

CONSENT AGENDA NO. 6A-3

Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2020 Work Session (ACCT Ethics Training)

It is recommended that the Board approve the minutes of the January 17, 2020 Work Session.

The Board of Trustees of Dallas County Community College District held a Work Session on Friday, January 17, 2020, beginning at 9:11 a.m. in the lower level, room 007. This meeting was convened by Chair Diana Flores.

Board Members and Officers Present

Ms. Monica Lira Bravo
Ms. Diana Flores (chair)
Mr. Wesley Jameson (vice chair)
Dr. Joe May (secretary and chancellor)
Mr. Phil Ritter
Ms. Dorothy Zimmermann

Members Absent

Ms. Charletta Rogers Compton
Mr. JL Sonny Williams

1. **Certification of Notice** posted for the meeting by Chancellor Joe May

2. **Citizens Desiring to Address the Board**

None.

3. **A Review of Standards of Good Practice in Ethical Governance**

Facilitator: Cecilia Cervantes, ACCT Consultant

Dr. Cecilia Cervantes reviewed the work session purpose and her presentation “A Review of Standards of Good Practice in Ethical Governance” and introduced the following topics that would be addressed:

1. Involvement vs. Engagement. Better understand the appropriate level of involvement for Board members.
2. Board members remaining professional and yet engaged in the colleges and in the community.

3. Review expectations of elected officials. Codes of ethics, also called standards of practice, define specific expectations for Board members.
 4. Review existing DCCCD Board policy on ethics.
- Cecilia stated that among important actions of Board members was reviewing expected behaviors periodically and listening to other's viewpoints to get new perspective. She stated that the development, regular update and public adoption of a code of ethics strengthens Boards and cultivates a sense of group responsibility and cohesion, Showing the public this commitment. Devoting time and thought to working with other Board members contributed to harmony and cooperation, despite differences of opinion that may arise, would maintain the overall goals of the District.
 - Chair Flores asked if a Code of Ethics was on the District website. Rob Wendland answered that it was not as a stand-alone but linked by way of Board policy. Chair Flores stated that the Board should consider making it an individual document.
 - Trustee Ritter sees governance and ethics as two separate things. Cecelia agreed but added that they go hand-in-hand. Vice Chancellor Jameson asked if she saw a code of conduct and a code of ethics as the same or similar, and would she define them. Cecelia answered that conduct was the application of the code of ethics; the dos and the don'ts.
 - Cecelia asked the Board to introduce themselves and state their reasons for serving.
 - Trustee Zimmerman, Chair Flores, Vice Chair Jameson Trustee, Trustee Bravo and Trustee Ritter each shared their reasons for running for the Board.
 - Cecelia reviewed expected outcomes of the work session and the plan to accomplish the following outcomes regarding ethical governance:
 1. To practice ethical governance from a renewed and updated perspective.
 2. More clearly understand ways to be better engaged with DCCCD.
 3. Review the current DCCCD Board Policy, BFF (LOCAL), update as needed, and consider adopting it, as the updated Code of Ethics for the Board.
 4. To better understand each fellow member's rationale/reason for serving on
 5. the Board to cultivate a sense of group responsibility.

6. Consider some useful criteria that the community may use to evaluate Board
7. members.
8. Identify areas that the Board would like to improve in practicing ethical
9. governance.
10. Review case studies, depending on timing, on good or bad ethical practices and to apply as needed.

- Cecelia and the group discussed Board policy, dealing with accounting and financial ethics, including policies on administrative regulations, conflicts of interest, ethics and financial oversight.
- Chair Flores asked Wendland which of the policies listed were within the Board's purview and which were administrative. He stated there was no specific code of ethics for the Board in state law. The group discussed the policy as it was currently written.
- Cecilia reviewed the Code of Responsibility. Trustee Ritter stated that if he understood correctly, the group was not remediating the code and as it has served them well, a case would need to be made to change it. Chair Flores answered that no it was not so much a remediation, but the intent was to understand the broader context of ethics and determine if it was time to either add or update.
- Chair Flores stated when referring to slide 9, page 5 in the presentation, to leave as is in BBF (LOCAL) but to add that sentence to the Code of Ethics and specifically refer to the Board members and not everyone else. This draws a connection between the educational program and the financial part.
- Trustee Zimmermann suggested that difference in perspective would be better than difference of opinion because it was deeper than that and came from an experience of diversity and what each one has lived, not simply an opinion. The group discussed and agreed to change the wording to say "opinion or perspective".
- Wendland suggested that it is the Board's intent to review any thoughts about new policy language for legal sufficiency before being adopted, and then he would bring back recommendations to the Board. The group agreed.
- Trustee Ritter would like the sentence in regards to basing of personal decision and partisan bias to be removed as it was irrelevant. Chair Flores also didn't like the inclusion of the word personal before decision. Wendland said he would revisit this.
- Trustee Ritter asked Cecelia what her opinion was on hiring decisions. She responded that pressure put on a Chancellor to make a certain choice was not good practice, but it was best for the Chancellor to be

responsible; to leave it up to the college presidents and executive staff for input but the Chancellor to make the ultimate decision.

- The Board reviewed thirteen Ethics Provisions and connected them to the Code of Responsibility. Trustee Ritter asked if there was an enforcement mechanism associated with these provisions. Wendland replied there was not but the group agreed that would be good to look into adding to the responsibility of the Governance Committee.
- Chair Flores asked if the Board wanted to establish the mechanism to address ethical issues if they arose and perhaps have it embedded within the Governance Committee. Ritter stated that would be good for the Governance Committee to look at; The group agreed. Wendland said he would bring examples of violations and the process of addressing them for the Board to look at.
- Chair Flores stated that it might be confusing to the public that the term responsibility is used when they are used to seeing Code of Conduct or Ethics and asked if the Board would like to relabel that. The group agreed to change it to Code of Ethics and Responsibility. Wendland agreed to incorporate the phrase Conflict of Interest into the overall Code of Ethics.
- The group agreed to add a preamble to the Code of Ethics and Responsibility to show a statement of legislative intent. Wendland and the group agreed on that addition.
- Cecelia focused next on the criteria that the community may use to evaluate Board members and offered as part of the presentation, a Candidate Comparison Scorecard that was taken from the Chung Report article. She continued that the Board should consider the following five criteria:
 1. Motive
 2. Honesty
 3. Balancing change with loss
 4. Competence
 5. Tenacity
- Trustee Ritter expressed concern whether it was an appropriate discussion for the Board to have, being a collective discussion on what each individual trustee should do to earn the confidence of the public when as elected trustees, they have direct relationship with voters and they are the ones that would make that judgement. Cecelia responded that it was her intent to inform and help them understand what might be used. Dr. May added that this was not something that a candidate could fully control and mentioned that there were groups out there for people

who were considering running for office. Chair Flores added that this is research-based information.

- Cecelia said in closing that they were the role models and really set the pace for the entire District. The Board's perspectives were very critical in developing where we go from here. She thanked the Board for their time.
- Trustee Ritter thanked Chair Flores for facilitating this session as the Board was better for it and it was very helpful.
- Chair Flores thanked Cecelia and the Board for committing their time.

4. Executive Session

None.

5. Adjournment

Work Session adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Captioned video and transcripts for DCCCD Board Committee Meetings, Work Session and Regular Board Meetings are available at our website, www.dcccd.edu/boardmeetingslive, under the Archived Videos section.