

YALSA Board of Directors
Midwinter Meeting, Seattle
January 25-29, 2019

Topic: Executive Session

Background: According to BoardSource, executive sessions provide a venue for handling issues that are best discussed in private, for fostering robust discourse, and for strengthening trust and communication. Distinguished by their purpose and participants, executive sessions serve three core functions: (1) they assure confidentiality, (2) they create a mechanism for board independence and oversight, and (3) they enhance relationships among board members and with the chief executive. By the board and for the board, executive sessions enable the board to manage itself. They create an appropriate forum for board members to talk openly about topics that warrant special treatment. In effect, executive sessions are a kind of special meeting-within-a-meeting.

Action Required: Discussion

Additional Resources:

- Behind Closed Doors (Associations Now, 2014)
<http://associationsnow.com/2014/02/behind-closed-doors/>
- “Should the Board Hold Executive Sessions?” (Blue Avocado, Aug. 2008)
www.blueavocado.org/content/should-board-hold-executive-sessions