

BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD - MEETING DATE: 06/22/11

DoTheRightThingForKids.org

OVERALL SCORE: 2.3 / 5

Number of Board Watchers Reporting: 7

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

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: 1.6

Actual dialogue pertaining to academic achievement did not happen. This governance and business meeting was void of student academics.

Was the board striving to address what is best for the students at the Delano School or trying to appease constituents?

There was no discussion about academic achievement, but perhaps it is not possible at every meeting.

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: 2.3

There were no questions pertaining to the ACETI contract as to money needed for each student beyond the 2010-11 year. The Spitz, Inc. vote for \$298,900 designated for the SWECC Planetarium had limited discussion. The cost for the DeLano move was highlighted to be \$275,000 but was actually forecasted to be \$400,000. There were no big financial concerns, and no goals were discussed.

There were no questions for Dr. Lee-Gwin, and no significant coverage of the district's financial situation.

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
<i>Micromanagement/no policy</i>			<i>Policy/no micromanagement</i>	
Comments/examples _____				

Score: 1.7

There was micromanaging by the board on all of the issues, primarily the Delano discussion. A deal must have been made between the superintendent and a board member to calm the waters for a positive vote of the board on the Delano closing. The SAC chair was calling the superintendent a liar at one point. The board definitely was not in accord as to the Delano voting even though the superintendent seemed very confident about his timeline to complete East rehab for Delano before the first day of school. The board president's comments prior to voting were not appropriate.

After a great deal of controversy, the board finally made decisions/recommendations on DeLano and ACETI. They did not block progress. The Carver contract request will present another challenge.

Re the board policy reports: There is no way for the audience to understand and evaluate what is going on. Reports are discussed in code (numerical designation); projections on the screen are illegible to many.

Micromanagement still finds its way into policy.

The board engaged in micromanagement during the discussion on Delano School. The board did not trust the superintendent's timeline and plan.

The board was divided as to the support for the superintendent and some of his programs even though the staff gave good research to support his agenda, i.e. Delano.

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: 2.9

The board president commented after each public speaker, thanking each one and giving many compliments. It was not appropriate. He inappropriately responded to one speaker on behalf of the superintendent.

The board entertained a host of public speakers, most with special interests, but there is no real engagement.

This board encourages community engagement to excess. The board president repeatedly allows parents and community members to speak, often several times during one meeting.

Community engagement was at an excess due to the board president trying to please everyone.

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: 1.9

The board was late in arriving. The meeting moved along fairly well with the long agenda and the speakers.

A board member made a strong statement on school safety but went on too long and got lost. The policy discussions lose the audience because they are disorganized.

Overall, this board meeting was poorly managed. The board president did prevent a board member from inappropriately questioning the school superstar.

The control of time for the public speakers was much better.

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: 3.1

The Delano discussion certainly was about information and deadlines of the superintendent.

It is clear to the superintendent that he is accountable for getting Delano ready to open on time. It is not so clear what he is to do about ACETI.

I felt that the superintendent gave logical answers to the questions asked of him.

The monitoring reports do a good job of holding the superintendent accountable.

As painful as it was, it was a decent job.

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: 2.6

The board did not support the superintendent's Delano plan. A compromise was made.

Two board members appropriately attempted to guide the board in the direction of supporting the superintendent's ideas and initiatives. Other board members seem to try and please the public and their constituents with prepared comments.

The majority of the board was not supportive of the superintendent. It was very disappointing.

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: 2.6

The president moved the agenda along, and speakers were for the most part held to the time. The board president did not allow a board member to ask an irrelevant question of the scholar superstar.

The overall climate of the meeting was adversarial and argumentative. The president's behavior was arbitrary and controlling. The leaders of the good boards we watch would never admonish fellow members or the audience.

The end result was good, but the process was not professional.

Other Comments:

It was a frustrating meeting for me.

It would be helpful to have board policy reports discussed one at a time, with the president identifying and giving a two-sentence description. When board members refer to a specific section, it would be helpful to give the content, not just the number.

We still are in need of a larger visual screen. The screen cannot be read.

Board meetings continue to resemble working committee sessions. The board president makes frequent personal editorial comments, even speaking for the superintendent, which is not appropriate behavior for a school board president. If these meetings are going to be public forums for parents to express opinions, there should only be one presentation per topic.

The board needs professional training in how to be an effective board and board member.