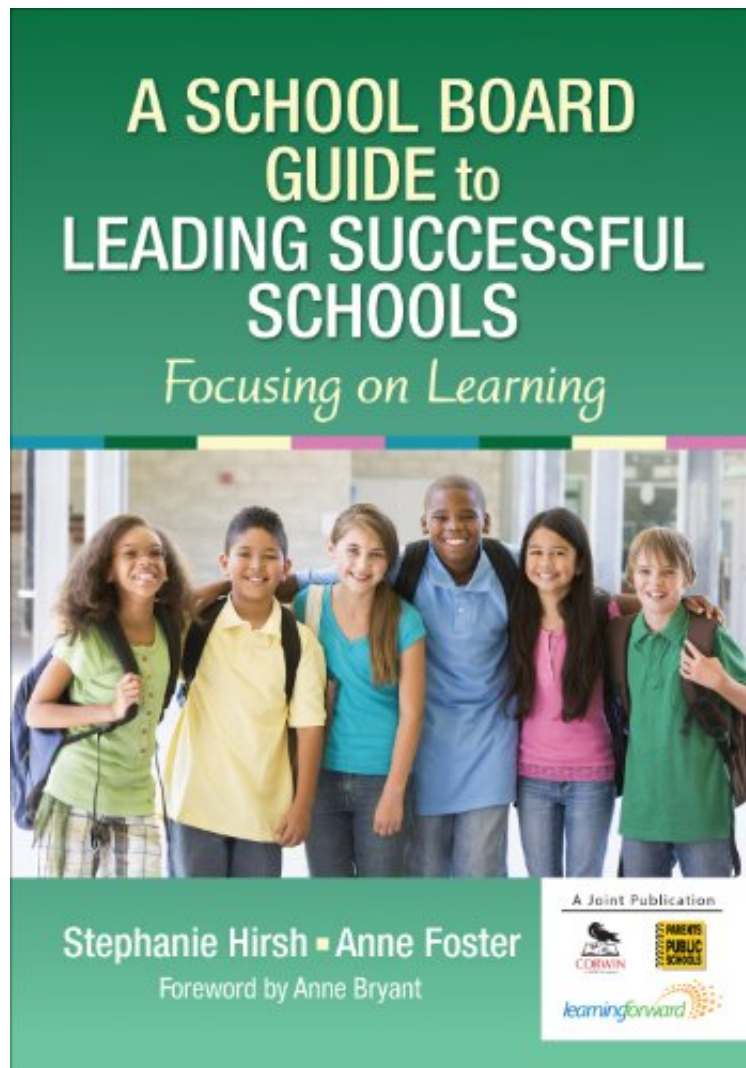


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A School Board Guide to Leading Successful Schools: Focusing on Learning

Stephanie A. Hirsh, Anne W. Foster
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Stephanie A. Hirsh, Anne W. Foster : A School Board Guide to Leading Successful Schools: Focusing on Learning before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A School Board Guide to Leading Successful Schools: Focusing on Learning:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A School Board Guide could easily serve as a curriculum guide for district leadership. By Bob Garmston. From Winnipeg to Wichita; Milwaukee to Milan; Mumbai to Madison; and Boise to Bangkok. I've witnessed School Boards' effects on learning and professional morale. Practical, grounded in research and experience, A School Board Guide could easily serve as a curriculum guide for district leadership. Boards that put learning at the center of their priorities and engage professional development to further their own

leadership capacities become team members rather than overseers of vibrant communities making a difference in student learning. Practical, timely and accessible this book is a must read for District leadership groups. Robert Garmston, Professor Emeritus, California State University and Co-Developer of professional development programs used worldwide. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Don't Miss this Book! By Lisa Casto, Mrs. While school practitioners have many resources to support learning in the district, we have few for working with community and school boards. This book has been an invaluable resource in my work in school settings. These case studies are insightful and directly applicable to today's school and district staff and school boards. The format of the book leads to deeper understanding and effective decision-making that supports professional learning and student success. Patte Barth, director of the Center for Public Education at the National School Boards Association, said recently that competing priorities are "diverting us from the hard work of making sure public schools prepare every child for their next steps after graduation." He asked us to invest in evidence-based successful practices—effective teaching, rigorous curriculum and individualized instruction for students. We know that continuous improvement, for those successful practices, requires a commitment to learning for all involved in education—from classroom teachers to school board members. Our vehicle for continuous improvement is professional learning. This book will put you in the professional learning driver's seat for school staff and school boards. I highly recommend this book! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It is essential that school board members be intentional and public learners... By Dennis Sparks In my experience, a system of learning schools requires a school board and superintendent who are intentional and public learners. There are no exceptions to this requirement if the goal is high-quality teaching for all students in all classrooms in all schools. That's why I encourage all school administrators and teacher leaders to read and pass on Hirsh and Foster's book to a school board member who seeks to better understand the importance of Board learning and teamwork. Better yet, if you are in a position to do so, provide copies for the entire Board and ask members to devote as many sessions as possible to its study.

The go-to resource for school board members' greatest challenges! This invaluable guide addresses the top challenges experienced by nearly every school board, and shows how professional learning can support positive change throughout a school system. Effective for individual study or group learning, this resource helps board members to: Learn from case studies focused on 12 critical board-level decisions, including hiring a new superintendent, resource allocation, compensation planning, and more Know when, where, and how to use professional learning to improve individual and districtwide performance Benefit from best practices and tools developed to support effective decisions and successful implementation of major initiatives

"As Hirsh and Foster note, school boards play a pivotal role in creating a climate of learning in a school system. They have numerous and diverse opportunities to do this—by enacting policies, approving school calendars, adopting budgets, evaluating superintendents, and engaging their communities, to cite just a few. This book offers practical advice to enable school boards to fulfill this critical aspect of their public leadership role. It is a roadmap for action and continuous improvement for every school board." (Thomas J. Gentzel, Executive Director 2013-04-30) "Effective professional learning merits school board involvement and direction as an integral part of the school district's vision, mission, goals, and planning. This book will lead a board and district leadership through the process of transforming 'professional learning' from a 'district department' to an essential component of the district's culture." (Luke Davis, Former Trustee 2013-01-10) "The demands of public education continue to challenge school boards and school district managers. New initiatives and changes to existing programs have become routine. School boards must include support for implementation of these initiatives and changes by establishing a foundation for professional development in their strategic plans and by allocating resources for the professional development needed to succeed." (Glen Ishiwata, Retired Superintendent 2013-01-10) "This book is an excellent tool for the collaborative work of school boards and school personnel. The case studies align with today's challenges in education and in professional learning. The design of the activities encourages the collaboration and conversation that supports continuous improvement in education. This is a great tool for advocating for professional learning!" (Lisa Casto, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development 2013-01-10) "As Professional Learning Director for my school system, I am excited about the possibilities this field guide affords my district through reflection, collaboration, professional growth, and student achievement." (Rhonda Baldwin, Professional Learning Director 2013-01-10) "Hirsh and Foster have utilized their experiences as educators, board members and professional learning experts to create a valuable resource for school administrators and board members committed to institutionalizing the concept of Professional Learning Communities 'from the boardroom to the classroom.' The chapters are organized to provide case studies on relevant educational topics. The addition of 'conversation starters' and 'activities' aimed at promoting understanding, reflection and proposed actions, allow the guide to be used in a variety of ways. Most importantly, the guide provides a template for boards and administrators to address any issues that impact both student and adult learning." (Wendy Robinson, Superintendent 2013-07-08) "As Hirsh and Foster note, school boards play a pivotal role

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(Luke Davis, Former Trustee 2013-01-10)"The demands of public education continue to challenge school boards and school district managers. New initiatives and changes to existing programs have become routine. School boards must include support for implementation of these initiatives and changes by establishing a foundation for professional development in their strategic plans and by allocating resources for the professional development needed to succeed." (Glen Ishiwata, Retired Superintendent 2013-01-10)"This book is an excellent tool for the collaborative work of school boards and school personnel. The case studies align with today's challenges in education and in professional learning. The design of the activities encourages the collaboration and conversation that supports continuous improvement in education. This is a great tool for advocating for professional learning!" 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Most importantly, the guide provides a template for boards and administrators to address any issues that impact both student and adult learning." (Wendy Robinson, Superintendent 2013-07-08)About the AuthorStephanie Hirsh is executive director of Learning Forward. Learning Forward's more than 10,000 members and 40 state and provincial affiliates are committed to increasing student achievement and educator performance through more effective professional learning. Prior to her appointment as executive director, Hirsh served the association as deputy executive director for 18 years. She began her career as a secondary teacher and also served as a school district administrator in the Richardson (TX) Independent School District. In 1996 she was elected to the Richardson school board and served for three terms. Today, Hirsh advises governors, legislators, state and local superintendents, and other policy makers regarding professional development, school improvement, and student learning. Hirsh also presents, publishes, and consults on Learning Forward's behalf across North America. Her recent books include *A Playbook for Professional Learning*, co-authored with Shirley Hord, *The Learning Educator*, co-authored with Joellen Killion, and *Transforming Schools Through Powerful Planning*, co-authored with Kay Psencik. Hirsh writes a regular column for *JSD*, Learning Forward's bimonthly magazine. She has also written articles for *Educational Leadership*, *Phi Delta Kappan*, *The Record*, *The School Administrator*, *American School Board Journal*, *The High School Magazine*, and *Education Week*. Hirsh serves on several advisory boards including Learning First Alliance, University of Texas College of Education, National Stem Equity Pipeline, and The Teaching Channel. She has been recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Learning Forward Texas; as a Distinguished Alumnae from the University of North Texas; and as Master Trustee and member of an Honor Board from the Texas School Boards Association. Anne Foster is the Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools (PPS), a national organization of community-based chapters working to strengthen public schools by engaging, educating and mobilizing parents. Foster had a longtime career in real estate in the Dallas area and served as a three-term elected school board member for Richardson (Texas) ISD. She served as board president for seven years and founded Realtors Supporting Richardson Schools (RSRS) as a way to bring Realtors into support of public schools. She graduated from Leadership Texas and became the first ED of the business/public school advocacy group Raise Your Hand Texas. In her current position with PPS, Foster speaks, presents and writes on behalf of parent and community engagement in public schools, as well as school board advocacy. Her commentaries have appeared in *Phi Delta Kappan*, *Educational Horizons*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *USA Today*, and others. She is a regular commentator on public education issues on KERA Dallas public radio, and she consults with community and municipal groups on parent engagement in schools. Foster received the Outstanding Communicator Award by the National School Public Relations Association. She has been recognized as a Master Trustee and member of an Honor Board from the Texas Association of School Boards. She serves on The National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group, which advises the White House and Department of Education on federal policy.