



AN EFFECTIVE COUNCIL/BOARD CAN MAKE A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE IN HOW AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS, PERFORMS AND PREPARES FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES. BUT, HOW DOES YOUR COUNCIL/BOARD MEASURE UP?

AN INVITATION

Governance Matters' Kate Costello has worked with many independent school councils/boards on good governance practices and is committed to seeing governing bodies in schools function at the best possible level.

Governance Matters conducts benchmarked governance evaluations for independent schools using a survey that has been developed by us specifically for schools. It is not generic.

Recent evaluations have uncovered many areas for improvement with the top 3 being:

- Spend more time on strategy
- Improve the induction and ongoing development of councillors/directors
- Engage important stakeholders better

We would like to invite your School to evaluate its governance performance to uncover your governance strengths and areas of improvement.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

From your School's viewpoint the benefits of participating are:

- The Council/Board performance evaluation will help you to improve your governance
- The survey "speaks the language of the sector" because it was developed specifically for schools
- Your results will be confidential to your Council/Board
- You will see how you compare with the benchmarks from other schools without any school being identified
- You will have a series of expert recommendations to implement to improve your Board's governance

THIS IS HOW OTHERS HAVE FELT ABOUT THE EVALUATION

"Scotch Oakburn College engaged Governance Matters to review the Board and its committees. We were keen to identify our strengths and the areas in which our governance could be improved. Our results were benchmarked against other independent school boards. A clear online presentation was included to allow our board to interact in a preliminary session on the topic together.

Governance Matters was a pleasure to deal with. The report was easy to analyse and, best of all, it included specific recommendations for the Board to implement over the next 12 months rather than leaving us wondering what to do with the results.

Highly recommended for all school boards to undertake this process periodically".
Secretary to the Board, Scotch Oakburn College

"If your board is not doing this review, what are they doing? It is powerful and in my view strengthens the effectiveness of the board. If you think you have got it completely right as a board you are kidding yourself and a review like this should be a board KPI every 3 years so no one can go to sleep at the wheel".

Chair, Tatachilla College Council

"I am pleased to encourage other schools to consider this evaluation process, for the single reason that we need to look at our performance to ensure we are doing the best for our schools, students and community in a responsible manner".
Chairman, Westminster School

WHAT WOULD THE PROCESS BE?

For your Council/Board, Principal and any, other, senior staff nominated by you, the process would involve:

1. **Viewing the 1 hour topic, Good Governance in Independent Schools on-line**
It's important to watch the topic so all Councillors/ Board Members have a clear understanding about their role compared with the role of the Principal and staff. Then, the survey can be completed from an informed and more objective position by everyone. The topic can be downloaded complimentary via the Governance Matters website.
2. **Completing the online governance survey**
The survey would be emailed to all who are to complete it. Each person's responses would be confidential and only aggregate results would appear in the report.
3. **Receiving a report, through your Chair**
Your report would highlight your governance strengths and areas for improvement and include benchmarked ratings and qualitative comments. An additional list of priority recommendations based upon individual school outcomes would also be included.
4. **Deciding what you want to do to address any areas for improvement**
Your Chair would prompt a discussion at your Council/Board meeting so you could agree your governance action plan based on the priority recommendations.

WHAT'S THE COST?

The fee for the governance performance evaluation survey and report is **\$4,995 + gst** with \$995 payable on agreement and the balance on receipt of the report by the Chair.

In the past, some Boards have requested that Kate Costello present the report to the Board in person. Please contact Governance Matters to discuss the cost of this for your Board.

HOW DO YOU FOLLOW-UP?

If you have any questions at all or want to sign-up for the evaluation please just contact Governance Matters by email or give us a call on 08 8236 1228. If you want more information about the complimentary topic, *Good Governance in Independent Schools*, please visit our website on www.governancematters.com.au.

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