

## Managing vs. Leading Table Talks

1

A board member receives a phone call at home from a vendor friend who submitted a bid for services to the organization. The bid was not accepted by the administration. Instead, a competing bid was accepted, but the vendor friend is upset about it. It's on the consent agenda at the next meeting, and the board member asks to remove the item from the consent agenda so it can be discussed further.

2

A board member hears from a graduating student that they really liked their program, but felt there could have been more opportunities for relevant 'hands on' activities with local businesses. At the next strategic planning workshop, the board member anonymously shares the discussion and queries to what extent 'hands on' activities with local businesses are currently required and/or should they be required.

# 3

A faculty member requests a meeting with a board member. The board member acquiesces and when the meeting is over, the board member trips on a vestibule rug, falls to the ground, and in so doing scrapes their knuckles on the concrete sidewalk. Safe, but upset about the fall and the danger that it could provide for others, the board member goes back into the building, finds and berates the building technician, making the building technician aware of the potentially dangerous situation in the vestibule.

# 4

A board has been working on a particularly contentious issue with results that will have community backlash no matter the decision. After a good debate at the board table, there is a call to vote on the issue. It's a split decision. The following day, the media is reaching out for feedback from board members. One board member is quoted in the newspaper as saying, "I voted 'no' because I thought it was too costly to move forward. But I'm one voice, and I do not speak for the board.'