

AADGB Yavapai Governing Board Meeting Visit

I attended the Yavapai Community College District Governing Board meeting on April 19, 2016 held off the main campus in Sedona.

I have some suggestions for making AADGB representative visits more useful at the end of this brief report. In any case my visit was very useful for me. Although we board members across the state have the same responsibilities and in general the same challenges, we all fall into our own habits of doing business. My visit to the Yavapai board meeting alerted me to possible new approaches of doing business as well as what we do well.

The most important purpose for the AADGB visiting program is to simply network. I was introduced and welcomed and talked to President Wills and various staff. Ray's fellow board members got to meet another AADGB representative from another college district. So often our AADGB representatives are engaged, but the rest of the board may not feel like they are part of a state wide system of boards with members making decisions just like themselves. Our visits are just one step in broadening the knowledge and understanding between CC districts.

It was informative to observe the arrangement, style, and effectiveness of the board meeting not as a critic but what seemed to work well. As mentioned, we can become victims of habit. Observing a group doing the same kind of work can be enlightening. Several examples:

- There was an effective and welcoming layout of the meeting facilities for the public and staff to present. The IT was great.
- Agenda content and organization clearly reflected policy governance. For efficiency it included projected time for each item which the staff adhered to very well.
- It appeared that previous work sessions had addressed most of the questions.
- A bound 162 page book containing everything that was presented plus background information was available to everyone.

Suggestions: For our next AADGB visit, it would be nice to have a moment on the agenda to say a few words. For the purpose of networking, that is to share the fact that we board members are part of a system with like responsibilities, it would be nice to have some time before or after the meeting to chat about the college. That might be hosted by the AADGB rep of the host college. Having two AADGB folks on the visit indicates the importance of the visit to AADGB and provides even better opportunity to share and network.

Thanks for the opportunity,

Nat White