How does YOUR BOARD RATE?

Think of how each characteristic applies to your board and then decide how the Board ranks on a five-point scale. After you rate the board with an X for each characteristic, a line should be drawn vertically from one X to the next. The result will be a profile of your board. Ideally a straight line should connect all the dots in the "excellent" column. Any rating that falls farther to the right means that some improvement is in order.

Characteristics	**How the Board Rates**				
	Excellent	**Good**	**Average**	**Fair**	**Poor**
1. The board should be made up of effective individuals who can supplement one another's talents					
2. The board should represent the interests that should be consulted in formulating policy					
3. The board should be large enough to carry all necessary responsibilities but small enough to act as a deliberative group					
4. The basic structural pattern (board, committees, executive and staff) should be clear					
5. There should be an effective working relationship between board, executive and staff					
6. The members of the board should understand the mission of the agency or organization and how that mission is achieved by the programme					
7. The board should have a sense of social ease and rapport					
8. Each member of the board should feel involved and interested in its work					
9. The board should formulate specific goals to guide its work					
10. Decisions on policy should be made only after a full consideration by all parties concerned with the decision					
11. The board should be certain that effective community relationships are maintained					
12. The board should have a sense of progress and accomplishment					

From: Governing Boards: Their Nature and Nurture, by Cyril O Houle, published by Jossey-Bass