



Victor Valley Community College District SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

Date: September 22, 2008

Place: Hilton Garden Inn
12603 Mariposa Rd.
Victorville, CA

CALL TO ORDER

9 a.m.

The Board of Trustees of Victor Valley Community College District met in Open Session on September 22, 2008 in the Mojave Room at the Hilton Garden Inn. Mr. Nelson, Board President called the meeting to order at 9 p.m.

TRUSTEE ROLL CALL: Present: Donald Nelson, Board President; Angela Valles, Vice President; Joe Range, Trustee, Dennis Henderson, Clerk, Bettye Underhill

Consultant present: Cy Gulassa – California Collegiate Brain Trust (CCBT)

This following summary is prepared by Cy Gulassa and approved by Board President, Don Nelson

The primary goal of the workshop was to meet with the Victor Valley Board of Trustees in an informal setting off campus to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Board and explore ways to reduce conflict and enhance governance effectiveness, teamwork and leadership. The workshop format followed standard patterns of self analysis of weaknesses and strengths.

The 3-stage process consisted of initial phone interviews with each trustee; 2) a review of Board related background materials like agendas, minutes and accreditation reports; and 3) a 7-hour workshop at the Hilton Garden Inn in Victorville on September 22, 2008. The workshop format followed standard patterns of self analysis of weaknesses and strengths interwoven with discussions of the principles cited above, examples of best practices and Accreditation requirements.

Outcomes and Compliance with Governance Standards:

With respect to Standard IV B f, the workshop itself served as the vehicle for ongoing Board development and new member orientation.

With respect to Standard IV B g, the Board has in place a detailed self-evaluation questionnaire that a majority of the Board filled out prior to the workshop and serves as an overall indication of individual performance.

Concerning IV B h, the Board has formed a committee to review its ethics policies.


BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Dennis Henderson, Donald Nelson, Joe Range, Bettye Underhill, Angela Valles, ASB Member

An ad hoc Board committee was formed to review Victor Valley College's board governance policies 2000, and submit them to the college process for policy review and eventual approval and adoption by the full Board. Once adopted, individual Board members are obligated to honor the policies, and violators may be censured by the full Board. The committee should first consult with the College President to make certain that the ad hoc meeting is properly noticed, open to the public, and run in accordance with established college procedures.

Recommendations:

1. The Board must recognize that the workshop is just the beginning and that to be successful and serve the students and community well, it must constantly develop and refine these principles, evaluate its performance, engage in institutional planning and meet all of its obligations under Standard IVB of the Accreditation Commission, especially regarding shared governance principles which mandate a strong voice for faculty and staff in most decision making forums.
2. The Board should hold special workshops or schedule presentations at Board meetings to better understand complicated issues like state and local finances, audit reports, strategic planning updates, institutional initiatives, new programs, etc.
3. The surest path to Board excellence is education. As often as possible, Board members should attend regional, state and national conferences to expand their awareness of trends and directions in education, and subscribe to professional publications of the Community College League of California and other state and national organizations.
4. The Board should schedule another workshop in the near future prior to the next accreditation team visit to evaluate progress, review governance principles and conformance to Standard IVB, resolve lingering issues and groom its leadership skills. If appropriate, the format can be expanded to include participation by the CEO and other college and community leaders. Victor Valley Community College is moving rapidly to provide the students and community with outstanding, highly innovative programs and services. The Board should be in the vanguard of this ongoing quest for educational excellence.

It was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 4 p.m.


Dennis Henderson, Clerk


Date Approved