## Charter Finance 210

A Guide to Financial Oversight for Board Members

## Agenda

I. Primary Board Responsibilities

॥. Reviewing Financial Packages - Test Case

## I. PRIMARY BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

School Board's have a lot to do, these are the most critical.

## Primary Board Responsibilities

1. Determine the organization's mission and purpose. It is the board's responsibility to create and review a statement of mission and purpose that articulates the organization's goals, means, and primary constituents served.
2. Select the chief executive and assess his/her performance. Boards must reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
3. Provide proper financial oversight. The board must assist in developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.
4. Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability. The board is ultimately responsible for ensuring adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
5. Enhance the organization's public standing. The board should clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.

# II. REVIEWING A FINANCIAL STATEMENT PACKAGE 

What you should be looking for and when to ask questions.

## Financial Package Elements

The financial statement package provided on a monthly basis is intended to give both a retrospective and prospective view of the organization's financial condition. The possible elements included in the monthly package include:

- Executive Summary
- Monthly Cash Flow/Forecast
- Budget vs. Actual
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Cash Flows
- AP Aging
- Monthly Check Register


## Enrollment

Enrollment, and attendance in some cases, is the main driver of school revenue. Good financial oversight must start with understanding enrollment.

> Do these changes match your expectations and other discussions about school operations?

What direction is enrollment trending?


| Are enrolled students <br> attending on a regular <br> basis? |
| :---: |

## Revenue

Maintaining a balanced budget means starting with the funds you have, THEN allocating them to meet needs.

> Is it possible to estimate revenue more accurately in the future?

## Revenue

Core State Funding Federal Revenue Other State Revenue Other Local Revenue Total Revenue

How does the year-to-date revenue compare to the year end forecast?

How does the change in forecasted revenue compare to the changes in enrollment?

Do delays in funding require more collection activities?


Are particular revenue sources changing from the budget?

## Expenses

Properly allocating spending requires understanding the difference between "wants" and "needs" and adjusting based on available resources.

Are there any significant changes from the


## Assets

Assets represent everything the school owns and everything it is owed as of a specific point in time.

Does the school have sufficient cash to meet operating needs?



Are the school's assets liquid or tied up in permanent fixtures?

## Liabilities

Liabilities represent everything the school owes to others as of a specific point in time.

Do you fully understand all of the school's obligations?

Are invoices being received on a timely basis?

Does the school have enough cash to meet current needs? (compare current assets to current liabilities)

| Current <br> Balance | Beginning <br> Year Balance | YTD Change | YTD \% <br> Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Liabilities
Current Liabilities
Accounts Payable
Accrued Liabilities
Deferred Revenue
Total Current Liabilities
Is the school maintaining cash levels by not paying bills? (check the AP Aging)
Are outstanding obligations increasing?

## Accounts Payable Aging

The accounts payable aging shows all outstanding invoices that are awaiting payment and how old they are. Old invoices indicate that bills are being paid late and service could be disrupted.

| Vendor Name | Invoice/Credit Number | Invoice/Credit Date |  | Current | $\begin{gathered} 1-30 \text { Days Past } \\ \text { Due } \end{gathered}$ | 31-60 Days Past Due |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 61-90 Days } \\ & \text { Past Due } \end{aligned}$ | Over 90 Days Past Due |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Vendor Name | 1 | 2/9/2019 | \$ | 60 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | 60 |
| Vendor Name | 200326 | 8/31/2017 |  | - | - |  |  | - | 19,306 |  | 19,306 |
| Vendor Name | APEX051418 | 5/14/2018 |  | - | - |  |  | - | 21,704 |  | 21,704 |
| Vendor Name | APEX062918 | 6/29/2018 |  | - | - |  |  | - | 22,884 |  | 22,884 |
| Vendor Name | $2856$ | 1/7/2019 |  | - | 2,002 |  |  | - | - |  | 2,002 |

Are vendor relationships being strained?

## Fund Balance

Also known as "Net Assets" The Fund Balance represents "net worth" of the school. It consists of all the accumulated surpluses and deficits going back to the date the organization was first created.


## Cash Flow Forecast

There are often significant difference between the time that revenue is received, and bills need to be paid. In addition to maintaining a balanced budget, the school should monitor its expected cash balances throughout the year.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Should be Board set a minimum cash } \\
& \text { reserve to prepare for the unknown? }
\end{aligned}
$$

| Debt Covenants | Forecast | Budget |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Days Cash On Hand $(45 \mathrm{~min})$ | 36.07 | 63.85 |
| Debt Service Coverage $(1.20 \mathrm{~min})$ | 1.01 | 1.24 |
| Fund Balance Reserve $(5 \% \mathrm{~min})$ | $4.7 \%$ | $8.2 \%$ |

Are there any cash shortfalls during the year?


## C CHARTER IMPACT

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