Marquardt School District 15 seamlessly migrates from BoardDocs to Diligent Community

Marquardt School District 15 is an elementary preK-8 district of approximately 2,500 students in Glendale Heights, Illinois. The district, in a diverse suburb of Chicago, is made up of four elementary schools and one middle school.

Executive Assistant Jaime Durkowski supports the superintendent in her day-to-day activities and district-wide initiatives and is a member of the superintendent's cabinet. Durkowski also supports the board of education, preparing all board and committee meeting agendas, and serves as the recording secretary during meetings.

Durkowski had been a BoardDocs user for nine years before the Marquardt School District board began their migration to Diligent Community in January 2024.

Company: Marquardt School District 15

Industry: Education

Location: Glendale Heights, IL

Better tech for best practices

When offered the opportunity to move to Diligent Community, a much more modern and mobile-friendly solution than BoardDocs, Marquardt opted to make the transition now rather than wait, so they could start benefiting from some of the new features Community offers. Before the transition, the Diligent migration team provided the district with comprehensive information about the migration process and training options for planning their move.

Durkowski discussed the options with her superintendent. "We decided we would have to migrate sooner or later, so we choose to do it sooner," she said.

When Durkowski showed the board a demonstration of Community and its new features, "they were very excited," she said. However, they wanted to implement it slowly to ensure that they could use the platform effectively before moving on to use the new features.
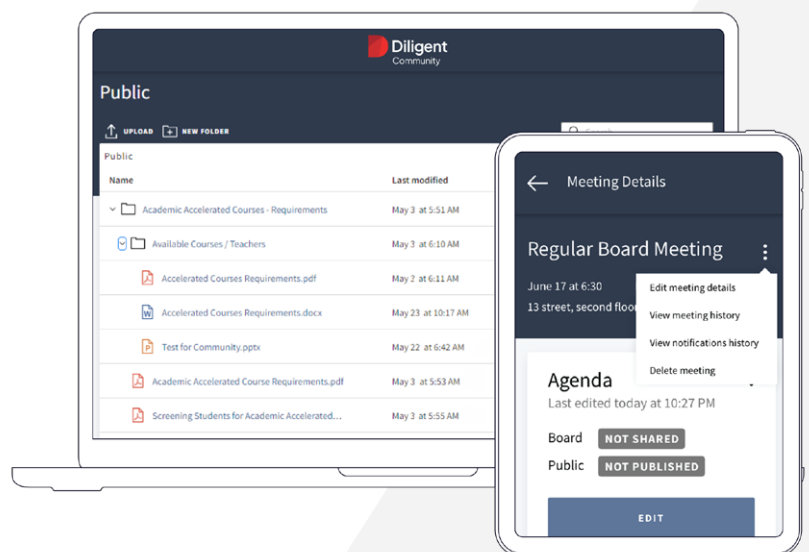
"We let our board know we would continue with BoardDocs until we were confident in Community and had the time to train them," Durkowski said.

The migration and training process

The Diligent migration team understood the board's desire to master the basics of the platform before moving on to using the other available features.

Durkowski credits their Diligent migration specialist with being instrumental in making the transition from BoardDocs to Community a smooth one for her and for the board. As part of the training support, Diligent provided detailed training webinars. The Diligent Community user guide was also very helpful during the transition, Durkowski said, with easily accessible recordings on all features to rewatch at any time. Additionally, Durkowski said their migration specialist answered all of the district's questions and provided suggestions and solutions to any problems Durkowski, the superintendent or the board encountered.

"I really did not face any major challenges," said Durkowski. "Of course I had questions, but they were easily answered by rewatching the webinars, looking at the user guide or emailing our migration specialist who was so supportive and so helpful."

The results: A smooth transition and greater efficiency

The migration from BoardDocs to Diligent Community has been a success. Durkowski especially appreciates the Diligent Community templates that support her in creating agendas efficiently. She also values the ability to prepopulate information before the meeting begins.

The district has customized the Public Transparency Website provided by Diligent Community with the district's mission and goals, as well as photos. The website is also linked to the district calendar, making it easy for the public to access the latest information. The website is more welcoming and friendlier than the BoardDocs version, which, Durkowski said, "felt very plain and outdated."

Durkowski has added the board's goals and priorities to Diligent Community's Goals feature. The district is working on a strategic plan, and they can easily update the goals in the software once they have new data.

The Subscribers feature in Diligent Community reminds local community members about upcoming meetings and sends them the newly published agendas, making them more easily accessible. The Meetings page separates all the different agendas and minutes by meeting type, which helps the public find information about specific meetings quickly.

> "I can create templates for all the different kinds of meetings. To me, templates and the ability to prepopulate information in the minutes before the meeting saves time and enhances the smooth running of meetings. It takes me less time to complete my minutes and I feel it makes my job easier."

Jaime Durkowski
Executive Assistant,
Marquardt School District 15

The board is looking forward to using more of the new features offered by Diligent Community, including the ability to make digital annotations. They are also excited to start using the Live Meeting Presentation feature and Digital Voting tools in the near future.

"I was pretty certain we made the right decision when I got the link for our district and saw how modern and user-friendly it was," said Durkowski, "but it was once I made my first test agenda that I was confident we made the right decision."

Smooth transition from BoardDocs to Diligent Community

Comprehensive and responsive training and support for executive assistant, superintendent and school board members

Welcoming and user-friendly Public Transparency Website

Customizable templates and prepopulated minutes save time and makes administration easier

About Diligent Community

Diligent Community is the next-generation governance solution designed to enhance effectiveness and efficiency for public boards and leadership teams. Tailored to cater to the unique needs of diverse public organizations, Diligent Community empowers streamlined decision-making, ensuring transparent and effective governance. As a trusted offering from Diligent, a leader serving over 14,000 mission-driven organizations globally, Diligent Community is your essential tool for driving impactful governance, fostering better communication, and achieving shared success.

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