



**NJ AIS**

CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

# Preparing to Lead the Board

*A short course for those preparing to lead an independent school Board.*

## Program Design

Small cohort with high interaction and discussion (case-based) focused on Board leadership



Audience:

**Incoming Board chairs**



Format:

**Virtual**



Cadence:

**4 sessions**



The sessions will take place

**Apr 7, Apr 20, May 13,  
May 20.**



Session Length:

**60 minutes**

## Learning Outcomes

Lead a Board with clarity, focus, and discipline; partner effectively and appropriately with the Head of School; design and facilitate high-quality Board meetings; navigate tension, conflict, and ambiguity with confidence; strengthen Board culture and accountability

## PROGRAM DETAILS

APR

### The Chair Role: Authority, Influence, and Responsibility

#### Focus

- Unique role of the Chair
- Authority vs influence
- Setting tone, pace, and expectations

#### Key Questions

- What is mine to lead...and what is not?
- How do I establish credibility quickly?

#### Outcome

- Clarity on the scope and weight of the role

APR

### The Chair-Head Partnership

#### Focus

- Building trust with the Head of School
- Communication rhythms (formal and informal)
- Supporting vs evaluating

#### Key Questions

- How do we avoid triangulation and confusion?
- What does a strong Chair-Head relationship actually look like?

#### Outcome

- Clear framework for one of the most critical relationships in governance

MAY

### Designing & Leading Effective Board Meetings

#### Focus

- Agenda design: what belongs, and what doesn't
- Facilitating discussion vs managing time
- Drawing out voices and managing dominant personalities

#### Key Questions

- How do I move us from updates to decisions?
- How do I create space for meaningful dialogue?

#### Outcome

- Tools to run meetings that matter

MAY

### Navigating Challenge: Conflict, Drift, and Hard Moments

#### Focus

- Handling disagreements and dissent
- Addressing Board underperformance
- Keeping the Board focused amid complexity

#### Key Questions

- What do I do when things get uncomfortable?
- How do I intervene without over-reaching?

#### Outcome

- Confidence in leading through real-world governance tension