

# McLean, Koehler, Sparks & Hammond

Certified Public Accountants/Business Consultants

## Five-Minute Snapshot of Board Effectiveness

One of the most significant assets of a not-for-profit organization is its board of directors. The difference between a responsible board and an effective one can be found in principles such as strategy, focus, intentionality, diversity, organization, knowledge, communication, engagement and action. This **Five-Minute Board Snapshot** will help you determine whether there are any areas in which your board could be more effective, and your experience as a board member more rewarding.

1. *Every member of our board fully understands and supports the organization's mission and purpose.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2. *Our mission and vision is front and center in all of our discussions and decisions as a board.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3. *Our board regularly engages in strategic thinking and has championed a strategic planning process within the last 24 months.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4. *We regularly take steps to create a more constructive partnership with the CEO.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

5. *We regularly take steps to create stronger working relationships among board members.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

6. *Within the last year, we have evaluated the CEO's performance and have provided constructive feedback on strengths and areas for improvement.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. *Within the last year, we as a board have evaluated our own performance in fulfilling our responsibilities.*

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8. Our board meetings foster mutual respect, open communication and constructive debate.

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9. Our communication between board meetings is effective and accelerates our progress toward goals.

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

10. Our board has a policy of transparency, both externally (with interested members of the public) and internally (every board member has equal access to information for decision-making).

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

11. Our board is highly results-oriented. Our organization has clear goals and we regularly gauge progress and performance against those goals.

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

12. Our board and committee structures are organized effectively and purposefully; our structure supports our mission and priorities.

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

13. We have an effective board recruitment, development and engagement strategy.

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

14. I am satisfied with my contributions and those of my fellow board members.

<b>Strongly Disagree</b>					<b>Strongly Agree</b>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

15. What single change would have the greatest impact on your board's effectiveness?

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McLean, Koehler, Sparks & Hammond helps owners and business leaders become more successful by providing innovative financial, technology and management solutions for every stage of their organizations' life cycle. MKS&H's organizational consulting division, Tandem Partners, specializes in people strategies that drive business results. For more information on this article or MKS&H, please contact Margaret Wilson at 410-296-6200 or via email: [margaret@mksh.com](mailto:margaret@mksh.com).

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