

Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Board Meeting Date: 7/12/10

Title of Item: 2009-10 Board Self-Evaluation

Background and Analysis:

This item provides an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to engage in its annual self-examination of its effectiveness and functionality. The Mission of the Board of Trustees, amended on July 12, 2004, stipulates that the Board “works constantly to improve the Board’s quality of trusteeship through orientation, education and assessment of its own performance.” A self-evaluation instrument was created based on the Board’s Philosophy and Mission and the Board’s Code of Ethics. A summary of the trustees’ responses is attached.

Recommendation: Information only

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Additional contact names:
Is backup provided? Yes



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SELF-EVALUATION

July 12, 2010

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

This instrument is for use in the Board's annual evaluation of its effectiveness. The following questions and your responses to them are for your use only. Your responses will be summarized and you will be asked to share your general conclusions with the other members of the Board at an open meeting. No one else will be shown this information unless you choose to share your responses, which will remain anonymous.

Section I: BOARD PHILOSOPHY

Please indicate to what degree the Board of Trustees adheres to its philosophy statement, using the following scale:

Scoring System				
4	3	2	1	No Opinion
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank

Philosophy of the Board of Trustees

We, the trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, commit ourselves individually and collectively to the highest standards of conduct. We acknowledge that each of us shares a profound obligation to exercise our best possible judgment as we face the matters affecting the health and vitality of this institution which we hold in trust for current and future generations. We pledge to work together on behalf of our community in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

Average

4.0 As an individual Board Member, I've done a good job at this.

4.0 As a whole Board, we've done a good job at this.

Section II: BOARD MISSION

Please indicate to what degree you adhere to the Board's mission statement, using the above rating scale:

Mission of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees carries out the philosophy, mission and priorities of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District through the execution of the following responsibilities:

Average

- 3.6 Determines policy and direction of the institution, and evaluates the implementation of policy recognizing the philosophy of participatory governance that exists in the district;
- 4.0 Establishes and protects district-wide a climate in which teaching and learning are deeply valued, where the worth and dignity of each individual is respected, and where cultural diversity is celebrated;
- 4.0 Acknowledges students, their opportunities, and their progress as the central purpose of our colleges and supports their academic pursuit through careful program review;
- 4.0 Ensures the fiscal health and stability of the Colleges and Central Services by having close working relationships with the Chancellor, financial staff, and auditors, and assures that proper procedures are in place to monitor this fiscal stability;
- 3.8 Appoints, supports and assesses the performance of the Chancellor, and assures integrity and oversight of the evaluation processes for all district employees and the Board itself;
- 4.0 Ensures quality teaching through its oversight of policies and procedures for hiring, tenure review, and professional growth of faculty and administrative staff, and clearly recognizes the contribution of classified staff in enabling teaching and learning to take place;
- 3.8 Acts as a community bridge, recognizing that community priorities are to be addressed through program offerings, types of facilities, and neighborly cooperation;
- 4.0 Serves as a positive agent of change, recognizing that it holds the Colleges in trust for future generations of students;
- 4.0 Serves as a court of appeal; and
- 3.6 Works constantly to improve the Board's quality of trusteeship through orientation, education and assessment of its own performance.

OVERALL RATING ON SECTION II:

- 4.0 As an individual Board Member, I've done a good job at this.
- 4.0 As a whole Board, we've done a good job at this.

Section III: BOARD ETHICS

Please review the Board's Code of Ethics and determine whether you, as an individual Board Member, have adhered to the following ethical duties and responsibilities. Please use the following scale:

Scoring System				
4	3	2	1	No Opinion
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Blank

As a Trustee of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District:

Average

- 4.0 I devote the necessary time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Trustee to render effective and credible service.
- 4.0 I work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony, respect, and cooperation, acknowledging that differences of opinion will arise.
- 4.0 I base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, vote my honest conviction in every case, and abide by and support the final majority decision of the Board.
- 4.0 I deal openly with issues while maintaining strict confidentiality when appropriate or required.
- 4.0 I remember at all times that an individual Board Member has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board and conduct all relationships with the college staff, students, local citizenry, and media on the basis of that fact.
- 4.0 I avoid any situations where conflict of interest is real or apparent, do not use my position as a Trustee for personal benefit or gain, and promptly and honestly file all conflict of interest statements as required by law.
- 4.0 I welcome and encourage input and active cooperation by citizens of the college community and the community at large.
- 4.0 I would only consider any opportunity for employment by the District (other than as a Trustee) after one year upon leaving office.

OVERALL RATING ON SECTION III:

- 4.0 Yes, I've done a good job at this.

Section IV: BOARD STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

What do you think are the Board's greatest strengths?

1. *Collegiality; commitment to best interests of district; respectful treatment of staff*
2. *Knowledgeable, caring individuals. Respectful of each other, collegial, and able to work multiple issues together. We hired a wonderful new Chancellor and the governance team remains strong.*
3. *Board members do their homework while representing the community and being connected to the community. All are diligent and ethical in their behavior.*
4. *Collaboration and respect of opinion*
5. *Collegiality; good preparation for meetings; understanding issues, interest and involvement in campuses and students. Understanding of role as policy makers, not administrators.*

What do you think are the Board's greatest weaknesses?

1. *Sometimes we don't ask enough hard questions*
2. *Have more insight and focus into student achievement - what are student issues/challenges/factors and what are strategies/tactics the colleges are using to address - get to know our student population better and how we are serving them.*

Get more insight into bond measure issues, especially when contracts are fairly high - the bond oversight committee has responsibility but is mainly financial tracking; we have every reason to trust staff but are tired at the end of board meetings.

3. *The Board intended to make presentations to the City Councils and school boards this past year. In part, due to hiring a new chancellor, that outreach has not yet happened. I would strongly encourage us to make community presentations this fall, particularly if the Board goes ahead with the parcel tax on the November ballot.*

Given these strengths and weaknesses, in what ways could the Board improve its effectiveness?

1. *Plan for a handful of study sessions as apropos to address the above items*
2. *More outreach is needed per the adopted public communication plan*
3. *Continued effective communication to the public regarding the state deficit and maintaining the quality of our programs in our district*

Additional Comments:

1. *As always, the more involved Board members are in the community and listening to staff and students, the better prepared we are as Trustees. But overall, excellent board.*
2. *We are currently behind schedule on evaluating the chancellor. I think we have been a little slow in reducing lifelong learning classes (or converting to fee based), given the financial crisis.*
3. *The board is professional and highly regarded in the valley; am proud to be part of this team on behalf of FHDA!*
4. *The board is highly committed to the institution of community college and its mission. The board respects, acknowledges and appreciates the exceptional work our faculty and staff has devoted toward the success of our students.*

Board Priorities for 2010-11

- *Keep focus on student success.*

Rebuild student support services impacted by budget crisis.

Identify strategies for closing the achievement gap and increasing goal completion.

- *Ensure that district facilities are modern and effective learning/working spaces.*

Seek permanent arrangement for Middlefield Education Center.

Continue feasibility study of NASA/Ames Educational Center.

Provide oversight of bond projects.

- *Maintain budget stability and seek alternative revenue sources.*

Evaluate the impact of placing a parcel tax on the ballot

Encourage proposals to foundations and state and federal agencies/entrepreneurial activities.

- *Ensure that planning is integrated and progressing.*

Support comprehensive accreditation self studies.

Complete technology master plan.

Update facilities master plan.

Ongoing Priorities:

- Community relations and outreach
- Legislative advocacy
- Institutional research
- Pedagogical excellence
- Open educational resources
- Environmental scanning/workforce gap analysis
- Staffing
- Budget
- Participation in Trustee organizations
- Healthcare