# CharterBoardPartners

great boards for great schools



Charter School
Board Service 101:
What to Do and How
to Do it Well

NAPCS Conference June 30, 2014

## The Charter Board Partners Model



# GREAT BOARD MEMBERS

CBP provides a talent pipeline
by selectively recruiting, training, and matching senior professionals to charter school boards



#### GREAT BOARDS

CBP helps to

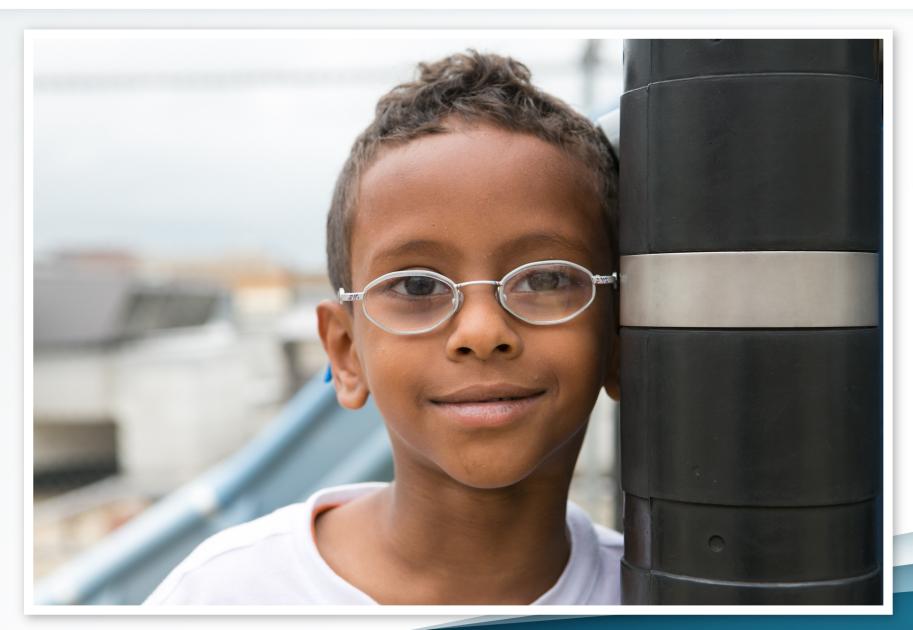
transform governance
by providing coaching,
resources, and training to
help partner boards
reach high standards
for effective governance





CBP partner boards become more effective, assume accountability for academic outcomes, and work strategically with school leaders to drive improved student achievement

## Board service matters.



# CBP Standards for Highly Effective Charter School Governance

Believe in and commit to the mission of the school

- 1. Focus Relentlessly on Student Achievement
- 2. Recruit and Retain an Exceptional Leader
- 3. Invest in Exemplary Governance
- 4. Act Strategically and Hold The Board Accountable
- 5. Raise and Use Resources Wisely
- 6. Commit Steadfastly to Legal and Regulatory Compliance



# Overarching Principle of Good Charter School Governance

The board must maintain an unrelenting focus on student achievement



## **\*1** Focus Relentlessly on Student Achievement

#### Own Student Achievement

- Assume responsibility for student results
- Agree on definition of academic excellence
- Ensure the school's program is raising achievement

#### Evaluate Achievement

- Understand how it is measured
- Use data to inform decisions
- Know how you compare to other schools



## \*2 Recruit and Retain an Exceptional Leader

#### Partner with the School Leader

- Champion/support
- Strong relationship between chair and school leader
- Succession plan

#### Hold the Leader Accountable

- Define role
- Establish annual goals
- Evaluate performance



# \*3 Invest in Exemplary Governance

- Build a Competent and Engaged Board
- Implement Best Governance Practices



# Build the Board Strategically

- Collectively, the board needs the right combination of skills required to achieve the school's goals
  - Finance
  - Fundraising
  - Real estate
  - Leadership
  - Governance
  - Communications/marketing

- Human resources
- Legal
- Strategic planning
- Experience relevant to the organization's mission



# Build a Competent, Engaged Board

- Actively engage all members/ remove disengaged members
- Invest in the board's development
  - orientation
  - ongoing training
  - annual retreats

Board member succession plan

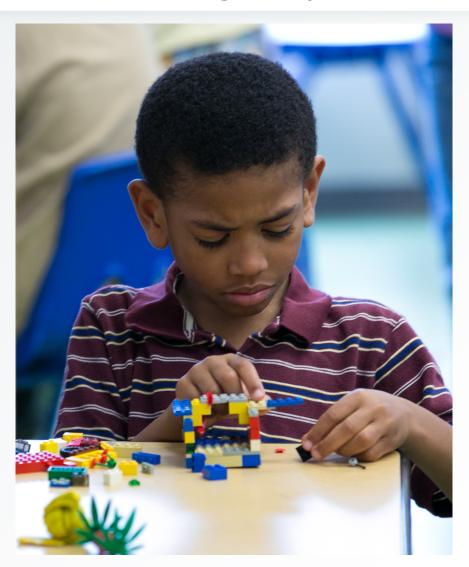


# Implement Best Governance Practices

- Hold regularly scheduled, strategic, well-run meetings
- Create job descriptions for your board
- Employ a robust committee structure
  - Governance
  - Finance
  - Fundraising
  - Education
  - Executive?
  - Ad hoc



## **\*4** Act Strategically and Hold the Board Accountable



- Focus on Strategy Not Implementation
  - Balance between governance and management
  - Strategic planning
- Measure the Board's Performance

# \*5 Raise and Use Resources Wisely

- Manage Assets Carefully
- Expand Awareness and Opportunities



## Manage Assets Carefully

- Responsible for school's short- and long-term financial sustainability
- Analyze financial data to make decisions
- Ensure all existing resources
   —time, people, and money—
   allocated towards improved
   student learning



# Expand Awareness, Opportunities

### Board members are fundraisers by definition

 Should be a personal philanthropic priority for each board member

#### Serve as ambassadors

Cultivate donors and bring new partners to the school

### Tips on fundraising

- It's an opportunity
- Most important factor in effectiveness? Your passion/ knowledge
- Find your fundraising comfort zone



## \*6 Commit Steadfastly to Legal & Regulatory Compliance

#### Minimize risks

- Duties of loyalty, obedience, and care
- Control policies
- Transparency and reporting



### Meet expectations

- Legal requirements
- Bylaws



## Setting the Board Up for Success

- How can you organize and prepare your board to meet these high standards?
  - Train your board
    - Empower your governance committee to lead this
  - Focus on setting goals based on the standards
    - School goals → board goals → committee goals
    - Monitor progress throughout the year—and act as if you are not on track
  - Organize committees around standards
    - If no one is responsible for something, it won't happen

## For Effective Governance, Start Here!

- Laser-like focus on student achievement
- Strategic board composition
- Robust committee structure
- Strong evaluation of school leader
- Clear understanding of the balance between governance and management (and how to operationalize it)
- Keeping the board focused on longer-term strategy
- Effective board meetings





## Join Us!

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