

Catholic School Management

Governance Structures and School Board Development

Ensuring the existence of effective governance structures and providing resources that support strong board functioning are essential for the long-term viability and vitality of schools.

Standard 5 of the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools* supports research on school governance and calls for school boards to be responsible "for development and oversight of the school's fidelity to mission, academic excellence and operational vitality." CSM supports the view that high functioning school boards are critical to securing the long-term vitality of Catholic schools. What are the tools needed today to equip owners, board members and administrators for success?

- Clearly articulated and well-designed structures that ensure appropriate separation of responsibilities for all levels of oversight and administration;
- Bylaws and other guiding documents that reflect contemporary best practices and thinking with regard to school governance;
- Understanding of Canon Law and civil legal considerations;
- Orientation and ongoing formation of board members;
- Inclusion of how all parent and alumni organizations can work collaboratively with school boards in support of mission effectiveness;
- Guidance in the adoption of operating practices and protocols to support strong board meetings, overall functioning, communication and continuity.



" Thank you so much for the informative meeting with the School Board. I really wanted to learn how we could advance our mission and help direct policy. I have been praying for a miracle and I think you are it."

Kelly Joyce
Board Member
St. Mary's Institute



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Strategy | Planning | Leadership

for more information, find us at: catholicschoolmgmt.com
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Governance and Board Development Services

Structures, Bylaws and Models

Diocesan, parish, inter-parish, religiously-sponsored, or separate corporation owned schools each require unique solutions for effective functioning. CSM provides counsel tailored for the organizational requirements of individual schools or systems inclusive of models of governance and boards that are advisory, consultative, of limited or specified jurisdiction, or with full fiduciary responsibility.

Board Formation and Training

Effective formation and training identifies and responds to a board's current stage of development and its capacity for growth. Various formats exist to meet a continuum of needs inclusive of inaugural or fledgling boards to well-established, multi-committee trustee models. Direct instruction, scenario analysis, role playing, and small group discussion are used to ensure engaged understanding.

What can CSM do for you?

- Design of organizational structures inclusive of ownership/oversight-governance-administration
- Bylaw models, review and recommendations
- Full-day board orientation and basic training for single schools, systems, diocesan cohorts, diocesan school boards and parent-teacher organizations
- Specific board committee orientation and trainings: executive, finance, development, etc.
- Video-conference options for just-in-time or special topic information
- Extensive Board Member Resource notebooks to support training, to guide future operations, and to help answer questions as they arise
- Mentoring for chief administrators and board chairs

Contact CSM today to discuss the services that best meet your needs and to receive a customized proposal.



The Value of CSM Services

"I am very pleased to inform you that our school systems have adopted the revised and amended bylaws. I am thrilled at our progress. Our work with you in going through these bylaws enabled us to answer all questions and alleviate concerns. All expressed a desire to continue our work with you on the role of the president, creating an evaluation process, and providing additional board development to increase the effectiveness of their standing committees. Thank you for helping us make such meaningful and critical change in our diocese!"

Jim Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Erie



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