

## **EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARDS LEADING THE WAY TO SUCCESSFUL ISLAMIC SCHOOLS**

An Outline for a paper presentation at the  
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School boards are the heart of a school and responsible to keep schools vibrant, and with an active flow of healthy blood to keep the entire school body alive! There are estimated to be 1.5 million nonprofit organizations in the United States and 20 million dedicated, influential, and connected members that lead these organizations. There are 90,000 men and women serving as members in approximately 14,000 school boards. ([www.centerforpubliceducation.org](http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org)) Although the number of Islamic Schools in the United States may be significantly low with an estimated number of approximately 500 schools, they do make a significant impact on the future generations and the private school sector in the United States.

Regardless of the size, vision, and mission of the school boards the characteristics that make them effective and the challenges they face have some commonalities across board. Additional challenges that Islamic School boards face are that they are fairly new, each school is unique and diverse in its own way, and worst is the current negative stereotypes and prejudices against their religion Islam that is widespread in the United States.

Many Islamic schools run with minimum school board members with the composition of the governing body that is unclear and the responsibilities that draw no line of separation between governance and management. Depending upon the individual needs of each community's ethnicity and language, Islamic schools must form their own Boards, select their own governance structures, and policies often times from a self-referential standpoint and as trial and error.

Understanding the role and nature of a school board toward all stakeholders is critical to enhancing the stability and viability of the school. This paper will focus upon School Boards structure, governance, and functions as described in the models introduced by EdConsultations:

The 5 R's: Model of Effective School Boards: Responsibilities, Roles, Rules, Rights, and Righteousness. Learn about:

- 1) Responsibilities through The ISLAM Model.
- 2) Roles of members through the Model, 7 Highly Effective Committees
- 3) Rules through the List of Don'ts
- 4) Respect through the PJI Model of How We Treat Each Other: Our Practice of Respect and Nonviolence (PJI Model's vision: All People, All Voices, All Matter)
- 5) Righteousness through the 5 Pillars of Islam Model

Audience will leave with a clear understanding of the governance and structure of the school boards of Islamic Schools. The highlight of the session will be the conflict transformation model to help keep peace between management and governance. The presenter will use humor to demonstrate the effective use of various models with open dialogue at the end of the session.