

Top 10 Mistakes Made By Charter School Governing Boards

1. Individual board members acting as if they have authority to make decisions (including the Board President).
2. Conducting illegal meetings by not properly posting a meeting, taking action in a workshop or executive session, or discussing inappropriate topics in executive session.
3. Approving a budget that is not based on realistic projections.
4. Meeting too often and for too long.
5. Failing to keep corporate records, such as the charter application, contract, bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, meeting minutes, etc., in a safe location where people can use them (this includes student academic achievement records).
6. Micromanaging or failing to focus on what matters most.
7. Agreeing to capital financing terms that overextend the charter school's budget (this is usually done by projecting student enrollment too high).
8. Neglecting the board's responsibility to create and to govern through board policies.
9. Failing to communicate with relevant constituencies (e.g. parents, authorizer).
10. Terminating the principal because "there must be a better principal out there somewhere."