

# Characteristics of Effective School Boards, Councils, and Commissions

From a Survey by the  
NCEA Department of Boards and Councils of Catholic Education

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1. Boards have members that include business people and alumni.
2. Boards take ownership of issues under their jurisdiction.
3. Boards are involved with issues pertaining to budget, policy, mission philosophy, and planning.
4. Boards have goals, review or update them annually and use them as a basis of self-evaluation.
5. Boards have actively working committees: finance, nominating, policy, marketing, development, facility, and executive committees.
6. Boards have contact and communication with their constituencies.
7. Boards assess their progress periodically.
8. Boards have effective meetings.
9. Boards are dedicated and committed to the school's mission.
10. Boards train their new members and provide annual in-service training for all members.
11. Board's main achievements are in the areas of development/fundraising, budget/financial stability, long-range planning, marketing/public relations/recruitment, and plant upgrade.

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You can learn more by reading the source: *Benchmarks of Excellence: Effective Boards of Catholic Education* by John J. Convey and Regina M. Haney, Washington, DC: National Catholic Educational Association, 1997.