



8 Behaviors of an Extraordinary Board

We often talk of “best practices” of board members and of the various duties of directors. But what sets apart the truly extraordinary board from the rest? These examples suggest a fine balance of skills.

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An extraordinary cooperative board...

1. represents the interests of the members while simultaneously protecting the assets of the cooperative.
2. establishes a code of ethics and sets the example for all personnel to follow.
3. promotes a diverse culture where all can be heard without fear of punishment or loss.
4. follows a carefully planned agenda for board meetings, which includes reports on delegated responsibilities and previous assignments.
5. promotes transparency while vigorously protecting confidentiality.
6. is dedicated to continually and frequently improving itself through training and education.
7. strictly adheres to the established role of directors and does not make operational decisions.
8. is in a constant cycle of strategic planning that includes board retreats as well as regular evaluation of objectives during board meetings.

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