The following 10 tips will help you become skilled at managing board relations by lessening your burdens, extending your shelf-life, and improving your performance:

1**. Build Strong Relationships**
If you inherit your board, seek to build strong relationships as quickly as possible. If you find yourself in the enviable position of being able to drive the selection process for your board—choose wisely. If you find that you have strong opposition that cannot be managed or improved, do everything possible to have them removed/replaced before they do the same to you.

2. Board Composition:
Seek to avoid conflicts of interest, follow the Governance Code to avoid unnecessary risk for your board members or your organisation

The diversity drivers you should be paying attention to are race and gender, thought diversity, industry diversity, skill diversity and experience diversity. Selecting a board that challenges your thinking makes you a better chief executive and is far more important than having a rubber-stamp board that adds little value.

Length of board term should also be considered when appointing new members, as you don't want to be wed to a board member for a long-term commitment only to find out early in the relationship the member is not a good fit (see succession below).

3. Boards Must Be Led:
Smart CEOs develop a framework and platform from which to effectively lead the board.. The CEO must clearly communicate what they need from board members and then demand they do more than just show up for the meetings. CEOs that allow board sessions to devolve into gripe sessions as opposed to

4. Be Proactive:
As the CEO, your role in board management is that of leader, executive, fiduciary, lobbyist and evangelist. As such, it would behove of you to have individual phone calls or meetings with board members in advance of the actual board meeting to seek their input and advice.

Use these proactive encounters to flesh out, and seek alignment on, key issues and positions.

Never reserve bad news for the actual board meeting, but rather air it out well in advance. Never hold a board meeting when you don't know where your board stands on key issues in advance. An unprepared CEO is a CEO who will not endure the test of time.

5. The Agenda:
Make sure the agenda isn't too crowded, and that there is sufficient committee and session time available to cover needed ground.

For the full article click the link https://www.n2growth.com/managing-board-relations/

6. Display Backbone:
Smart CEOs respect their board—that said, they will not allow themselves to be run over by the board, or to allow board meetings to turn into the meeting into little more than glorified gripe sessions. The board's role is one of governance not management, and sometimes it's necessary to remind them of that fact.

CEOs who make a habit of too easily acquiescing to the board have in essence surrendered to the board. They will have lost the respect of the board and will have rendered themselves ineffective as CEO.

7. Manage the Trickle-down:
Remember that what happens in the board room rarely stays in the board room. If you conduct yourself professionally and respect your board's ability to add value, the down-stream communications that follow your meeting will advance your cause as opposed to undermine it.

8. The Environment:
What should be obvious, but what is often overlooked, is the importance of having your board members look forward to the meeting. In other words, make the meeting meaningful, productive and if possible enjoyable.

9. Set the Chinning Bar High:
Make sure all board members share a commonality of values and vision where possible, and hold them accountable to make decisions in alignment with the fiduciary obligation they assumed when they accepted the board seat.

10. Succession:
The board should make great effort to ensure continuity and succession is a primary focus, roles of the incoming and outgoing CEO are clearly defined and understood, and that transitions at both the operating and board level serve to advance the succession, not impede it. There should also be succession planning as it relates to board members as well – board member for life is not acceptable.

Bonus – Board Development:
An investment into board development simply means the board will be better equipped to excel in the performance of their governance function, as well as to develop their ability to challenge and stretch your thinking.

Please use the comments section below to share any other tips for working more effectively with the board.

For the full article click the link https://www.n2growth.com/managing-board-relations/