

THE FORMULA FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE BOILS DOWN TO SIX ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS

Good governance should be celebrated. It represents a significant achievement, one to recognize and reward. The gratification of contributing to a productive board that enables an organization to advance its mission is reward in itself, but those responsible for making it happen deserve a medal.

When aligned with the strategic priorities of the organization, an efficient structure allows board and staff to apply their skills in concert to fulfill the mission.

The strategic planning process charts a future course and then drives the actions that move the organization forward. It informs the board's structures, aligning committees and task forces with strategic objectives and shaping their work, timetables, and checkpoints. And it guides the leadership prospecting process.

As the boardroom is the formal place where the board acts on its authority, a focused, well planned, and effectively executed meeting is the crux of decision making.

This formula is neither complex nor profound, but few organizations apply it consistently or thoroughly. Those that do, find that while effective governance takes time, flexibility, intention, and attention, it makes all the difference in the world to the nonprofit organization and to the community it serves.

With the right people in the right positions, working on the right mission, success is within reach.

Look at any high-performing organization and you will find it led by a board chair and chief executive committed to a constructive partnership built on a shared understanding of mission and vision; reciprocal communication; and mutual respect, trust, and support for each other and the partnership.

A clear, concise, and compelling mission unifies and motivates the board and staff to achieve meaningful results.

