

# BOARD FIRST CONSULTING, LLC

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## Board Effectiveness Best Practices

### Conducting Meaningful Board Discussions

#### Do your board discussions:

- Predominantly focus on strategy and/or other forward-looking topics that positively impact the organization's long-term health, performance, and stakeholder value?
- Include sufficient information to allow board members to fully understand the context and why a topic is relevant for the board's consideration?
- Promote robust and generative debate resulting in deeper understanding of a topic?
- Allow and encourage all board members to participate and add their unique perspectives and expertise?
- Result in decisions that add value to the organization?
- Result in board members and executive management feeling the time spent to prepare and attend meetings is worthwhile?

### Why This Matters:

One of the primary responsibilities of a board is to advise CEOs and executive management teams to make thoughtful and strategic decisions that set the organization up for long-term success. Board meetings are the primary mechanism by which board members and executives engage in meaningful discourse. There are several factors that contribute to effective board discussions including, but not limited to:

- The quality of board meeting materials
- Board agendas that dedicate appropriate time to the organization's vision and strategy
- Effective facilitation by the Board Chair
- The size of the board and the number of people present in the room during meetings
- How clear the board is about its roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis management roles and responsibilities
- Directors having the relevant skills, capabilities, and experiences to debate assumptions presented by management
- Healthy board dynamics rooted in trust and psychological safety
- Diverse views and opinions that allow for fresh perspectives. Diversity can be represented in several ways (e.g., gender, socio-economic, race and ethnicity, cognition, etc.).

**To learn more about how to create more effective board discussions,  
please contact us at [info@boardfirstconsulting.com](mailto:info@boardfirstconsulting.com)**