

BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD - MEETING DATE: 06/08/11

DoTheRightThingForKids.org

OVERALL SCORE: 2.8 / 5

Number of Board Watchers Reporting: **5**

Board Member Attendance: Airick West, Derek Richey, Arthur Benson, Kyleen Carroll, Joseph Jackson, Duane Kelly, Crispin Rea, and Ray Wilson. Marilyn Simmons was absent.

I. [**Effectiveness**] How effective was the Board in addressing academic achievement of students by identifying problems and making decisions and plans to address the problems? I.e., will what they did make a significant difference?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5 (circle one number)
Not effective *Very effective*

Comments/examples _____

Score: 2

Although good examples of academic achievement were presented at the meeting by the administration, i.e. the Super Scholars presentation and Lincoln Prep being designated as a top high school by the Washington Post, the board itself did not address academic achievement.

Super Scholars represented examples of academic achievement, but there was no authentic, relevant discussion on identification of problems and plans to address them.

The Super Scholars were recognized, but that is not a discussion of academic achievement. The Delano discussion raised issues, but board members were not prepared to discuss Delano as they had not had the opportunity to read the report.

II. [**Finances**] Did the Board utilize financial data to understand the District's financial status, assure that it stays within its budget, and utilize available resources to accomplish the goals and objectives of the District vs. spending money on items not directly related to goals.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
No goal-directed resource allocation *Resource allocation addressed goals*
Comments/examples _____

Score: 4.2

Good financial report. The Pay for Performance proposal is good news. Congratulations to the administration--and to the union. The ESCO report is also good. Not much of this is due to the board.

Well done!

Dr. Gwin explained the amendment for the fiscal year 2011 budget, and General Rounds explained ESCO and the Cornerstone. Dr. Covington announced that the district has been chosen to participate in the Pioneer program, pay for performance review. Congratulations to the administration.

Once again Dr. Gwin present financial data in a clear, concise format. Boards members should have learned by now to trust her professionalism and ethics.

The financial report was the high point of the evening. I still do not believe all board members understand the amendment of this year's budget versus the approval of next year's budget and the fact they're not related.

III. [Policy] Did the Board focus strategically on issues of policy, oversight and long term goals vs. "micromanagement", i.e. getting involved in day-to-day operations, routine business and short term concerns?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
Micromanagement/no policy *Policy/no micromanagement*
Comments/examples _____

Score: 2.4

The board has set a moratorium on fine tuning policies and after the next board meeting plans to focus on monitoring policy. There was micromanagement by board members when addressing the consent agenda items indicating a lack of trust for the administration.

The board tried to focus on policy but continued questions regarding MBE/WBE was micromanagement. The administration knows the guidelines; the board needs to exhibit a level of trust about these things.

There was lots of talk "about" policy and policy wording and revision but not much making of real policy that impacts learning. There was a long, wandering discussion on clean-up procedures and points of order.

Policy making progressing slowly.

IV. [Community engagement] Did the Board behave in ways that modeled and facilitated good community communication and citizen engagement?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5

Stifled communication & engagement *Encouraged communication & engagement*

Comments/examples _____

Score: 3.2

The DAC report/recommendations sounded like dozens of similar reports at previous meetings. Parents and constituents want to be involved; they want to be partners in guiding the schools. Someday someone needs to recognize that parents are the most important motivators, and we can't succeed without them.

The DAC report engaged the parent community. There was information given to the community present on where and when information on specific issues would be posted on Board Docs.

The DAC presentation was well received. That was the extent of community engagement, and that was OK.

V. [Board management] Was the Board meeting organized and managed in such a way as to support efficiency and good use of time, i.e. arrangements, length, logistics, procedures, rules?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5

Poorly organized; time wasted *Well organized; time used efficiently*

Comments/examples _____

Score: 2.2

Beginning in July, the board is reorganizing the agenda to make the first meeting of the month a workshop format and the second meeting will be a business meeting which indicates an attempt to better organize and manage the meetings in the future.

The management of the board continues to be unprofessional. The board president editorializes with personal comments and wordy explanations.

Once again, the meetings are not well managed. Moving items back and forth from consent to regular agenda was just one example.

VI [**Superintendent accountability**] Did the Board hold the Superintendent accountable for the performance of the District by requesting information and progress reports and enforcing deadlines?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
Accountability not required *Accountability strongly required*
Comments/examples _____

Score: 3.6

There is an attitude of holding the superintendent accountable for various programs and results, but no systematic reporting system for tracking his performance.

The superintendent's staff was well prepared.

Pretty good job here. The discussion of the Pioneer Program was a good one.

VII. [**Superintendent's initiatives**] Did the Board respond supportively to the Superintendent's ideas and initiatives, giving them thoughtful consideration?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5
No support for initiatives *Strong support for initiatives*
Comments/examples _____

Score: 2.2

The Delano issue is a tough one for the board. They must be getting lots of pressure from upset parents. This is where supporting the superintendent is real.

The voices of the Delano parents are compelling, but in the end, we depend on the professional educators to make difficult decisions that are best for the education of the students. I did not hear much support for the superintendent on this issue, perhaps because there had not been an opportunity to read the report prior to the meeting.

Board members are frequently micromanaging. They question the superintendent's staff about contracts, etc. They do not seem to trust the professional expertise of the staff.

Support for Pioneer Program was good but delving into the Delano report without having even read it was inappropriate and showed a lack of experience and professionalism.

VIII [**Board climate**] Did the Board demonstrate a climate of cooperation -- participating responsibly at a professional level, avoiding disruptive, personalized or irrelevant comments?

1.....2.....3.....4.....5

No cooperation and professionalism

Climate of cooperation and professionalism

Comments/examples _____

Score: 2.8

There was much wandering discussion and low participation on the part of several board members.

Members of the board repeatedly asked questions of a report they had not had the opportunity to read yet.

Board members are respectful but often appear unprepared. They will state they have not read a report, and then they ask questions about the report.

Other Comments:

The audience at board meetings feels completely left out and ignored--except when they talk to each other out of frustration. The screen is unreadable by 90% of the audience; speakers have their backs to the audience; board members do not speak into their

microphones; the board refers to policies and other documents by numbers or acronyms which the audience cannot understand; and there are not enough printed agendas to go around.

It will be interesting to see if the new agenda and meeting schedule bring the members of this board to a heightened level of board professionalism. Patrons of this district and the students deserve more from their board representatives.