

Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina

Schools for South Carolina's Future



Best Practices for Effective Charter Board Members

Presented by:
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Board Member Responsibilities

- ☑ Regular attendance at board meetings and special school events
- ☑ Participating in training courses
- ☑ Respectful communication during periods of conflict
- ☑ Adopt budget
- ☑ Adopt policies
- ☑ Hire and evaluate school leader

Board Composition

Law requires your board:

Consists of at least 7 or more members

All members to be residents of the state of SC

50% have a background in K-12 education or business

At least 50% are elected by the parent body and staff. The other 50% can be appointed.

May have up to 2 year terms and may run for more than one term.

According to SECTION 59-40-50 a charter school must:

- consist of a board of directors of **seven or more individuals** with the exact number specified in or fixed in accordance with the bylaws. Members of a board of directors **may serve a term of two years**, and may serve additional terms. A choice of the membership of the board must take place every two years. **Fifty percent of the members of the board as specified by the bylaws must be individuals who have a background in K-12 education or in business**, and the bylaws of the charter school also must provide for the manner of selection of these members. In addition, **at least fifty percent of the members of the board as specified by the bylaws must be elected** by the employees and the parents or guardians of students enrolled in the charter school. Parents or guardians shall have one vote for each student enrolled in the charter school. **All members must be residents of the State of South Carolina**. A person who has been convicted of a felony must not be elected to a board of directors. If the board of directors consists of an odd number of members, the extra member must be an individual who has a background in K-12 education or in business;

Notice to Sponsor of Meetings and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

According to SECTION 59-40-50 a charter school must:

- be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, including the charter school and its governing body. A board of directors of a charter school shall notify its sponsor of any regular meeting of the board **at least forty-eight** hours prior to the date on which it is to occur.

As public schools, charter schools are subject to the requirements of the SC FOIA

- Meeting takes place only if a quorum is present
- A quorum is a simple majority
- Remember board approved minutes are public record
- Open Meetings—all charter board meetings must be open to the public unless there is a valid legal reason to go into executive session.

SC Freedom of Information Act:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t3oc004.php>

6 Ways to be Successful Charter Boards

- ✓ Focus on Student Achievement
- ✓ Hire Exceptional School Administrator
- ✓ Dedication to Strong Governance
- ✓ Plan Strategically
- ✓ Commitment to Fiduciary Responsibility
- ✓ Follow the Law

6 DON'TS FOR EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- X** Conflict of Interests & Personal Agendas
- X** Meddling in Day-to-Day Operation of School
- X** Financial Mismanagement
- X** Poorly Qualified Board Members
- X** Indecision vs. Too Much, Too Quick
- X** Founders Syndrome vs. Lack of Continuity

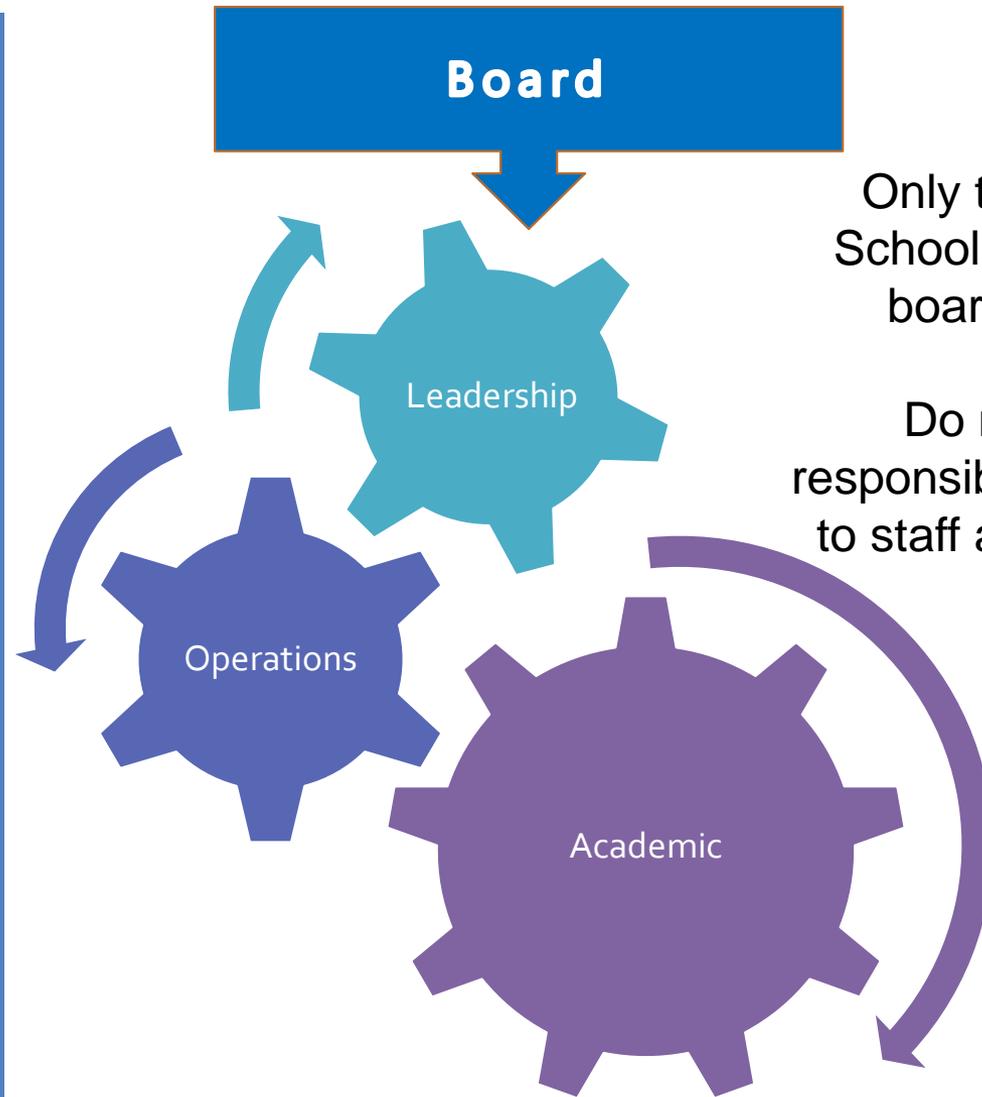
Education/ Charter Management Contracts

- ☑ Board hires their own attorney
- ☑ Board's attorney reviews the contract
- ☑ Contract includes detailed outline of services and support
- ☑ Who does the principal/staff work for?
- ☑ Watches for duplication of services offered by other vendors
- ☑ Follow the Law

Framework for Success

The Board acts together as one.

Control the right things the right way.



Only touch point is School Leadership at board meetings.

Do not take on responsibilities belonging to staff and leadership.

When in doubt,
Ask!

We can't wait to see you at the
19th Charter Schools Conference!

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