



Excellence in Charter School Governance

A Workshop For: Maine Charter School Boards, Administrators & Interested Others

Co-sponsor: Maine Charter School Commission

Presenter: Marci Cornell-Feist of  BoardOnTrack

Contributors: Bull Moose Group, Preti-Flaherty, Michael Klahr Center, BoardOnTrack

When: Friday, November 14, 2014 – 9 am to 3 pm

Where: University of Maine Augusta – Michael Klahr Center

Cost: \$50.00 per person (includes snacks & lunch)

Please join us as we launch the first in a series of workshops designed to help board members of Maine's charter schools be the best they can in creating, growing, strengthening, and sustaining an exemplary public charter school for Maine children.

Maine law requires a charter school board be excellent in all respects as it oversees the operation of a multi-million dollar non-profit public organization on behalf of Maine children.

Governing a high-quality, sustainable charter school board is both an art and a science. We are extremely pleased to announce our workshop presenter will be Marci Cornell-Feist, CEO and Founder of BoardOnTrack based in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Marci Cornell-Feist

Marci is a graduate of Bowdoin College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is among the most accomplished experts on charter school governance in the nation, and she is a regular presenter on governance at the annual national charter school conferences hosted by the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools.



Marci has worked with over 500 charter schools nationwide to improve their effectiveness - more than anyone else on the planet.

Since the mid-1990s, Marci has focused her attention on charter school governance. In 2001, she founded Meetinghouse Solutions, her charter school consultancy. After working with her first 200+ charter schools, she created BoardOnTrack to implement the most effective strategies and practices of her many clients, and as a means of spreading this information to a wider audience of charter schools.

Marci is author of the book *Board Meetings: A Guide for Charter Schools*, numerous articles, and two issue briefs for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. Marci is also a co-founder of The Achievement Network, which helps schools use data-driven strategies to increase student achievement.

Earlier in her career, Marci worked throughout the nonprofit sector, including positions as a senior staffer at the Massachusetts Charter School Resource Center, as Northwest Regional Director for the Student Conservation Association, as Deputy Director of the Consortium/UNHCR refugee resettlement program in Lao P.D.R., and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand.



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Workshop Agenda

November 14, 2014

8:30 Registration & Networking

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

9:15 Marci Cornell-Feist  **BoardOnTrack**

Session 1 – Board Structure

Good governance can't happen without the right structure. We think this is so important that we just wrote a book about it! Participants will get a free copy of this book at this session. During this session we will walk through lessons learned working with 500+ charter school boards to structure your board for success. We'll cover a lot of ground including answers to these questions:

- What is the ideal size of for a charter school board?
- Who should serve on our board? What skill sets do we need?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the officers?
- What are the right term limits for officers?
- What committees do we need?
- Should parents, teachers and students serve on the board?

10:15 Break

10:30 Session 2 – Fix Your Board Meetings, Strengthen Your Board

Board meetings should be focused, strategic, efficient, and engaging. But, very few charter school board meetings can be described in these terms. If you want to learn how to dramatically improve the effectiveness of your overall governance by improving your board meetings, this is the session for you. You'll get lots of helpful tips you can put to use right away.

Together we will cover:

- Who does what in meeting preparation – the School Leader, the staff, the committees, the board chair?
- Learn how to shift meeting preparation from being reactive to being strategic
- Quick tips to making your meetings run on time
- Easy ways to evaluate the effectiveness of your board meetings and develop a concrete path for improving them
- How to use board meetings to attract recruit and retain outstanding trustees



11:30 Lunch & Networking

12:10 *Legislative Update & Charter Sector Collaboration* - Andy Cashman, Preti-Flaherty

12:30 Session 3 – Finding, Recruiting and Retaining Outstanding Charter School Board Members

- Want to expand your board, but don't know how?
- Need new board members to bring valuable skills to your board?
- Have you tapped out all your board recruitment leads and don't know where to go next?
- Need some tips on how to build a strong board culture and keep your board engaged?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then this session is for you.

Attendees will learn:

- Effective recruitment and screening techniques
- How to avoid rapid trustee turn over
- How to develop a realistic and attainable board expansion plan
- How and when to conduct new board member orientation
- How to conduct valuable board building exercises throughout the year

This will be an interactive session and participants will get a number of handouts/tools they can use right away.

1:30 *Break*

1:45 Session 4 – Creating an Action Plan

In session three you will receive a number of tools including tools to help you analyze your board and find and recruit new candidates. This final session will be a hands on working session where you can work in small groups with your fellow trustees to map out a board development and expansion plan.

Marci will be on hand to help you troubleshoot. And we'll have time for groups to share out with one another and ask any final Q&A.

2:45 Wrap up

3:00 Adjourn