The Moral Code of the Invested Board Member

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Best Board Member Characteristics

• Vocal & accountable
• Mission focused
• Never question their motives
• Listen, speak with wisdom
• Enthusiastic
• Community focused
• Well informed
• Attend and are prepared
• Diplomatic
• Curious, learning
• Opinionated and open-minded
What Kind of Board Member Are You?
## Which Board Member Are You?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weak Members</th>
<th>OK Members</th>
<th>Good Members</th>
<th>Exceptional Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they say</strong></td>
<td>“This will look great on my resume.”</td>
<td>“What do I have to do?”</td>
<td>“How can I be most helpful?”</td>
<td>“Thanks for the opportunity. Let’s get to work.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they add</strong></td>
<td>Dead weight</td>
<td>The minimum</td>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>Passion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they take</strong></td>
<td>A valuable spot</td>
<td>Instructions</td>
<td>Role seriously</td>
<td>Time to do 110+%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How they look</strong></td>
<td>“cool”</td>
<td>Usual</td>
<td>Eager</td>
<td>Unassuming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they read</strong></td>
<td>TV Guide</td>
<td>Time Magazine</td>
<td>Industry newsletters</td>
<td>Servant Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whom they serve</strong></td>
<td>themselves</td>
<td>Their obligations</td>
<td>The organization</td>
<td>The org &amp; community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from National Council of Nonprofits
Differences in Serving out of Obligations vs Choice

- Investment
- Voting Power
- Area of Expertise
- Passion
Board Member Roles  (What You Do)

1. Drive the mission, purpose and goals of the organization.
2. Select, support & evaluate the ED.
3. Ensure effective planning.
4. Monitor and strengthen programs and services.
5. Secure adequate financial resources.
6. Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight.
7. Build a competent board.
8. Ensure legal and ethical integrity.
9. Enhance the organization's public standing.

Adapted from BoardSource
Ethical Challenges Board Members Face

There is no "moral compass" app.

Change the world from here.
Board Member Ethical Behaviors (How You Do It)

1. Benevolence
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

THERE IS NO RIGHT WAY TO DO A WRONG THING.
Signs that It's Time to Step Down or Ask Another to Step Down

- Show up once or twice a year
- Show up at meetings but are never prepared
- Joined for business development purposes
- Take credit for work done by others
- Speak to hear own voice &/or don’t listen to others contributions
- Agree to do things but never do them or make excuses
- Copy the past rather than adding improvements & value
What is Your Legacy on the Board?
Personal Core Values

Clarify your understanding of who you are
Require no justification to others
Guide you in making decisions and choices
Run all your relationships
Does Your Network Support Your Legacy?
Who are the individuals in your network?
Mistakes in Networks

• Too formal
• Too many
• Too safe
• Too biased
• Too superficial
• Too inconsistent

For a civil engineer, there’s no such thing as a “little mistake.”
Successful Networks
Support & challenge
Help to gain influence
Broaden your expertise
Learn new skills
Find purpose & balance
Create Accountability
A well-written life is almost as rare as a well-spent one.

The choices we make about the lives we live determine the kinds of legacies we leave.