

Thoughts about the credibility of Policy Governance®

Compiled by Dr. Phil Graybeal (www.graybeal.org) June 1, 2007

Dr. John Carver's Policy Governance® model is the most well-known, well-respected, and talked-about governance model in the world. Here are just a few quotes from various leaders:

“For the first time, we are offered a fully integrated and coherent system of governance, a significant advancement..., as near a universal theory of governance as we at present have.”
(Sir Adrian Cadbury, former director, Bank of England; former chairman, Cadbury Schweppes; former chancellor, Aston University; chairman, UK Committee on Financial Aspects of Corporate Governance (source of the “Cadbury Report”); recipient of the 2001 International Corporate Governance Network award; author of *The Company Chairman and Corporate Governance and Chairmanship*.)

“Dr. John Carver is internationally recognized as the leader in improving the governance of nonprofit organizations. His Policy Governance® model has been adopted by numerous organizations on five continents. Widely considered the leading pioneer in reconceptualization of the board-executive partnership, Dr. Carver offers a visionary yet practical approach to governance design that is truly transforming, powerful, and attainable.”
(Drs. Jeffrey L. Brudney and Thomas P. Holland, codirectors, The University of Georgia Institute for Nonprofit Organizations, Athens)

“...we owe a great deal of debt to Dr. Carver, and, in our opinion, his ideas on how boards should work are without equal.” (Rodney L. Insall, former vice president, corporate governance, British Petroleum, London)

Having assisted scores of some of the best Christian schools in the country make the transition to Policy Governance®, I offer the following excerpts from a letter written by Mr. Tommy Blackmon, the **former board chair of Southside Christian School** in Greenville, South Carolina as reflective of the responses I receive from Christian school leaders:

It has been hard to contain my enthusiasm for Carver's Policy Governance® model.

The Policy Governance® model might be defined as a complete organizational system that empowers professional staff to perform at peak levels and compels the board to step out front and lead the organization.

The Policy Governance® model also provides direction and fairness in evaluating the performance of the organization and therefore the performance of the CEO.

Personally, the Policy Governance® model has been the most satisfying part of my board experience. We made a decision to trade being mired in details for an opportunity to do significant work in leading our school to new heights.

*My advice to other school boards would be—don't waste another second with old models. Read every word of **Boards That Make a Difference** and institute the Policy Governance® model completely.*