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What is it ?

Choose your meal but stay out of the kitchen

Once you have agreed on the direction all row together

A chair is not a throne

Staff aren't the only people who are more effective if they have a work plan.

ALIVE Governance tips

Governance is the term given to collective activities of the board/committee. A.L.I.V.E is an acronym to describe the key facets of this role:

A = Achieving it's objective

L = Operating in a **L**egal and safe manner

I = Able to exert **I**nfluence (internal and external)

V = Viable and sustainable

E = Effective and efficient

The board sets the strategic direction but should leave the operational details (the cooking) to the managers. Even though you may be a successful business person or competent manager in another organisations, this is not the job of a board member. Boards direct, managers manage.

A willingness to disagree is critical and it is important to remember that there is always more than one way to achieve a goal. There needs to be processes for full and frank deliberation, with an agreement that once the decision is set, all board members will 'row in the same direction' and support that direction outside the board room.

Over centralised decision making weakens the boards long term sustainability. The chair doesn't do all the work but rather facilitates and tracks the work being done by other board members.

Aside from tracking the work delegated to organisations, the Board should also set and be accountable for it's own targets. These targets express what the board will deliver to progress the strategic plan and are different to the targets/objectives developed by staff in the operational plan.



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Meetings are where action gets reported and decisions get made

Top 10 questions for the board to ask

Success is not measured by what you do but by what you leave behind

Board meetings are not the place to “invent or re-invent the wheel”. Ensure your meetings deal with strategic decisions by shaping the agenda to focus on key questions and ensure the “work” is undertaken between meetings. Use the meetings to discuss outcomes/considerations/recommendations of the work done between meetings.

1. Is the organisation heading in the right direction?
2. Are we operating within the law and our constitution?
3. Is the organisation on track to achieve what we set out to achieve?
4. Is the organisation viable, sustainable and strong? (people, products/programs, money, power)
5. How well are we managing risk & capitalising on opportunities?
6. Has the board achieved what it set out to do?
7. What will the organisation look like in 5, 10, 20 years?
8. How is the CEO/ED doing?
9. Who will take our place and what type of organisation will we leave for them?
10. What is changing in the world around us that we need to respond to?

While your job is to keep the organisation A.L.I.V.E and to contribute your knowledge, networks and time, your real success is measured by what you leave behind. Plan for your own redundancy and focus on building a strong organisation (ie: independent of individuals). Know when the time is right to leave and make sure there are viable replacement options ready to step in/ step up.

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