

TOP TEN PRACTICES FOR A CHARTER BOARD/COUNCIL

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1. ENGAGED BOARD/COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Connected to the exuberance of learning – students, faculty, family and community members.
- Understand how the mission is working towards an ideal vision.

2. KNOW YOUR BOARD/COUNCIL ROLE. EMPLOY YOUR ABILITIES RESPONSIVELY: 4 C'S

- Contributing
 - Officers, Committee, DTF's
- Communicating
 - Ongoing, Affirmative
- Consultative:
 - Identify, Filter, Resource, Advocate
- Courageous:
 - TKCF, CAN, Accountable

3. COME UP WITH AND EMPLOY THE BIG QUESTIONS: (FOR EXAMPLE)

- What are we trying to accomplish?
- How is this learning community a place where inspired ideas thrive, take root, and bring fruition to the aspirations of each student and his or her family?
- Are we creating the conditions for a pedagogical style and approach that fits the mission and values of the school?
- How well have we done?

4. LEADERSHIP =
LEAD BY EXAMPLE, BY LANGUAGE,
AND BY SHOWING LEADERSHIP
IN ALL ITS VARIOUS
SKILLS AND CAPACITIES.

5. CHARTER CONTRACT = STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- From the charter contract develop annual plans and EXECUTE them with EVIDENCE. Learn and move forward on specific next steps – unified at all concentric circles of the school -- from Governance to Faculty to Families to Authorizer to Community.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- Innovation -- by its very nature -- is risk assuming; and systems to sustain themselves tend to conserve resources and avoid risk. Therefore, this given school management tension needs the collaborative and collective Governance insight to make the right call at the right time. Doing so will encourage and reward innovation while recognizing and limiting risk.

7. MANAGEMENT OF TIME

- Time is the resource that is either facilitative or restrictive. The Governance team has three considerations with the management of time:
 1. Always use your own limited time well.
 2. Expect others to do the same.
 3. Provide the resourcing as needed for time to be used well.

8. MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCING

- Each governance team is unique in how they distinguish their complementary skills and capacities. What is exemplary for strong Governance is that major aspects of resourcing – leadership, fiscal, facility, program, and partnership -- are evident in the makeup of the Governance Board/Council, its extended committee and task force structure, and those critical ‘friends of the school’.

9. ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- Continuous connection to the 'learning life' of the school.
- Who does what, when, and why?

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

- *Broad thinking on what is important, what is necessary, and what is truly innovative. (The innovative 5% = 33% of the Story)*
- *Again, asking the right questions.*
- *Think Tank + Researcher + School Designer =*
 - *Effective Monitoring and Evaluation .*

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