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Subject: board education

How does your board encourage continuing education?

If not, should the board talk about its education/governance processes?

Six Questions To Ask Now

1. Does the board encourage directors to attend independent education sessions? Is there an education budget?
2. How does the board stay informed on new regulations and current governance topics?
3. Does the board periodically schedule time for “deep dives” into critical issues facing the company?
4. Does the board schedule an annual retreat, outside of the normal board room?
5. If an annual retreat is scheduled, does the company periodically bring in “outside” experts to talk about industry specific topics?
6. Do board members have the opportunity to meet and talk casually with senior managers, perhaps over dinner the evening before the board meeting?

The role of the board of directors has morphed from “decorative” to “watch-dog/overseer” and “sounding board for the CEO.” In recognition of this evolution, and the heightened public interest in good corporate governance, ***boards are asking more meaningful questions.*** Pose these questions at your next board meeting – the list is intended to stimulate discussion. Check www.governancesolutionsgroup.com for a new list each month.

Some of the questions are easy to answer and will allow you to validate your belief that your board is operating within the scope of “governance best practices.” However, good governance is more than checking a “good governance box” so that the board keeps out of trouble and out of the spotlight. Good governance is about examining how the board is actually functioning and about making meaningful changes to improve your board’s effectiveness, engagement, efficiency and accountability. If your board could benefit from a dose of independent advice concerning how to establish or modify your board’s governance practices, structure your board or revitalize your board, call Denise Kuprionis at The Governance Solutions Group.



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“Good governance is part of every good business solution.” Mary Denise Kuprionis