

Navigating When Hard Issues Threaten Governance

(ADAPTED FROM 2023 ARTICLE BY KAREN RUE)



Keep your why. Why are you on the Board?



Acknowledge the issue, but do not allow it to consume you or the Board. Focus on solutions.



Remain an example of purpose and pull others into the mission.
Reinforce and model others.



Set boundaries with others to protect yourself. Some seem to derive satisfaction from creating chaos and pushing other people's buttons. – T. Bradberry



Be strong for others by staying mentally and physically well. You can then deal with tough issues.



Taking the Destruction Out of Disagreement



Disagreement can become a destructive force unless it is managed wisely.



We must recognize that serious disagreements may occur and be prepared to respond appropriately.



The successful Board Member expects differences.



The successful Board Member begins every debate with these principles in mind:

Neither conflict or disagreement will be allowed to damage personal or professional relationships.

Conflict and disagreements managed correctly will result in deeper exploration of alternative solutions.



Take the destruction out of conflict and disagreement – Make difference a strength.