Call to Order, Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Marin Community College District held its annual retreat on Monday, February 14, in the Oak Room at the Marin Community Foundation, 5 Hamilton Landing, Suite 200 in Novato, members having received notice as prescribed by law. Board President Long called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Board Clerk Hayashino called the roll and all members were present except Trustee Dolan who arrived at 9:15. President White, Elise Schneider, Al Harrison, Rich Gilliland, Andrew Carothers, and Linda Beam were also present.

Comments from the Public

No members of the public were present.

New Business

“Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees as they relate to current District issues, directions and priorities.”

David Viar, Executive Director of the Community College League of California, facilitated a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of Board members. He defined an effective Board as one that functions in a way that ensures its roles and responsibilities are carried out and the mission of its organization is achieved. The Board is to set policy direction and allow the President, administration and staff to take care of the “hows.” Other major responsibilities include: acting as a community bridge and buffer; establishing the climate in which educational goals are accomplished; defining prudent, ethical and legal parameters for operations; evaluating performance and policy implementation; and leading as a thoughtful, educated team. Dr. Viar emphasized the importance of having positive relations with fellow Board members, the chief executive officer, the community, faculty, staff, and students.

Board members discussed the importance of voting for what is best for the whole district, being prepared for Board meetings, and asking questions before the Board meeting in order to give the President and staff an opportunity to find the necessary information to respond to the questions.
The afternoon session covered these topics: WASC mandates, modernization implementation, improvement of institutional outcomes and image, Trustee commitment, and Board effectiveness. Board members discussed the need for a strategic communication plan, involvement in friends and fundraising, an annual COM report, and Board training in media relations, and a better understanding of budget expenditures.

The need to resource and staff the public affairs and marketing department and the organizational planning and development area in the near future was also mentioned.

Another retreat will be held in six months to revisit the Board’s press/media policy and check the Board’s progress on working as a team.

M/s Brockbank/Treanor to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and Board President Long adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.