I Survived My First Year as a New Board Member...Now What?

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AGENDA

• Introductions

• My 1st Year

• Group Consensus: Top 10 Successes and Challenges

• 10 Characteristics of Effective Board Members

• Group Work: With 1-Year Under Your Belt

• Additional Resources: How we can help?

• Now What Do I Do?
"Are you going to the school board meeting?"
My 1st Year…

• Was it what I expected?
• Was the time commitment more/less than I expected?
• Did I join a well functioning “team”?
• Did I feel like I knew what I was doing?
• Did I feel like I added value for the good of the students?
GROUP WORK

• Brainstorm and create a list of individual Successes and Challenges experienced in your first year as a board member

• Discuss & record the group’s consensus of the Top 10 Successes and Challenges

• Report out to the larger group
10 CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The effective board member:

1. Gives primary allegiance to the children and to providing for all students to achieve

2. Is elected to represent all the people of the school district

3. Recognizes that only the corporate board has authority and that board action is corporate action.

4. Knows the value of thoughtfully conceived written policies for district operation.

5. Leaves the execution of policy to the superintendent and views the superintendent as a professional adviser on all matters affecting the district.
10 CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

6. Insists upon having a community that is fully informed about its schools and its school board.

7. Uses established channels of communication, and promotes those channels in conversation with the public.

8. Utilizes facts in deciding between alternative courses of action.

9. Recognizes that certain decisions are the prerogative of the professional staff and sustains decisions made by the professional in such instances.

10. Recognizes that staff members and students (of appropriate age) should have an opportunity to give input to the full board concerning policies and programs that affect them.
Group Work

As a group - with 1-Year under your belt:

• What was the most valuable thing(s) you learned in Year 1, through mandated training (Governance I), NJSBA programs, personal investigation or local training/mentoring?

• Going forward: What else do you need?

• Report out to larger group
Additional Resources

- Action Lab Handouts
- John Cassels’ “School Board Wisdom…”
- Board Member Professional Development Plan
- NJSBA Professional Development Services
  - Field Services in-district training
  - NJSBA Programs & Workshops
  - County Association Meetings
  - Full Board & Individual Certifications
Now What Do I Do?

- Implement your Individual PD plan
- Keep growing and refining your governance skills
- Attend:
  - Gov II
  - NJSBA Regional Workshops & Programs
  - Your County Association Meetings
  - Consider Board Leadership roles:
    - Committee Chair; VP; President
THANK YOU!

For your:
• Service
• Commitment
• Dedication to student achievement