

Better Boards, Better Schools: Challenges and Opportunities

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First Principles/Key Questions

*What motivates/engages/energizes you as a trustee/board member?

*Trustees and leaders – make your school better – what does better mean?

*Connecting the dots – governance/leadership/strategic finance/data capacities and improved school performance/outcomes

*Getting better at getting better – how to improve capacities to improve school performance/outcomes

Governance Capacity and Improved school Performance

- Hard for an organization to outperform its board
- Chait/Ryan/Taylor – fiduciary/strategic/generative governance capacity
- BoardSource – high performance principles for boards
- AGB – Consequential Boards

Improving Board Performance – Governing for High Performance

- By-laws/policies/procedures
- Board composition – recruitment/selection
- Board structure/committees
- Term limits/succession planning
- Orientation/onboarding
- Board self-assessment
- Board meetings – time/structure
- Retreats

Better Schools – Key Questions

- What does better mean for an independent school?
- What data does a board need to monitor school performance?
- What capacities help a school improve its performance – what role can boards play in strengthening these capacities?

Reflection/Application Questions

- What strategies/initiatives does your board use to improve its performance?
- How does improved governance capacity contribute to improved performance at your school?
- Looking forward, what challenges do you see regarding governance capacity and improved school performance?