

The name is the promise

Do you want to ensure that your school board is operating with long-term health, stability and effectiveness?

Are you certain that your board is operating in an optimal way, consistent with principles of best practice, thus enhancing the school's vision, mission and strategic initiatives?

How long is it since your board members have received expert training in their distinctive roles as trustees of a school board?



Do you want your board to be more effective?

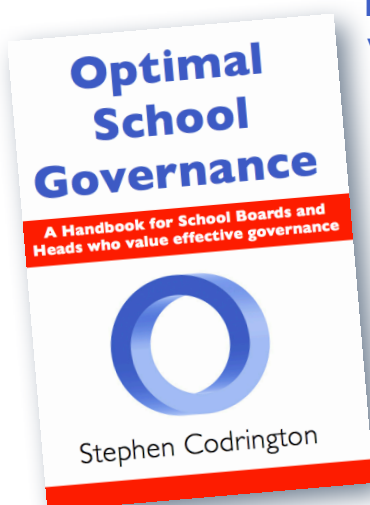
For a school to thrive, it must have confidence that its board is operating optimally with a clear mission-focussed direction that accords with principles of best practice. Ensuring healthy, effective board operations should be a pivotal facet of every school's quality control mechanism.

OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE provides the support that school boards require to operate optimally. With a refreshing variety of data-gathering and diagnostic tools, workshops and individual support available, OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE helps boards maintain their health and effectiveness through regular reviews and input, while also providing additional specialist support when difficulties arise, or when developing a new strategic plan, or when searching for and recruiting a new Head.

OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE conducts on-site visits and workshops that are tailored to the specific needs, ethos, culture and situation of each school board. Where possible and appropriate, workshops are preceded by data gathering, usually in the form of confidential questionnaires as well as individual or small group interviews with board members. Acknowledging the reality that board members are usually very busy people whose time is precious, workshops are lively, focussed, provocative and interactive.

Optimal School Governance offers:

- Orientation workshops for new board members
- Two-day workshops on board effectiveness (or abbreviated versions of one-day or half-day)
- Workshops on managing strategic and/or operational change effectively
- Diagnostic tools for board self-evaluations and external board evaluations
- Simple diagnostic tool for annual trustee evaluations
- Guidance and support for strategic planning
- Searches for and recruitment of new Heads
- Support to address specific issues such as dysfunctional teamwork, lack of trust and conflict
- Assistance with improving board-head relations
- Support for board restructuring



Enhance your board workshops by using the Optimal School Governance book.

'Optimal School Governance' is a comprehensive 208 page handbook for school trustees who care about serving their boards as effectively as possible. The book covers such important areas as:

- What is a school board?
 - Board effectiveness – Governance and Management
 - Dysfunctional boards
 - Healthy boards - the 4-D model of optimal governance
- Ethos – mission, strategic vision, school policies, sustainability
 - Strategic planning
 - Recruitment of a new Head
 - The Board-Head relationship
- Oversight of the school – engagement, program oversight, school demographics
 - Board meetings and dynamics
 - Board composition and succession
- Other board processes – board policies, change leadership and innovation
 - Board duties – legal compliance, finances and resources, risk management, reputation
 - Evaluating the board



OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE is led by its President, Dr Stephen Codrington.

Based in Sydney (Australia), Stephen works with schools everywhere in the world. He worked for 25 years as the Head of five schools in four countries – Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and the United States. During that period, he worked with many schools as a board member and an accreditation officer. He has developed strategic plans for schools, helped with board reviews and restructuring, observing boards at their best and worst.

Stephen has served as the Head of schools that are boarding and day schools, national and international, single-sex and co-educational, religious and secular, including all age groups, ranging in size from 256 to 1505 students. He is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators (ACE), he is a former Chairman of the Heads of Independent Co-educational Schools (HICES), former Vice-President of the Association of Executives of Christian Schools (AECS), and a former President of several academic and teaching associations. In 2014 he was appointed as an IB (International Baccalaureate) Ambassador.

His work in schools has included financial oversight, fundraising, advising and guiding boards through challenging times, public speaking, hiring of faculty, problem solving, strategic planning, cultural and social adaptability, presentation skills, diplomacy, and passionate advocacy for the power of education to transform our world.

Stephen's wider experience in education includes many years service as a senior IB (International Baccalaureate) examiner – including five years as an IB Deputy Chief Examiner – and a member of accreditation teams that visited and evaluated international schools in several countries.

Stephen has spoken widely at various conferences and venues on themes such as change management in schools, best practice in education, authentic internationalism in schools, and building international links in education (including his own personal experiences in North Korea, China and Cambodia).

The author of some 30 books, Stephen has been listed in "Who's Who in Australia" every year since 2003.

Among the topics available for

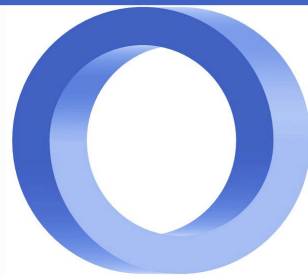
OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE workshop sessions are:

- Governance vs Management
- Setting aside assumptions
- Dysfunctional boards
- Healthy boards
- Staying focussed in a crisis
- The Board-Head relationship
- Board composition and succession
- Board meetings and dynamics
- Board policies
- Board engagement with the faculty, staff, alumni, parents and the community
- Ethos (the mission, school policies, environmental sustainability)
- Developing the strategic vision
- Board duties (legal compliance, finances and resources, risk management, reputation)
- Oversight of the school (engagement, program oversight, demographics)
- Evaluating the board
- Evaluating trustees' performance



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OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE supports school boards in enhancing and maintaining healthy, effective operations and relations. A range of support services is offered, including orientation sessions for new board members, workshops on improving board effectiveness, help with board restructuring and/or establishment, tools to evaluate board effectiveness, support to optimise board-head relationships, help with recruitment of a new Head and specialist support to develop new strategic plans.



OPTIMAL SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

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