The workshop began with statements of thanks and affirmation of effective Board performance. General comments included that respect for each other is paramount: Board members practice listening and not interrupting each other, value everyone’s opinion, accept disagreement and different points of view, have a positive approach and attitude toward seeking solutions, and take advantage of opportunities to be together. Board performance reflects wanting the best for the colleges by focusing on the mission and student success.

**Board Evaluation Process Review**
The process for the Board evaluation was reviewed; all trustees completed the Board self-evaluation.

**Review Results of Employee Evaluation of the Board**
Trustees discussed the results of the employee surveys of the board, noting that those who have watched or attended at least one Board meeting rated the board more highly than those who have less knowledge of Board roles. Highly rated items included the conduct of board meetings, board agendas, positive trustee behavior, understanding of the policy role, and clear delegation to the Chancellor, reflecting the cultural shift on the board over the past 5 years.

Members discussed the decline in scores related to board advocacy, noting that college leaders, staff, and the lobbying firm have done an excellent job. They discussed expanding trustee contacts and visibility with legislators and others.

They also discussed the challenges of assessing the validity of employee assessment, noting that the percent of respondents is low and that many are not aware of the role and responsibilities of the Board. However, the data provide a basis for discussion, and reflect the Board’s interest in receiving feedback from district and college employees.

They requested results on similar employee evaluations of Boards in other districts to be able to benchmark their results.

**Review Board Self Evaluation Survey**
Trustees first reviewed their own evaluations of progress on their priorities and roles related to District-wide goals. The highest scores were related to expecting and fostering a respectful district-wide culture and integrated planning processes focused on student success.

They discussed the drop in scores related to expecting and supporting efforts to build and maintain partnerships with business and industry and ways to strengthen the Board’s role in supporting such partnerships and programs related to improving the District’s workforce development programs.

Trustees then reviewed the average ratings of progress on their 2013-2014 priorities for Board effectiveness, noting that they were generally very positive. They noted that item on advocacy reflected a wide range of responses, which paralleled in some ways the drop in the employee rating.
Finally, they reviewed the ratings on the same form used by the employees, noting that they were consistently high, generally higher than last year. They discussed two lower ratings--maintaining confidentiality and engaging in trustee development. The Board Chair and Chancellor will address issues related to confidentiality should they occur.

**Board Processes**

*Process for Electing Board Officers.* Participants discuss various practices related to officer rotation, including the relatively recent practice of serving multiple terms, “moving through the officer positions”, and rotation strategies. Information on what other boards do will be provided to the Board.

*Process for Board Appointees to College Foundations.* After discussion, consensus was to appoint board members to serve as non-voting liaisons on college foundation boards, and to appoint (and rotate) people annually at the December organizational meeting.

*Length and topics for Board Discussion Items.* Trustees noted the importance of being able to discuss presentations, and that their discussion and questions provide feedback to employees and emphasize Board priorities. They requested that reports and discussion generally be limited to 15 minutes and that reports focus on accomplishments, student success, implications for policy, and plans for the future.

*Trustees Listening Sessions.* Trustees appreciated feedback received during the Spring listening sessions, the follow-up reports that will be made at Board meetings, and the leadership of the Board Chair and Chancellor in changing the format. Discussion included ensuring that administrators are “in the loop,” dealing with comments about specific people, ensuring that all who want to speak may do so by enforcing time limits, and holding the listening sessions once a year.

**District Strategic Plan Goals 2014-2020**
The new strategic plan goals were reviewed, noting that college strategic plans will be tied to the District-Wide Goals.

**2014-2015 Board Tasks/Priorities and Action Plan**
Discussion included a desire to reduce the number of goals. Participants recommended one overarching goal to monitor progress on each of the four strategic plan goals to ensure that the Board focuses on key priorities for the District. In addition, the Board discussed priorities related to maintaining a positive culture, business partnerships, student success monitoring, collective bargaining, board advocacy, and board development. A draft of 2014-2015 Board Tasks/Priorities and Action Plan is provided as a separate document.

Trustee Jamal will work with the Board President and Chancellor to periodically review progress on the Board Tasks and Priorities.

**Recommendations for 2015 Board Evaluation Process**
Three changes were recommended for the coming year

- Delete the item related to CEO evaluation from the employee survey, as a majority of respondents are unable to evaluate.
- Provide employee comments and information prior to the session.
- Complete the evaluation and goal-setting session within 2-3 hours.

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