

May 19, 2017

Fellow Board members:

I am sending a note from MSBA regarding the Distinguished level of Board Member Certification that I recently completed. I am sending it as an encouragement to you to continue through the levels of board certification, which is also a requirement of our becoming an "Outstanding Board of Education" something we discussed regarding a goal for next year.

As you progress through the certification requirements you have the opportunity to choose a book relevant to your district and reflect on governance practices used by your district or should be considered for your district. I have enjoyed becoming a more informed board member through these activities working through the 4 levels of certification (Essential, Advanced, Master, Distinguished).

Nancy

Hi Nancy,

Congratulations on completing the requirements for Distinguished certification! This is indeed quite an accomplishment!

I enjoyed reading your book and board meeting observation reflections. It is interesting to learn about the similarities and differences in board meeting practices. It sounds like the Camdenton governance team has taken steps to be transparent with your patrons. We do think referencing both policies and strategic plan objectives on relevant agenda items is helpful. It helps board members and the public be more familiar with both and adds another layer of accountability.

In regard to the *Power of ICU* observations. I totally agree that the board has an impact on the district culture. It does seem incongruent with policies and district goals for improving student achievement when classroom practices like giving a zero or not allowing late assignments occur. That's why it is essential for governance teams to maintain their focus on district performance measures and administrators to ensure alignment with those priorities throughout the district and buildings.

I'm looking forward to being on stage when you receive your plaque during the 2017 Leadership Summit awards luncheon on Saturday, June 3.

Congratulations once again!

Phyllis

Phyllis Barks

Associate Executive Director, Leadership Development