

Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Board Meeting Date: 7/11/11

Title of Item: 2010-11 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

Submitted by: Linda Thor x6104
Additional contact names:
Is backup provided? Yes



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SELF-EVALUATION

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

3.4 1. Determines policy and direction of the institution, and evaluates the implementation of policy recognizing the philosophy of participatory governance that exists in the district;

- 3.8 2. 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;
- 3.6 3. Acknowledges students, their opportunities, and their progress as the central purpose of our colleges and supports their academic pursuit through careful program review;
- 3.8 4. 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 5. 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;
- 3.6 6. 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 7. Acts as a community bridge, recognizing that community priorities are to be addressed through program offerings, types of facilities, and neighborly cooperation;
- 3.8 8. Serves as a positive agent of change, recognizing that it holds the Colleges in trust for future generations of students;
- 3.8 9. Serves as a court of appeal; and
- 3.5 10. Works constantly to improve the Board's quality of trusteeship through orientation, education and assessment of its own performance.

OVERALL RATING ON SECTION II:

Average

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

3.6 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

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3.8 | 1. I devote the necessary time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Trustee to render effective and credible service. |
| 3.8 | 2. I work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony, respect, and cooperation, acknowledging that differences of opinion will arise. |
| 3.8 | 3. 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. |
| 3.8 | 4. I deal openly with issues while maintaining strict confidentiality when appropriate or required. |
| 3.8 | 5. 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. |
| 3.8 | 6. 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. |
| 3.8 | 7. I welcome and encourage input and active cooperation by citizens of the college community and the community at large. |
| 3.8 | 8. 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:

Average

- | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 3.8 | Yes, I've done a good job at this. |
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Section IV: BOARD STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

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

- 1. The Board works well together and has broad connections in the community. The Board understands the fiscal situation of the district and has supported longer term planning and budgeting. The Board prepares for meetings and asks sufficient questions. The Board cares deeply about student success and makes decisions with students as highest priority.*
- 2. We understand that we are a policy making board, not administrators. We don't push personal agendas.*
- 3. Collegiality - commitment to welfare of the district; attention to individual responsibilities such as attendance at and preparation for board meetings; hiring an excellent chancellor!*
- 4. The Board is respectful of, and works collaboratively with, each other*

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

1. *The Board could improve communication with the colleges' feeder high schools and communities.*
2. *The Brown Act impedes communication among board members.*
3. *The Board needs to identify metrics for FHDA to identify areas to improve, regarding the achievement gap.*
4. *I'm not sure we have monitored implementation of policy related to recent class/program cancellations. Also, regarding budget reductions, we sometimes elevate needs of staff over needs of students.*
5. *Sometimes we avoid expressing differences of opinion in public.*

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

1. *We should have little more discussion in public. When we have questions about the agenda, I think we should sometimes ask them at the meeting (having forewarned the administration). It does not hurt to have us question a recommendation or differ with each other now and then and have the public see that we are engaged and that we do ask questions. An example: We should have talked about the Trustee Areas issue; what kind of action we want to take. Instead, we just pulled it with no discussion.*
2. *The Board should agree on metrics to measure the improvement and success of our students.*

Additional Comments:

There were no additional comments.