

TCGDC Board Workshop August 10, 2020

TCGDC invited Cahners & Donahue Associates LLC to conduct a workshop on understanding the characteristics of a high performing board of a non-profit charter school.

The following standards were presented and discussed:

1. Focus on student achievement
2. Ensure exceptional leadership
3. Commit to exemplary governance
4. Act strategically
5. Accept fiscal responsibility
6. Maintain ethical and legal compliance

The group discussed prioritizing the following action steps to strengthen the school's board:

1. Conduct a by-law review
2. Review the mission statement with an eye toward addressing systemic racism
3. Develop a board member job description
4. Develop and implement a board chair and officer nomination and election process
5. Establish a committee structure

The workshop attendees broke into 3 groups to discuss, "What committee structure should TCGDC adopt today?"

General comments:

- Make sure that the parent/family voice is included in the committees
- Start with a simple committee structure for now
- Use task forces (not standing committees) when appropriate
- Use ad hoc (non-board) committee members

Michael's group recommendation

1. Governance
2. Finance committee, includes facilities and audit
3. Executive
4. Academic excellence, includes compliance and assessment
5. Strategic Planning ad hoc committee

Joan's group recommendation

1. Governance, includes strategic planning and possibly facilities
2. Finance
3. Executive
4. Possibly Academic Excellence

Marie's group recommendation

1. Governance

2. Finance, includes facilities
3. Academic excellence, includes equity
4. Marketing and enrollment

To be added next:

- Executive
- Strategic planning

The group agreed that a governance task force should be formed to begin to address these action steps and committee structure recommendations. Michael Curran was named the task force chair. He asked that board members who are interested in working on governance issues email him.

The group also agreed to hold the second part of their board orientation on Monday, August 31st at 6 pm. There was a request for a calendar invite to be sent to all board members.