public and toward one another?
- What are your expectations about chain of command?
- How formal or informal do you want your board relationships and/or meetings to be?
- How will each of you demonstrate accountability to your agreements?

Dedication to policy

- Do you feel strong about your own policy knowledge?
- Who in your district is charged with managing policy and to keeping the board informed of updates and changes?
- Does your community know how "married" your board and district are to policy constraints?

Process for Protocol

- Dedicate real time to discussing a protocol that works for *all of you*.
- Readdress when new board member(s) come or go
- Protocol can be verbally addressed in a board meeting, but doesn't need to be
- Protocol tends to be more "micro" than general governance norms

Commitment to transparency

- Community trust is built over time
- Meet openly and according to Sunshine Laws
- Be personally transparent too! Be flexible but consistent
- Expect transparency throughout your district

Positive financial stewardship

- How do you address the budget in your meetings?
- Do all board members feel comfortable with and understand the line item budget and/or the financial forecast?
- Is your treasurer comfortable and willing to be your financial spokesperson?
- Does your community hear from you consistently about the budget, and not just when you're in a levy campaign?

12/25/10

copyright 2010 www.ohioschoolboards.com All Rights Reserved

16

Effective public outreach

- How do you speak to your different constituents or school groups?
- Would people in your community say that your meetings are professional and efficient?
- Would your community say that as a whole you are fair to all groups?
- Would staff and community agree that each of you is committed to staying current and is knowledgeable about key educational issues?

12/25/10

copyright 2010 www.ohioschoolboards.com All Rights Reserved

17

When every player knows their
role, results happen!

Enjoy your time and learning at
Capital Conference

cryan@ohioschoolboards.org

12/25/10

copyright 2010 www.ohioschoolboards.com All Rights Reserved

18
