

We will get started soon!

- Please enter your questions in the chat area throughout the webinar.
- Comments and questions will be addressed at the end.
- Try using Google Chrome or Mozilla browsers for best results.
- We will email a replay of the webinar in the next few days.
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boardable

Board Management Simplified.

WEBINAR:

Board Chair 101 – Be the Best You Can Be



Discover How to Be an Effective Nonprofit Board Chair

- Introduce webinar guest Crystal Grave, nonprofit board chair veteran
- The current state of nonprofit board chair role, from BoardSource
- What a board chair is and is NOT responsible for
- Personality traits and characteristics a board chair should have
- Best practices for how a board chair can support board members
- Tips for conflict resolution in a board environment
- Questions from the audience (please post them in chat throughout webinar)



Crystal Grave

Nonprofit Board and Board Chair Veteran, for-Profit CEO

- Chair of multiple nonprofit entities, from boards to gala and development committees
- Nonprofit board member, volunteer, and staff member
- Strategic planning consultant and plan designer for non-profit organizations
- Organizations include: Coburn Place Safe Haven, Sapphire Theatre Company, Dress for Success, Planned Parenthood IN/KY, PATTERN

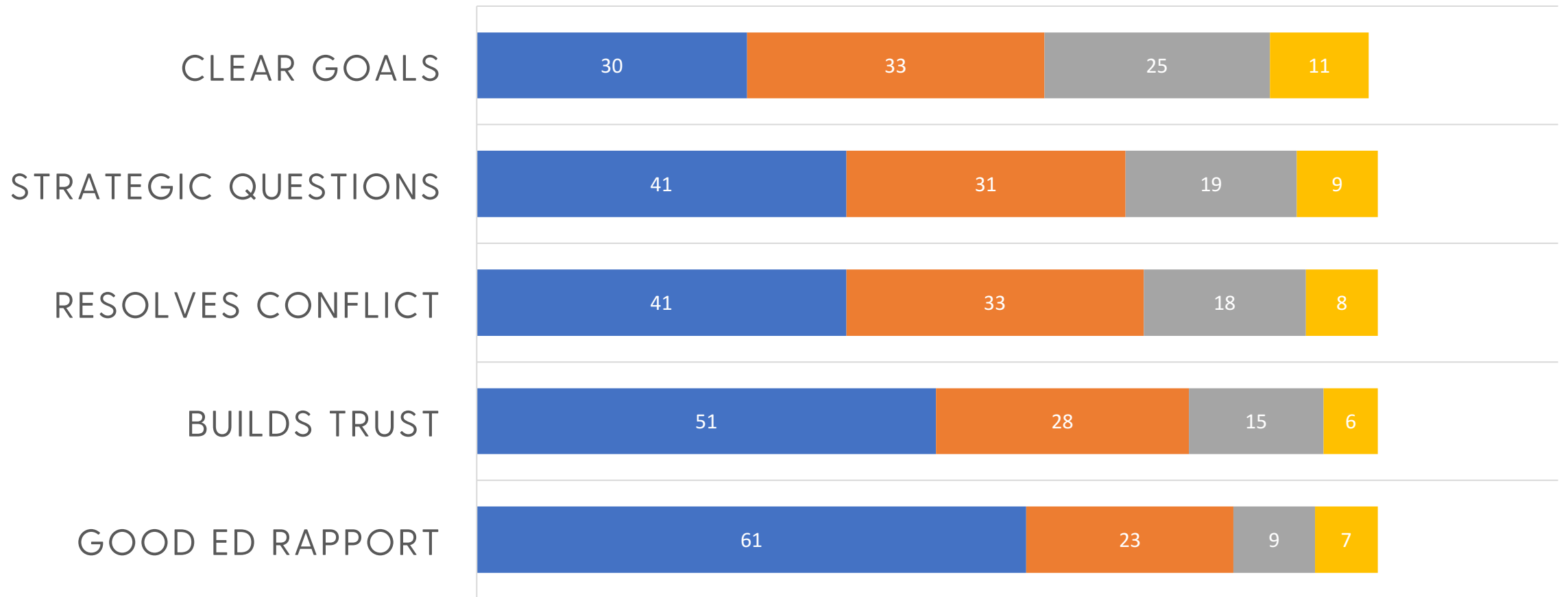
The Current State of Board Chairs in Nonprofits

(per 2017 “Leading with Intent” report by BoardSource)



HOW DO WE RATE OUR BOARD CHAIRS?*

■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D or F



*According to BoardSource 2017 “Leading with Intent”



What is a board chair responsible for?

- Making the performance of the board feel under control
- Highlighting & elevating good work
- Facilitating a seamless flow of operations
- Setting tone for other members
- Preparing and being well-versed for every meeting
- Respecting time during meetings
- Handling conflicts
- Setting expectations, clearly stating goals



What is a board chair **NOT** responsible for?

Think of the board chair as the captain of the ship. The executive director / CEO is like the first mate to the captain.

The captain is **NOT** responsible for every single thing that needs done on the ship.

The ED should coordinate the committee reports, plan the agenda, organize staff



What traits make for a great board chair?

Confident in Role

- Handles conflict
- Able to correct course

High EQ

- Can draw people out
- Builds rapport

Very Organized

- Treats NFP like a business
- Ready to lead

“Board Chair personality must complement the tone of the organization.

-Crystal Grave



What are some best practices for board chairs?

#1 Priority for a Board Chair: Understand that board members are volunteers. Do not expect them to act like paid staff!

- Make expectations clear up front. Show in advance what “winning” looks like.
- Understand being board chair requires constant reminders and follow-up to get performance from busy people.
- Have a plan to hire critical professional roles. Using board members for this indefinitely is a recipe for burnout.



What are board chair tips for fostering board member engagement?



1. Get to know your board. Build a personal relationship. Spend time one-on-one at least annually.
2. Communicate individually. 99% of the time, a group email blast gets ignored.
3. Share mission moments and wins. Remind them why you're all doing this.
4. Respect their time – not just during meetings, but by being prepared and maximizing their talents.



A note on building rapport and board engagement, from BoardSource's 2017 "Leading with Intent" index.

Relationship between board social time and board culture (chief executive responses)

FIG C10

SOCIAL TIME & BUILDING COLLABORATIVE TEAM

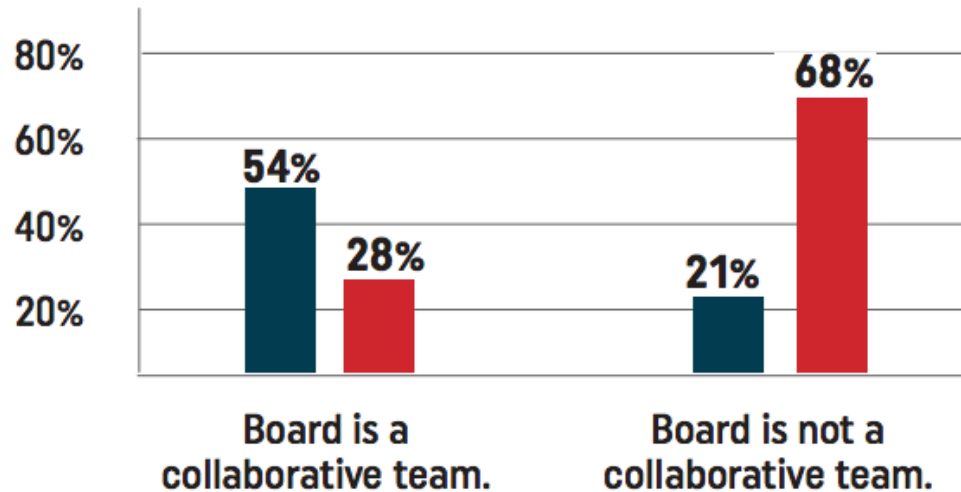
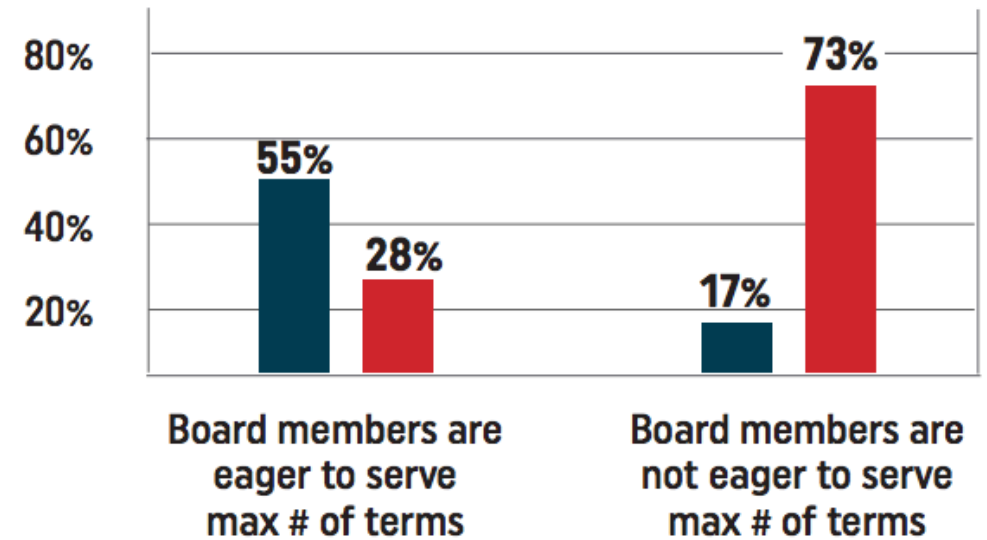



FIG C11

SOCIAL TIME & LENGTH OF SERVICE



 Board has social time specifically for its members.

 Board does not have social time for its members.



How should board chairs handle conflicts?

Crucial points: Remove whether you like the person or not from your deliberations. Rely on facts.

Set expectations up front.

Step away, let emotions settle.

Look at every angle. Ask a ton of questions.

Make hard decisions with executive committee.



In summary, board chairs are the example for the whole board.

They project a confident, effective, unified operation to the outside.

A strong board chair affects every facet of an organization's operations.

Coming Up Next at  boardable



Kim Donahue,
Nonprofit Governance Expert

Boardable's Nonprofit Governance Coach:

Kim Donahue

- Submit questions for her monthly “Ask Coach Kim” webinar
- Submission and registration link in your webinar replay email
- Next Ask Coach Kim webinar: June, stay tuned!

Q & A Time

Please enter questions and comments in the chat area. We will address as many as possible, and summarize answers in the slide deck.

An overhead view of a meeting table with several people sitting around it. There are laptops, tablets, coffee cups, and papers on the table. The image is dimmed with a blue overlay.

Thank you for joining us!

Watch for a replay email soon.

Visit us at www.boardable.com

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