

What is a Board?

A board is an organized group of volunteers who, collectively, are legally and morally accountable to the community for the health, vitality, and effectiveness of the organization. As representatives of the public, the board of trustees is the primary force pressing the organization to realize its potential for service and fulfill its obligations to its constituencies (Dayton 2001).

The role of the board is 'governance.' Governance encompasses legal responsibilities, general oversight, planning and policy-making, and meeting fiduciary requirements. No single member has the authority for the board as a whole. "The board only has authority as the collective, talking and deciding and voting" (Joyaux 2006).

Sources:

Dayton, Kenneth N. 2001. Governance is Governance (an updated paper based on a speech given in 1987). Washington, D.C.: Independent Sector. Also available online at http://www.independentsector.org/pubs_cart.htm. Paraphrased in Marci Cornell Feist, The Massachusetts Charter Schools Trustees Guide (Boston: Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, 1999), 2.

Joyaux, Simone P., ACFRE. 2006. Personal Communication. Additional materials available online, from Joyaux Associates, at http://www.simonejoyaux.com/resources/pdf_archive_board_development.htm