

The Aim High Board of Directors:

Aim High's Mission

The mission of Aim High is to provide underserved urban youth with challenging, innovative and highly supportive educational programs, most notably in our exemplary summer school.

The goal of Aim High is to ensure that our students are well-prepared for success in school, have a deep appreciation for their community, and are aware of the issues - personal, local and environmental - that affect their lives.

Our vision is to inspire youth to reach for their dreams.

The Board of Directors: Overview and Expectations:

Aim High is a non-profit, 501c3 organization with a devoted, talented and diverse Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are the stewards of the organization: They serve as governing trustees of Aim High on behalf of the community at large and contributors while carrying out the organization's mission and goals.

The roles of the Board and the Executive Director are defined and respected, with the Executive Director delegated as the manager of the organization's operations and the board focused on policy and planning. There are four permanent committees of the board: The Executive Committee, Finance, Development and Stewardship.

The board's nominating process ensures that the board remains appropriately diverse with respect to gender, ethnicity, culture, economic status, disabilities, and skills and/or expertise. Board members are expected to serve at least one three-year term and serve on at least one committee. Board members participate in a comprehensive board orientation and receive a checklist of "Best Practices" for Aim High board members.

- To be an effective board member, each member must define, protect, and advance the mission of the organization:

The "Mission" as opposed to "what we do"
Who do we serve?
What value do we bring to the community?

- Secondly, the Board should safeguard and evaluate the assets (human, financial, and property) of the organization. On a bi-annual basis, the board conducts an evaluation of the Executive Director and a self-evaluation.
- Thirdly, each board member must be an ambassador to the world on behalf of the organization, by talking up the organization, abiding by the decisions of the board, and keeping the organization in the front of his or her mind
- Finally, it is the responsibility of each board member to ensure adequate resources to carry out the mission. In all but limited instances, the rule is give, get, or get off. 100% board giving is essential in terms of the support of the organization, and when seeking funds from institutions that support the organization.

For more information about the Aim High Board of Directors, please contact Alec Lee (415.551.2323 and alee@aimhigh.org).

Best Practices for Aim High Board Members:
Fall, 2007

- Attend all board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events (at least one summer program visiting day – and one academic year promotional event).
- Be informed about the organization's mission, services, policies, and programs.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Serve on committees or task forces (at least one), fulfill assigned committee responsibilities and offer to take on special assignments.
- Serve as an Aim High ambassador, promoting the program and informing others about the organization whenever appropriate.
- Make a financial contribution to the organization at a level which is personally significant.
- Continuously help in developing a list of potential donors one would be willing to solicit.
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organization
- Keep up-to-date on developments in the field.
- Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.
- Refrain from making special requests of the staff.
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization's annual financial statements.
- Meet independently with the Executive Director and the Board President at least once a year to keep updated about the program and to learn how one might best help.
- Participate in the evaluation of the Executive Director and Board