



Aprío board portal supports strong governance at St. George's School.



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ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL



St. George's School

Location: Vancouver, BC

Established: 1930

Profile: St. George's School is a private university preparatory institution for boys in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

The 16-member Board of Directors of the St. George's School Society oversees the school's management and operations teams.

The school's endowment funds and assets are held by the St. George's School Foundation through a 10-member Board of Trustees.

How can a private educational institution improve how its board operates including timely access to board materials? St. George's School wanted to level up from inefficient email communications to using a board portal to save time on board communication and reduce frustration among directors.

This case study explores how St. George's School and its governance consultant adopted the Aprío board portal to support strong board operations and efficient board administration.

The challenge

The volunteer boards at St. George's School were facing significant frustrations and inefficiencies in their operation, particularly in the distribution of board materials and the changing of meeting dates.

The boards were using email as their primary way to communicate updates and distribute board materials. However, large documents and multiple attachments often led to delivery issues or missed items.

The approach

St. George's sought the help of governance consultant Claudia Ferris who agreed to join the Society and Foundation boards as Board Secretary to help establish the governance framework and improve the functioning of the boards' structures and their committees. Having used board technology in the past, Ferris also saw the opportunity to use a board portal to make accessing board materials more convenient for directors as well as make board administration tasks more efficient.

In comparing several board portals, Aprío stood out for offering the right amount of functionality, competitive pricing and personal customer service.

"We wanted to find a board portal solution that offered the right amount of features without being too complicated or high-cost, with customer service we could count on," explains Ferris, St. George's Board Secretary and Governance Consultant. "We chose Aprío because it had the right functionality for the right price, and offered our board members personal customer service within the same time zone."



Key results:

Convenient director access

Streamlined board administration

More productive meetings

The impact

After six years of using the Aprío board portal, the boards at St. George's have secure, convenient access to all board information and materials in one place. Aprío has also improved how the boards and committees function especially during board meetings. For Ferris, the board portal is used daily to help streamline board administration.

Centralized access to all board information

Board materials and packages are conveniently accessed in one easy-to-access place, ensuring the volunteer boards are spending their time more efficiently, significantly reducing frustration over lost emails or confusion over the latest files.

Efficient board administration

Aprío makes board administration more efficient for St. George's including scheduling meetings, creating agendas and board packages, conducting surveys and more.

"Every feature in Aprío helps my day," explains Ferris. "I especially appreciate how fast I can create agendas and board packages, turning what used to be a 1 to 2-hour task into just 10 to 15 minutes. The minute-taking feature is also helpful as it automatically gives me a skeleton of the minutes to work from."

Improved board operations

St. George's board members are now more organized and function better in meetings, many choosing to use Aprío on their iPad, tablet or laptop. They can easily find relevant documents linked to all agenda items with their notes available, or search for information as needed during meetings.

"Board members often tell me how Aprío makes their lives so much easier," says Ferris.

Opportunity for education boards

With over 20 years of experience in governance, corporate secretarial and regulatory compliance, Ferris has worked with several education and not-for-profit boards to support board governance and efficient operations. Aprío is the board portal she consistently recommends including Crofton House, York House School, Vancouver Foundation, BC Unclaimed Property and Heritage Trust Company.

"I don't know how I would run my boards without the Aprío board portal. I truly believe in the product," says Ferris. "The personal touch of the Aprío team also makes a real difference. They actively seek my feedback, and my suggestions are reflected in the enhancement of the product. It's technology that works the way boards work."

"Aprío is the board portal I recommend to every board. Boards simply function better with it. Every feature in Aprío helps my day in my role as a board secretary. One of things I appreciate the most about Aprío is how fast I can create agendas and board packages, turning what used to be a 1 to 2-hour task into just 10 to 15 minutes."

CLAUDIA FERRIS, BOARD SECRETARY FOR ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL & GOVERNANCE CONSULTANT AT GOVERNANCE MATTERS CONSULTING INC.



Find out more

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