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### Board Effectiveness QUIZ - Answers Below

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### Ask yourself the following:

**Q:** What percentage of time at each board meeting is spent talking about things that have already happened (staff reports, financial reports, etc.)?

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**Q:** When you talk about past issues, is it to quantitatively monitor progress, or just "report activity?"

**Q:** What percentage of time is spent talking about the impact the organization will make on the community?

**Q:** Can you clearly articulate your board's priorities for what the organization should accomplish this year? What portion of those goals have to do with strengthening your organization vs. impacting the community?

**Q: True or false:** Our board discusses such important matters for guiding the organization that the organization would have no overall direction without those discussions.

**Q:** When you review the budget, how do you know whether or not you should approve it?

**Q:** Of the total budget for your organization, which items were discussed at length? Do any of those items comprise less than 1% of your budget (on a \$1million budget, that would be \$10,000 or less)? What percentage of the budget was passed without comment? Why?

**Q:** Does your board spend most of its time reacting/responding or setting the stage/creating the future?

**Q: 2 part question:**

**Part 1:** Fill in the blank: When our board has tough decisions to make, we always base those decisions on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Part 2:** Would you want your answer to Part 1 posted in your lobby?

**Q: True or false:** Our board discusses such important matters for the future of our community that I feel horrible missing a single meeting.

### How many of the following would you agree with?

**Q:** Our board spends a great deal of time on trivial items.

**Q:** We receive reams of paper before each board meeting, but I don't think anyone really reads it all.

**Q:** The information we receive at board meetings comes to us because the board has determined this is what we want to monitor.

**Q:** The information we receive at board meetings comes to us because this is the information the staff thinks we should have.

**Q:** The staff complains that the board micromanages, but we're just doing our job.

- Q:** Our board discusses issues, but in the end we pretty much approve whatever the staff requests.
- Q:** Our board has one board member who is authorized to relate board information to the staff.
- Q:** We haven't done a review of our executive director in at least 2 years.
- Q:** We review our executive director every year, but we have no quantifiable criteria by which to measure his/her performance.
- Q:** I've been on this board for a little over a year, and I'm finally getting a sense of how I can contribute.
- Q:** I've been on this board for a little over a year, and I'm STILL not really sure where I fit in.

**Answers:**

You don't need an answer key to know how you did. If you are talking about the past more than the future; rubber stamping or otherwise duplicating the staff's work; discussing tiny budget items but letting the big ones slide; and overall feeling that you aren't sure what else you should be doing, then you don't need a quiz to know that there has to be a better way.

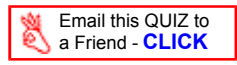
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