

Board Chair Boot Camp Session

Summary:

I attended Board Chair Bootcamp, sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation on January 16 at the Lafayette Country Club. The presenters had an engaging style, and I really appreciated the way they took questions on notecards and folded them into their presentation. That was efficient and I may use that technique, myself, someday.

It was nice to have my idea of what the role of Board Chair entails reinforced by experts. While this training was geared toward non-profits, most of the material was still very relevant to the position of school board chair. I intend to use the "Personalities that build a culture...." handout as a jumping off point for our work session in February. I would like to hear how other board members see themselves and each other, and how we can use those strengths to work more effectively.

I request that everyone review the Board Chair job description (attached), particularly where it says "Act as the primary liaison between the board and the chief executive." While Shawn and I have changed our approach to board management so that I'm not currently a "go between," being a go between IS an appropriate and expected role as board chair, and something that we should discuss. I expect the accusations that this is untoward to cease, now that it has been confirmed by respected experts who do training that this is appropriate.

I appreciate the opportunity to attend this training, and hope that it will help me be an effective chair going forward.

Amy Austin

1. Board Chair Job Description Template
2. *Personalities that Build a Culture of Inquiry* from Board Source
3. Duty of Care, Loyalty, & Obedience