

[Teamwork: Building the Trust in Trusteeship](#) – Dick Ewing

Taking the time to ask a series of straightforward questions can help trustees think about how they function as a team and help build trust with each other.

- In times of challenge and stress, does the board come together in service to the school and its mission and the community they all serve, or does it dissolve in internecine struggle?
- Do they close ranks after they've thoroughly discussed a controversial issue and made a difficult decision, or do individual trustees resort to sabotage or open insurrection?
- Do they stand behind school leadership in implementing difficult policies that they have endorsed?
- Are they committed to modeling the values that their school teaches its students?
- Will they be able to make and keep specific commitments to each other – about behaviors as well as actions – on behalf of their school's mission and work?
- Will they seek to establish and internalize their own principles of good practice such that they will actually act upon them in times of challenge and crisis, as great teams do in the last quarter of a championship game or crew race?