



Let's Get Down to Business!

The Way We See It ... Context Comes Before Content When It Comes to Board Service

What We have Learned:

It is not wise to jump into the CONTENT of board governance too fast without getting agreement on its CONTEXT first. Each nonprofit organization presents a unique context for corporate governance to take place. Significant board difficulties arise when people make board decisions and view their work from significantly different points of view.

We Think There are Six Critical Agreements Every Board Should Make Before Talking About What They are Supposed to Do and Having Discussions on Their Roles and Responsibilities!

Agreement #1:

What are we governing?

(In other words: What's this board's paradigm?)

Agreement #2:

Where does the organization fit into that image?

(In other words: What is the real purpose of us having a nonprofit corporation?)

Agreement #3:

Where does a governing board of community people "sit" in that infrastructure?

(In other words: Where is our vantage point as a board in advancing the mission?)

Agreement #4:

What is fundamentally different about a nonprofit business model?

(In other words: What leadership decisions do we steward that a corporate board most likely would not?)

Agreement #5:

Why is history fundamental to responsible board leadership?

(In other words: What about our past sets the course of action related to our future?)

Agreement #6:

Why have we chosen to advance our mission in the way we currently do?

(In other words: What is the logic of this organization's methods?)

Don't just take our word for it.

Let's take a closer look at each of these questions based on history.