Sample Questions for Board Self Assessment

Sample rating scale questions with room for comments

1. The Board sets annual goals for itself.
   - Poor – 1 2 3 4 5 – Effective
   Comments: _____________________________________________________________

2. The orientation of New Board members is comprehensive and helpful.
   - Poor – 1 2 3 4 5 – Effective
   Comments: _____________________________________________________________

3. The board annually assesses its own collective performance and the performance of each trustee.
   - Poor – 1 2 3 4 5 – Effective
   Comments: _____________________________________________________________

4. The board has a clear understanding of its vision, mission, and Statement of Philosophy.
   - Poor – 1 2 3 4 5 – Effective
   Comments: _____________________________________________________________

5. The board has a supportive and collegial relationship with the CEO.
   - Poor – 1 2 3 4 5 – Effective
   Comments: _____________________________________________________________

6. The board annually budgets money for its own growth (improvement) and encourages trustees to attend conferences/seminars on board development.
   - Poor – 1 2 3 4 5 – Effective
   Comments: _____________________________________________________________

Sample “Yes” or “No” questions

- Board activities deal with governance and board policy issues and ALL management activities are delegated to the CEO.

- The board annually reviews important documents and statements (e.g., by-laws, board policy manual, mission/vision/core values, and expected student outcomes).

- Each trustee and each board committee has a written job description.
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- Trustees receive in-service training at least every six months.
- The board insists on having a strategic plan for school growth and improvement.
- Board members should be required to contribute financially to the school (see Matt. 6:21).
- The full board participates in the annual evaluation of the CEO and approves the final document before it is presented orally and in writing to him/her.

Sample questions using responses of “always, sometimes, or never” or responses of “strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree”

- Our board always examines the long-range or potential precedent setting implications before making important decisions.
- The board strives for consensus between the board and the CEO before moving forward on strategic initiatives.
- The chair always sends trustees the agenda and all pertinent documents well ahead of the board meetings and expects each trustee to come well prepared to address each issue.
- The board expects the CEO to keep the board well informed, BUT clearly differentiates between board level information and micro-management details.
- Our board requires the CEO to annually communicate his/her vision and priorities for the next school year, including strategies for achieving these goals.

Sample issues on which trustees might be asked to comment in narrative form

- Our board spends more time “putting out fires” than planning the future.
- Our board closely monitors local, state, and federal legal/legislative issues which might affect our school.
- Our board has too many; or not enough committees.
- What do you feel would make the board’s annual retreat more productive and meaningful?
- The board does a good job of communicating with, and listening to our “owners.”
- Board members understand and make effective use of the Board Policy Manual.
- Our board is committed to shepherding our CEO to be sure he does not put the school before his family.