

A recent doctoral dissertation (2016) investigated the question, “What factors continue to endanger the movement?” The failure of leadership is cited as a significant issue; that includes governance leadership.

As expressed in the ACSI Formative to Flourishing Framework, healthy board governance is key to the health of a school. In light of this, listed below are some governance resources which are available for nonprofit organizations.

Though ACSI is familiar with the governance products of each of these organizations, it does not necessarily endorse every position on governance (or other matters) taken by each of them.

Board Source

www.boardsource.org

- Mission: Board Source envisions a world in which every social sector organization has the leadership it needs to fulfill its mission and advance public good.
- Resources: books, conferences, and webinars
- Costs: \$129 annual dues
Webinars \$35.00 for nonmembers
- Recommended Resource: *Board Fundamentals: Understanding Roles in Nonprofit Governance* (Lakey 2010)

Policy Governance—John Carver

www.carvergovernance.com

- Mission: Policy Governance © is an integrated set of concepts and principles that describes the job of any governing board. It outlines the manner in which boards can be successful in their servant-leadership role, as well as in their all-important relationship with management.
- Resources: Published materials, training, consultation
- Costs: Policy review \$750
Consulting and training \$\$\$\$
- Recommended Resource: *Getting Started with Policy Governance: Bringing Purpose, Integrity, and Efficiency to your Board* (Jossey-Bass 2009)

Center for Nonprofit Stewardship

www.nonprofitsteward.org

- Mission: The Center for Nonprofit Stewardship is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Oregon that educates and empowers nonprofit board members in sound financial, administrative, and organizational stewardship.

- Resources: Conference, materials, training
- Costs: Workbooks \$39–\$150
- Recommended resource: “Board and Staff Relationship” (<http://www.nonprofitsteward.org/resources-2/>).

Christian Leadership Alliance

www.christianleadershipalliance.org

- Mission: CLA exists to equip and unite leaders to transform the world for Christ.
- Resources: Conferences, leadership training, mentoring, networking
- Costs: Individual membership (\$149) includes subscription to *Outcomes* magazine and access to resources
- Recommended Resource: “Credible Board Governance,” *Outcomes* magazine

National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)

www.nais.org

- Mission: Serve and strengthen independent schools of the United States and around the world.
- Cost: \$20 plus shipping for nonmembers
- Recommended Resource: *NAIS Trustee Handbook, 10th Ed.*—Strong chapters on roles, responsibilities, fiduciary responsibility, strategic planning role, and building and strengthening a board.

Other Resources

- Andringa, R. C., and T. Engrstrom. 1997. *Nonprofit answer book: Practical guidelines for board members and chief executives*. Washington, DC: National Center for Nonprofit Boards.
- Coley, K. 2006. *The helmsman: Leading with courage and wisdom*. Colorado Springs: Purposeful Design.
- Keenan, D., ed. 2007. *Christian school board governance*, 2nd ed. Colorado Springs: Purposeful Design.
- Stoesz, E. 2015. *Doing good better: How to be an effective board member of a nonprofit organization*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books.

Derek J. Keenan, EdD

Executive Director, ACSI Commission on Accreditation

Reference

Nichols, V. 2016. *Schools at risk: An analysis of factors endangering the evangelical Christian schools in America*. Rossier School of Education, USC.