# Trustee Series

### A Virtual Program for Independent School Trustees & Heads

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### Bonus Webinars

For current and incoming board chairs only. These sessions will not be recorded.

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**Thursday, August 23, 2023**  
**Board Culture, Roles & Responsibilities**  
Lynn Wendell, Independent School Governance Expert

Whether you are new to trusteeship or a seasoned board member, it is a good idea to pause and reflect on the best practices and board habits that lead to effective governance. Join this webinar to review the core responsibilities of independent school board members and how your responsibilities as a board member are different from those of the head of school. We will discuss tricky situations you might encounter as a board member and how to handle them and review aspects of board culture that contribute to board success. This governance “booster shot” will prepare you for what’s ahead as you approach the 2023-24 board cycle.

Lynn Wendell has worked as a consultant at more than 90 independent schools and non-profits. She served as a trustee at three independent schools and as board chair at San Francisco University High School (CA). In addition, she has served on non-profit boards, board committees, and advisory councils.

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**  
**Foundations of Governance: Tips & Traps for Trustees**  
Sara Goldsmith Schwartz, Schwartz Hannum PC

Serving on the board of trustees of an independent school is a significant contribution to the community, and also a significant responsibility. This webinar, led by experienced school attorney Sara Schwartz, will utilize real-life hypotheticals to explore key aspects of being an independent school trustee. Topics will include: overview of duties, essential board functions and documents, the ideal board relationship with the head of school, the board’s role in a crisis, and recommended action items.

Sara Goldsmith Schwartz is the founder and president of Schwartz Hannum PC, a law firm which specializes in education, employment, and labor law. In the course of representing more than 250 educational institutions across the U.S., Schwartz has become a trusted advisor to heads of schools, presidents, board chairs, deans, business officers, and others as independent school leaders tackle and resolve matters of school governance, student and employee disciplinary matters, risk management, sexual abuse allegations, and the myriad compliance documents such as enrollment agreements, school bylaws, student/parent handbooks, and more. She is a cum laude graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School.

**Thursday, October 12, 2023**  
**Effective Financial Governance for Independent School Trustees**  
Mary Kay Markunas, National Business Officers Association (NBOA)

Every independent school trustee must effectively steward the school by fulfilling their fiduciary role; the board’s partnerships with the head of school and business officer are critical. This webinar will foster a deeper level of fiduciary stewardship and financial governance. Trustees will enhance their understanding of the multi-faceted independent school business model and learn to ask the right questions to inform more strategic discussion. School leaders will learn how best to report information to ensure financial stewardship and long-term sustainability.

Mary Kay Markunas supports NBOA’s professional offerings including the NBOA Annual Meeting, Business Officer Institute, webinars, and online courses, as well as providing resources and support to members. She develops and delivers programs related to independent school business operations, leadership and governance, and nonprofit accounting practices. Markunas joined NBOA in 2015 after serving as the director of finance and operations at The Avery Coonley School (IL) for 12 years. Before joining the independent school community, she worked in corporate finance at a global corporation and in engineering consulting.

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**  
**Wearing Three Hats: Trustee-Parent Dilemmas**  
Robert Evans, Psychologist, Author & School Consultant

The relationship between trustees and parents has always been complex. It begins with the closest of connections when the trustee also is a parent at the school. Wearing two hats—as steward and customer—presents a range of challenges. But trustees also have a third hat when they deal with parents, especially those who second-guess and criticize teachers and seek special treatment for their children. What are the best ways to manage these situations? In this webinar, Evans will outline concrete steps for successful coping.

Robert Evans, EdD is a psychologist, author, and school consultant. He has worked with more than 1700 schools on a range of issues, including board governance challenges. His interests are in leadership, helping schools manage change, improving adult relationships within schools, and crisis intervention. He is the author of many articles and three books, including Seven Secrets of the Savvy School Leader: A Guide to Surviving and Thriving and The Human Side of School Change. His latest book is Hopes and Fears: Working with Today’s Independent School Parents, co-written with Michael Thompson and published by NAIS.
The pace of change in our schools is constantly accelerating and the forces acting on our ability to thrive are increasing. We are living in an age of adaptive challenges. In this webinar, Fish will explore the five forces that will have the greatest impact on our schools and examine a framework for learning design to help schools ensure that we are preparing students to respond to these forces.
Bonus Webinars

For current and incoming board chairs only. These sessions will not be recorded.

Thursday, December 7, 2023  Board Chair Roundtable I
Lucinda Lee Katz, Former Head of School & Board Chair  
Irvenia Waters, Former Board Chair & Executive Coach

Join us for a facilitated conversation on the issues confronting board chairs. Former board chairs themselves, Katz and Waters invite your participation to share and hear from peers.

Lucinda Lee Katz is a board governance consultant and executive coach. In 2018, she concluded a 14-year tenure as the head of school of Marin Country Day School (CA). Prior to MCDS, she worked with Mayor Daley in Chicago as the chief education officer and served as head of school and principal at The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools (IL). Katz served on the NAIS Editorial Board, vice chair of NAIS, past president for the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), board chair for ISACS, and served on three private school boards in CA.

Irvenia Waters, MBA is an executive coach, team performance coach, and consultant. She has three decades of experience in management consulting, strategy planning and execution, leadership development, and group facilitation. She has worked with dozens of independent schools and nonprofits and has been a leader on independent school and nonprofit boards.

Thursday, May 2, 2024  Board Chair Roundtable II
Georgy Ann Peluchiwski & Stephanie Rogen, Greenwich Leadership Partners

Join us for a facilitated conversation on the issues confronting board chairs. Peluchiwski and Rogen invite your participation to share and hear from peers.

Georgy Ann Peluchiwski, partner at Greenwich Leadership Partners (GLP) brings decades of experience spanning financial services, nonprofit board service, and independent school leadership. She serves as faculty for the GLP Women’s Leadership Summit with areas of expertise include governance, finance, strategic planning, organizational design, and enterprise risk management. She recently completed 12 years as a trustee at the Latin School of Chicago (IL) including four years as board chair, and four years as treasurer and chair of the finance committee. In addition, she is a director and co-founder of Impact Grants Chicago, an all-women’s, volunteer grant making organization.

Stephanie Rogen, principal and founder of GLP is a consultant, coach, and facilitator to educational and nonprofit leadership. Her work integrates more than 25 years’ experience in the corporate, educational, and nonprofit sectors. Rogen brings a fresh approach to strategy, leadership development, and transformational change in schools and organizations. An executive coach and facilitator, she works with nonprofits ranging from Columbia University to The White House Project and Northwell Health and is an instructor at the UPenn Graduate School of Education. She has served on the boards of Blair Academy (NJ), St. Luke’s School (CT), and the Greenwich United Way.

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Zoom Pre-registration
Prior to each webinar, NYSAIS will send reminder emails to the school’s contact person with details including the Zoom pre-registration link for that webinar. Trustees and heads who plan to attend the live presentation must complete a Zoom pre-registration prior to EACH webinar.

Recording Access
Webinars will be recorded and made available to registered schools until 6/30/24. The 12/7/23 & 5/2/24 Board Chair Roundtables will not be recorded.

Questions?
Contact: worokya@nysais.org