



Field Services

Guidelines for Board Self-Evaluations

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) allows a school board to go into closed session for the purpose of “[s]elf evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.” IASB, as a statewide association, provides field services directors to meet with member boards in closed session using this provision. IASB field services staff, in consultation with the IASB Office of General Counsel, developed these guidelines as a resource for field services directors working with member boards.

“Board Self-Evaluation” (BSE) is the name we have given to the category of services provided by IASB field services directors under this OMA exception. This category currently includes the following services:

- Board Governance Review (BGR)
- Board Self-Evaluation (BEI)
- Starting Right ...
- Myers-Briggs Team Workshop
- Team Relations
- Board-Superintendent Roles
- Board Expectations for the New Superintendent

Board Self-Evaluations (BSEs)

1. Are based upon a program, agenda and supporting materials developed by IASB field services staff after consultation with the board on its needs and desired outcomes.
2. Are designed to address
 - Self-Evaluation – How are we doing?
 - Practices and procedures – How will we agree to do our business?
 - Professional ethics – Does our board follow best practices?
3. Involve field services director facilitation of board-superintendent governance team conversations that focus on interpersonal relations and several key questions:
 - How are we doing?
 - How well do we work together?
 - How can we improve our working relationship?
 - How can we be more productive and effective?

If a BSE conversation inadvertently strays from the agenda, the field services director brings it back to the agenda as quickly as possible. If the conversation repeatedly strays, the field services director will end our program and leave.

Field services directors do not provide legal advice or opinions about OMA compliance. Our analysis is whether or not the conversation is part of our program or agenda in accordance with these guidelines.

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