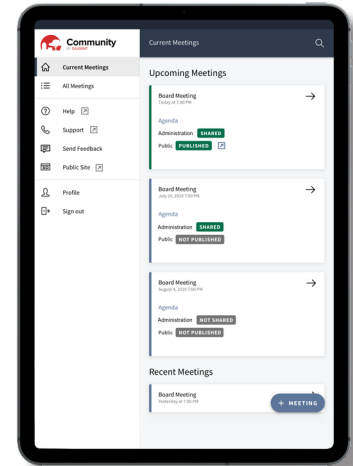


# 4 Steps Boards Can Take Towards Modern Governance

Good governance training will not only serve your board members, but a better understanding of the job will help board members educate the community, propagating the next generation of leaders. Perhaps one of the best outcomes of improved governance is a sense of trust and faith that forms in the community. The following modern governance principles enable school board members to make real progress on goals and help support a thriving school district.



## 1. Re-examine the governance structure you've inherited.

When you join a school board, you're inheriting a governance structure (i.e., an existing set of rules, roles and processes that govern the board and the broader district). New board members must get up to speed quickly on necessary processes and protocol, but they can also offer a fresh perspective on how things could be done better. Board members should not be afraid to re-examine or challenge the current processes that are in place and ask, "Can we be doing this a better way?" Keeping a close eye on the effectiveness of your current governance structure will allow your school board to more precisely pinpoint areas of improvement.

## 2. Focus on board composition and development.

School districts that support the principles of modern governance align board skills with long-term strategy; they see diversity of all kinds as an advantage, not a requirement. However, executing on these principles is where many boards fall short. Modern boards must work to identify gaps, understand the skills and perspectives required to answer the needs of the district, and recognize any potential conflicts of interest.

## 3. Improve visibility around key risks and opportunities.

For today's school districts, it's not enough to simply identify key organizational risks—boards must then design the dashboards, reporting frameworks, and info-gathering networks that allow them to monitor these risks and identify red flags. A modern governance product solution ensures that school boards remain aligned with their goals with strategic progress tracking, that they establish sound policy, and that they stay in compliance with open meeting laws and regulations.

## 4. Avoid easy cyber mistakes.

Board members are notoriously guilty of using text messaging or personal email to share sensitive information and materials. For public boards, discussing board business outside of scheduled meetings not only violates open meeting laws, but puts district information at risk. School districts that practice modern governance do not make these mistakes; they centralize board and management collaboration using role-based authorizations, while also ensuring that the public has easy access to required information.

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## Questions to Consider as a Modern Governance Board

**Have we set a vision for our district and are we basing our decisions on movement toward that vision?**

**Have we adopted a strategic plan for the district?**

**Are we using the collective tools, processes and methodologies that enable us to move toward our goals?**

**Are we using the tools to make district information available to all stakeholders?**

**Are we using data to drive our decisions?  
Is the data available to everyone?**

**Have we embraced the team approach, asking questions in a way that invites openness with the focus on improvement?**

**Do we focus time on process improvement and discussions of substance, avoiding politics?**

**Are we communicating with key audiences about issues facing the district?**

**Are we collaborating with key stakeholders to creatively resolve issues?**

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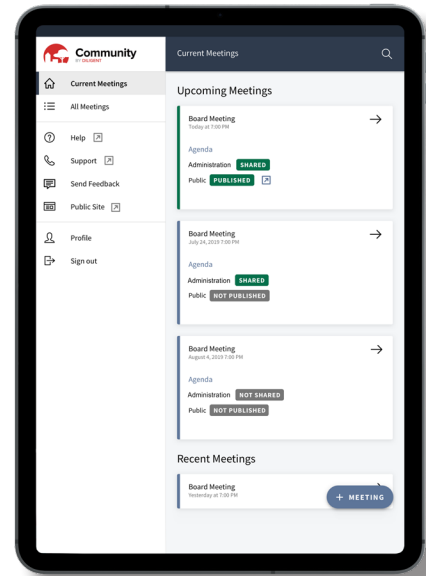
**Community**  
BY DILIGENT

# Introducing Community by Diligent

## Powering modern governance for public education

School board governance has struggled to keep pace with today's public education landscape. In a world where minutes count, old governance practices aren't just out of date; they're exposing today's school districts to dangerous risks. Cyber breaches. Violations of public meeting laws. Community cultures gone awry. These are the things that governance gaps are made of. Simply put, good governance is a strategic advantage in today's digital world and the first step towards setting your district for success is leveraging a modern governance solution.

Community by Diligent enables public education leaders and administrators to achieve excellence in modern governance. It supports responsiveness to their constituencies through an integrated set of technologies, insights, and processes that leverage Diligent's deep experience in offering digital governance solutions to public and private organizations of all sizes. Diligent has joined forces with BoardDocs to build the next generation paperless meeting management software designed exclusively to meet the needs of public education boards.



Built with a mobile-first approach, Community by Diligent equips public education administrators and board members with a powerful technology solution that facilitates accessibility and transparency in an ever-growing digital environment.



### Efficiency

The ability to drive the workflow in a predictable and transparent manner encourages responsiveness and makes the board process more effective. Leverage a fully secure, digital and streamlined process for meetings, including agenda management, document collation with status updates, and publication of final meeting materials and minutes.



### Transparency

Ensure full public visibility, from any device, into current and past board materials for all community members, including public notifications on updates and a full search capability.



### Engagement

Community by Diligent's multi-platform mobile capability encourages accessibility and community participation in meetings as well as real-time collaboration among teams on the board.

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