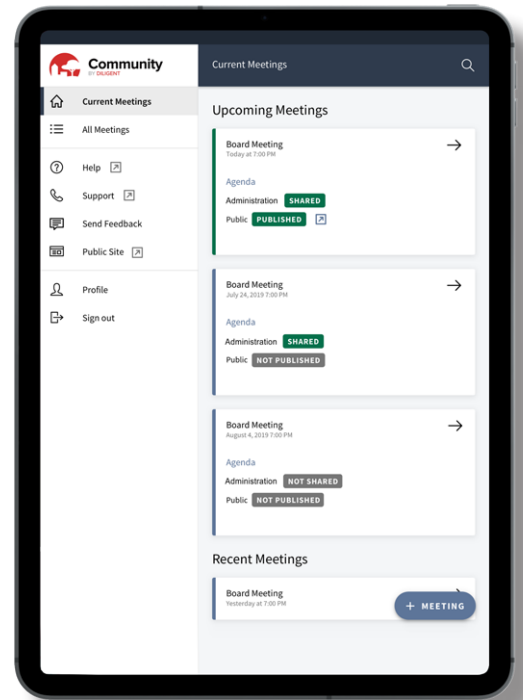


4 Steps Boards Can Take Towards Modern Governance

Good governance training will not only serve your board members, but a better understanding of the job will help board members educate the community, propagating the next generation of leaders. Perhaps one of the best outcomes of improved governance is a sense of trust and faith that forms in the community. The following modern governance principles enable school board members to make real progress on goals and help support a thriving school district.



01 Re-examine the governance structure you've inherited.

When you join a school board, you're inheriting a governance structure (i.e., an existing set of rules, roles and processes that govern the board and the broader district). New board members must get up to speed quickly on necessary processes and protocol, but they can also offer a fresh perspective on how things could be done better. Board members should not be afraid to re-examine or challenge the current processes that are in place and ask, "Can we be doing this a better way?" Keeping a close eye on the effectiveness of your current governance structure will allow your school board to more precisely pinpoint areas of improvement.

02 Focus on board composition and development.

School districts that support the principles of modern governance align board skills with long-term strategy; they see diversity of all kinds as an advantage, not a requirement. However, executing on these principles is where many boards fall short.

Modern boards must work to identify gaps, understand the skills and perspectives required to answer the needs of the district, and recognize any potential conflicts of interest.

03 Improve visibility around key risks and opportunities.

For today's school districts, it's not enough to simply identify key organizational risks—boards must then design the dashboards, reporting frameworks, and info-gathering networks that allow them to monitor these risks and identify red flags. A modern governance product solution ensures that school boards remain aligned with their goals with strategic progress tracking, that they establish sound policy, and that they stay in compliance with open meeting laws and regulations.

04 Avoid easy cyber mistakes.

Board members are notoriously guilty of using text messaging or personal email to share sensitive information and materials. For public boards, discussing board business outside of scheduled meetings not only violates open meeting laws, but puts district information at risk. School districts that practice modern governance do not make these mistakes; they centralize board and management collaboration using role-based authorizations, while also ensuring that the public has easy access to required information.

Learn more about Diligent's modern governance solutions for public education:

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