

AIFD® Nimble Decision Making

#1 Informing Decision Making

Making Informed Decisions

- ▶ Being Nimble
 - ▶ Making timely, efficient, and well informed decisions
 - ▶ Requires boards to be knowledgeable (video 1), take action (video 2), and direct the association (video 3)
 - ▶ Nimble Boards are ready to respond to issues and address changes
- ▶ Three tools to Nimbleness
 - ▶ Learn through pre-reading materials and briefing notes
 - ▶ one off decisions
 - ▶ Understand through discussion guides
 - ▶ Recap w/highlights over longer period of time
 - ▶ Form opinions through timely summaries
 - ▶ highlight pending decisions, sent shortly before meeting

Board Roles

- ▶ Stewardship - Provide strategic direction for the organization
- ▶ Oversight - Ensure the direction set by the board is implemented
- ▶ Accountability - Measure performance towards the strategic plan

Working Boards vs. Governing Boards

Working boards are necessary when first starting a non-profit. As an organization grows, movement towards a strategic board allows for organizational growth.

- ▶ Operational Responsibilities & Focus
- ▶ Involved in day-to-day management activities
- ▶ Implements guiding strategies of the organization
- ▶ Governance focused (directs the organization strategically)
- ▶ Provides oversight of the organization
- ▶ Collaboration with staff & volunteers as needed
- ▶ Staff addresses day-to-day management

Moving from a Working board to a Governing board

- ▶ Assign board governance accountability
 - ▶ Track agenda time spent on Governance & Operational items
 - ▶ Evaluate the meeting before closing (+Delta: What did you like about this meeting? What would you like to see changed at future meetings?)
- ▶ Spend more board meeting time on governance issues (versus Management/Operational)
- ▶ Board members to hold each other accountable during meetings
 - ▶ Develop a way board members can remind each other to stay on topic and/or not get too in the weeds.
- ▶ Evaluate governance at the close of each meeting
 - ▶ Ask 1-3 questions. Ideas are:
 - ▶ What percentage of the meeting did we spend on governance versus operations?
 - ▶ Anonymous index card responses
 - ▶ Likert scale responses

Emerging Trends & Substantive Issues

How to identify emerging trends?

How does our strategic planning process ensure that emerging trends are considered?

+Delta

What did you like about this discussion?

What would you like to see changed at future discussions?