OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

OSG-S4

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

COURSE RATIONALE: Many of the perennial challenges that confront schools such as student achievement, faculty recruitment, staff morale, public identity, financial viability, risk management, and so on, can be traced back to the importance of clarifying the roles of governance (the board) and management (the faculty and staff). This course helps 'responsible persons' appreciate the power of the accountability-responsibility relationship between governance and management in the context of various governance models, and provides a practical framework to enhance the board's effectiveness in this area by working collectively through several hypothetical scenarios.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: This course is designed to help 'responsible persons' [as defined under Section 47(1)(b) of the Education Act in New South Wales] understand and implement sound policies and ongoing procedures for effective governance in ways that comply with the NESA requirements upon school boards. Specifically, the course is designed to provide in-depth appreciation and practical application of ways in which 'responsible persons' can work together to ensure (a) effective implementation of established principles of 'best practice' in school governance and (b) compliance with relevant NESA requirements in the area of governance. Furthermore, the course provides opportunities through discussion and problem-solving for 'responsible persons' to build unity of understanding, a common purpose, and a commitment to implementing 'best practices' for effective school governance in a strategic manner that enhances the school's outcomes. While the emphasis of the course is addressing ongoing professional learning needs, it is also highly suitable as a component of the induction of new 'responsible persons'.

COURSE AIMS:

1. To help 'responsible persons' understand the relationship between governance and management.

2. To inform 'responsible persons' about the NESA requirements and expectations as they relate to the board's role.

3. To expand knowledge of the NESA requirements and expectations into a solid, practical understanding that is demonstrated by a commitment to fulfil the requirements and adhere to principles and practices of 'best practice' in the area of board governance.

4. To help 'responsible persons' develop a practical strategy to fulfil the NESA requirements in terms of (a) record keeping, (b) understanding effective governance principles and practices, and (c) implementing 'best practice' in the area of board governance.

5. To help 'responsible persons' reflect upon the board's clarity in understanding the difference between governance and management, its effectiveness in fulfilling its role of governance, and if appropriate, initiate an ongoing process of improvement.

DURATION OF THE COURSE: 4 hours.

MODE OF DELIVERY: Face-to-face interactive workshop with all the 'responsible persons' in one group, usually delivered at the school or at another suitable venue organised by the school.

SUMMARY OF COURSE CONTENT:

• The nature of the board and its powers
• The accountability-responsibility relationship
• The significance of the goverance-management divide
• The Delegations Schedule
• Evidence of compliance with NESA section 3.9.3.1-B.
• The role of committees
• Models of Governance – (a) Carver
• Supervisory arrangements / reporting requirements
• Evidence of compliance with NESA section 3.9.3.1-C.
• Hypotheticals
• Models of Governance – Chait, Ryan and Taylor
• Models of Governance – Codrington

This course covers the following governance requirements as outlined in the *Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual* (December 2017): 3.9.3.1-A; 3.9.3.1-B and 3.9.3.1-C.

CERTIFICATION: Upon successful completion of the course, a signed letter is issued to the school certifying the name of the course, the content covered, the duration of the course, the venue, and the names of those persons who attended.