

Vision and Mission:

- Charter schools exist to provide a great education, but they also entail some legal responsibility.
- A well-defined mission is key for success, as a charter school, and this mission should be laid out in the charter itself. Board composition is key for executing this mission.
- Most common legal mistakes by charter school boards are totally avoidable - through an understanding of responsibilities.

Mitigating Risk and Understanding Liability:

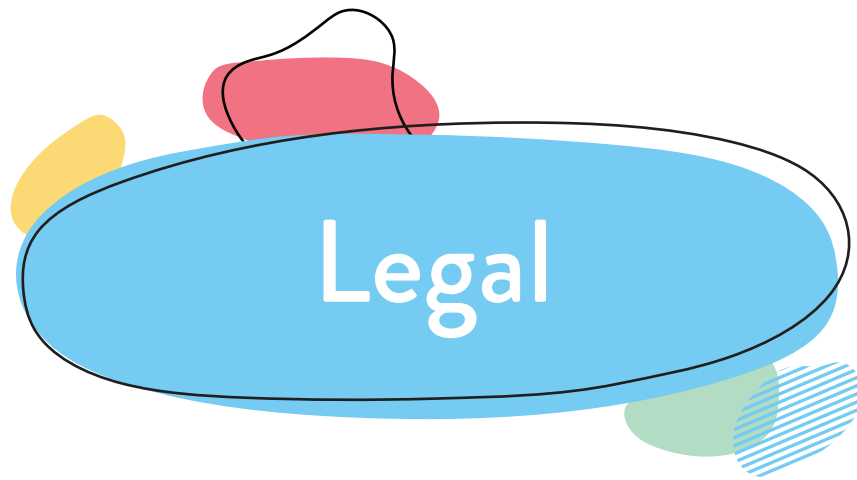
- Running any kind of business entails some risk - charter schools are no exception.
- If necessary, there are ways by which charters can be changed to better encapsulate the mission.



“A great board member is someone who realizes it’s about the kids. You have to put the kids first.”

Kim Perron
President - SchoolWorks





Understanding Compliance and Open Meetings:

- As taxpayer funded entities, charter schools have an obligation to maintain transparency with the taxpayers who fund them.
- All boards need to hold their meetings as 'open to the public', as well as making their major documents accessible.
- When making a major decision, don't be afraid to get legal counsel involved to ensure everything stays on the up-and-up.
- Attorneys can be expensive, but they're much cheaper than being sued.
- Charter school board membership is a job with much more gravity than the average volunteer position: there's potential for huge positive change when done right, as well as serious negative ramifications when taken lightly.

Evaluating the School/Organizational Leader:

- As the board, it's your job to evaluate the school's management and leader. Perform regular and consistent evaluations to avoid any tension.
- Build a good relationship with the school leader. Your communication and cooperation are vital for the school's health.

Resources:

More resources are available at charterschoolgovernance.info

