

HOWDY, PARTNER! 10 Tips for an Effective Head/Board-Chair Relationship

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*NAIS Annual Conference
February 28, 2020*

The head-board chair relationship is like _____ because

_____.

The relationship... is key.

Trust, respect and a willingness to rely on each other's strengths are critical, along with a common understanding of the organization's goals and the strategies needed to get there.

What role does the board chair play?

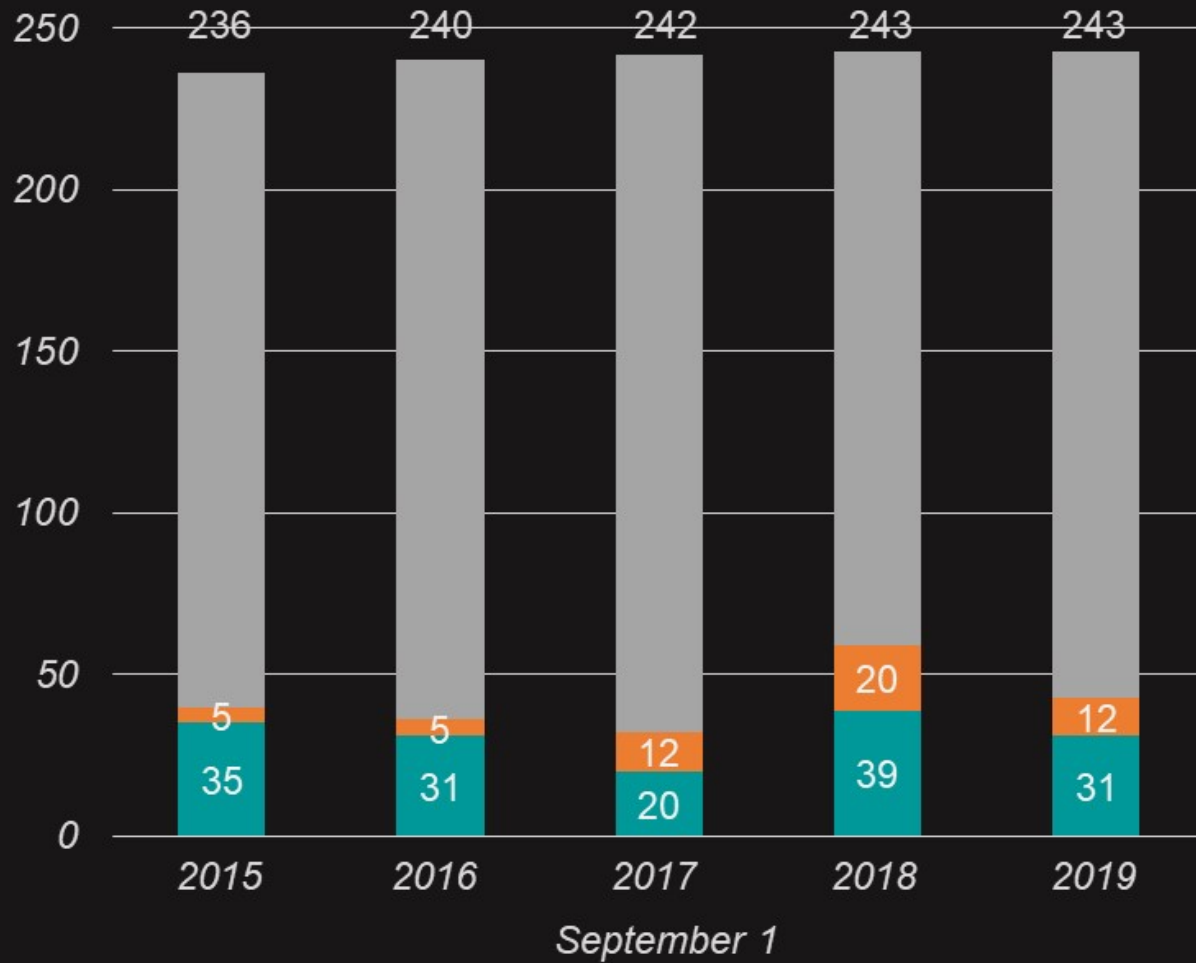
Nonprofit Answer Guide, Center for Nonprofit Management.

*Together they model
the leadership relationship in action.*

The role of the board chair. NAIS, 9/18/15.

ISACS Headship Transitions

Typical Timetable & Abrupt*



1. Recognize and respect your distinct **roles**.

2. Be aware you're being **watched**.

3. Schedule frequent, regular **meetings** to ensure proactive communication.

4. Intentionally work to build empathy and trust.

5. Expect and honor confidentiality.

6. Establish mutuality in **goal setting**
and **evaluation**.

7. Learn together.

8. Build a support **network**.

9. When needed, **get help**.

10. Cultivate the pipeline.

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10 TIPS

Ideal Head/Chair in the Partnership

The Mind of _____

The Heart of _____

The Voice of _____

The _____ of _____

An Exercise To Do with Your Head/Chair

Start	Stop	Continue

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Events

Association workshops, conferences, and webinars

NAIS Leadership through Partnership

NAIS Trustee Table Podcast

Resources

2019 accreditation rubric. NWAIS.

Board chair and chief executive partnership. BoardSource, 2017.

Covey, S. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.* Simon & Schuster, 2013.

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Gifford, G. You're not the boss of me: Board chairs and CEOs. *Cause & Effect*, January 17, 2011.

Heads and boards working in partnership: 2012-13 NAIS governance study (NAIS-member password required).

Houle, C., in DeKuyper, M.H. "The relationship between the board chair and the head," Chapter 8. *Trustee handbook: A guide to effective governance for independent school boards*, 9th edition. NAIS, 2007.

Independent School Chairpersons Association

ISACS resources: Governance

ISACS standards for membership

Melvoin, R., & Thompson, M. Surviving, thriving, and sometimes just enduring as a head of school. *Independent School*, NAIS, Winter 2005.

NAIS Trendbook, 2019-20. NAIS, 2019.

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Principles of good practice: Board of trustees. NAIS, 2012.

Shahan, K. Board chair job description (and relationship with the head). ISACS, March 2014.

Trower, C. The Practitioner's Guide to Governance as Leadership. Jossey-Bass, 2012.

Weaver, R. Board room: What you need to know about executive sessions. *Independent School*, NAIS, Summer 2018.

What role does the board chair play? *Nonprofit Answer Guide*, Center for Nonprofit Management.