



Westminster Public Schools

BOARD GOVERNANCE SOFTWARE
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Westminster Public Schools

Board Governance Software

Digest Item

Purpose of Board Governance Software Systems

These systems are intended to efficiently create and manage board packets, access information and conduct meetings. These software systems provide solutions for managing board materials from the most basic features of online board books and event scheduling to the more robust collaboration tools and reporting.

Features often include:

- Online Board Books/Materials/Agendas
- Event Scheduling
- Surveys
- Collaboration Tools
- Reporting
- Board Software Portals

Context

Administration has been asked to review additional Board Governance Software solutions. Three (3) possible new solutions have been reviewed by us over the past year and have been compared to our current BoardDocs system. This digest item provides a brief summary of the reviews.

BoardEffect



The BoardEffect 'Board Portal Software' system is used by approximately 1,300 organizations. About 25% of the clients are in the Educational vertical.

- Annual cost is approximately \$8,000. There may be one-time costs for implementation and conversion.
- Appears to be user-friendly from a Board member perspective.
- Does **not** include a **public view** for the community. This means all public meeting documents would need to be separately loaded and maintained on the District's public web page. This represents significant double-work efforts ongoing and is a **noteworthy drawback**.
- Does **not include** a function to house public **Board policies**. This would require double-work efforts ongoing. The District would also **lose** the **text search** capability for Board policies.
- Would necessitate a conversion of documents which would require running parallel systems for a period of time.

BoardMax



The BoardMax 'Board management' system by StreamLink Software is used by various non-profit organizations.

- Annual cost is approximately \$3,000. There may be one-time costs for implementation and conversion.
- Appears to be user-friendly from a Board member perspective.
- Does **not** include a **public view** for the community. This means all public meeting documents would need to be separately loaded and maintained on the District's public web page. This represents significant double-work efforts ongoing and is a **noteworthy drawback**.
- Does **not include** a function to house public **Board policies**. This would require double-work efforts ongoing. The District would also **lose** the **text search** capability for Board policies.
- Would necessitate a conversion of documents which would require running parallel systems for a period of time.

The Granicus ‘Cloud Services for Government’ system is used by several organizations across the nation (specific number of organizations is unknown). We reviewed this product during the 2014-2015 school year.

- The first year cost is approximately \$15,000 (from 2014-2015 review).
- Appears to be user-friendly from a Board member perspective.
- One feature Granicus adds is an on premise appliance (server) which allows for live streaming of board meetings on the Internet as well as the ability to archive the meetings for streaming. This also increases the District’s ongoing costs.
- System administration (Technology Services) and key user (Board secretary) maintenance appears to be more complex and difficult.
- Does **not include** a function to house public **Board policies**. This would require double-work efforts ongoing. The District would also **lose** the **text search** capability for Board policies.
- Would necessitate a conversion of documents which would require running parallel systems for a period of time.

The BoardDocs ‘Paperless Governance Solution’ system by Emerald Data Solutions is used by approximately 2,000 organizations and by more organizations than any other eGovernance solution. BoardDocs currently meets the needs for Board governance and Board policy management for Westminster Public Schools.

- Annual cost is currently \$12,000.
- The product is reasonably user-friendly and reliable.
- Has proven extremely reliable.
- Provides a **public view** for the community. **This is a significant feature for a public school district.**
- Provides full **text search** ability functions. **This is the desired search function and is a significant feature.**

Functionality Overview

| | BoardEffect | BoardMax | Granicus | BoardDocs |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| User-Friendliness (Board perspective) | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| User-Friendliness (Admin / Secretary) | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Board book/packets/agendas/minutes | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Public/Community Accessible | | | ? | ✓ |
| Board Policy Management | | | | ✓ |
| Text Based Search | | | ? | ✓ |