



**Professional Association for SQL Server  
Summit Board Meet-and-Greet**  
PASS Summit, Seattle, WA – November 11, 2010  
5:00pm Pacific Time

**Board/HQ Present:** Rushabh Mehta, Bill Graziano, Rick Heiges, Wayne Snyder, Christoph Stotz, Douglas McDowell, Andy Warren, Thomas LaRock, Jeremiah Peschka, Lynda Rab, Rick Bolesta, Mark Souza, Allen Kinsel, Kevin Yam, Judy Christianson, Craig Ellis, Hannes Bezuidenhout

**Absent:** Brian Moran, Neil Buchwalter

*Please Note: In 2009 PASS hired a transcriptionist to record this Question-and-Answer session. In 2010 the Board chose to take notes around key items rather than spend this money; consequently, these notes are less thorough than in 2009. The Board will revisit this decision prior to 2011.*

1. **Question (Community Member)** It would be nice to have a schedule builder for SQLSaturday/SQLRally – are there plans for this?

**Answer** Andy Warren stated that he has gathered the requirements but that this project will not happen until FY2012 for SQLSaturday but may happen earlier for SQLRally.

2. **Comment (Kendal Van Dyke)** Board votes (yes/no/abstain) should be published for public knowledge. This will allow the community to understand what the individuals they vote for are supporting/not supporting.

**Answer** Rushabh Mehta stated that he felt that publishing votes without having all of the details/history around why a decision was made would not be fair representation of the Director's decision.

**Answer** Christoph Stotz stated that the Board must show a unified front to the community – if one Board member votes against something but the motion is passed, then it's important that all Directors support the majority vote.

3. **Comment (Geoff Hiten)** The community would like to know the vote results so that Board members can be held accountable.

**Answer** Christoph Stotz stated that he didn't feel that opening this up to public scrutiny was productive and could leave to unnecessary conflict.

**Answer** Douglas McDowell stated that the Board needs to align transparency with disclosure – certain information is NDA.

**Answer** Andy Warren stated that he doesn't agree with his colleagues and that he does feel that all Board votes should be made public unless under NDA.

4. **Comment (Community Member)** All of the session DVDs should contain the speaker's PowerPoint decks. Also, Room 3AB's ceiling height was a challenge for the staging, and in Room 2AB the projection screen was too low.

**Answer** Rick Bolesta thanked him for the feedback and stated that next time he has any issue of an operational nature to take it directly to an HQ rep so that it can be fixed in the immediate (if possible).

5. **Question (Community Member)** Will the Chapters get this year's DVDs?

**Answer** Douglas McDowell stated that, yes, your Chapter should receive a DVD, which can be used within your Chapter.

6. **Question (Kendal Van Dyke)** Why don't Directors have discretionary spending budgets? It is unfair for them to have to spend their own dollars to entertain PASS discussion over coffee/lunch.

**Answer** Wayne Snyder responded that PASS did have discretionary spending in past but that the Board needed to cut it due to the economy and tight budgets.

**Answer** Andy Warren suggested that PASS visits putting \$500 per portfolio back into the budget.

7. **Comment (Stuart Ainsworth)** It appears as though PASS has a lot of initiatives in the works and it seems apparent that it needs to spend more dollars on IT Support.

**Answer** Douglas McDowell stated that PASS went from zero to two employees in one year. Revenue hasn't increased dramatically but the Board is aware of the demands and looking into the opportunity to allocate funds to IT.

8. **Comment (Mark Caldwell)** Mark added that additional IT could be on a consulting/per-project basis and not only a full time position.

9. **Comment (Sri Sridharan)** The Tina Turner opening during the day one Keynote was visually bad and he was upset to see budget dollars being spent on this. He wants to be sure that this doesn't happen in the future.

**Answer** Rick Heiges stated that the theme of the "Best Summit Ever" song was the reason that this was used and there was no negative intent meant when planning the introduction number. However, having heard the displeasure from various delegates/community members, he assured Sri that PASS HQ/Management/the Board of Directors have heard the complaint and will ensure that this type of spend doesn't take place in the future.

10. **Question (Sri Sridharan)** How can community leaders better influence the Board of Directors?

**Answer** Andy Warren suggested by portfolio – e.g. SQLSaturday round table at Summit.

**Answer** Douglas McDowell stated that he has been working diligently on the restructuring of the Regional Mentor program. The key role of these individuals is to communicate with Chapters and bring the message back to the Board.

11. **Comment (Denise McInerney)** Voiced added displeasure with the Tina Turner entertainment portion – general discussion on the topic ensued.

**Answer** Lynda Rab stated that the Board has heard the message and that the feedback has been taken seriously.

12. **Comment (Community Member)** His Chapter has been run by a “consulting firm” in the past but moving forward the community folks want independence. By breaking away from the consulting firm his fear is that the Chapter will then lose access to the Microsoft office space, member email list, etc.

**Answer** Kevin Yam replied that he will ensure the facilities are made available to Allen’s Chapter.

**Answer** Douglas McDowell explained that the Chapter agreement is set up to ensure that legal ownership of membership lists remain with PASS and not with any corporate entities running Chapters. He added that he could continue the discussion with Allen in private.

13. **Question (Andy Warren)** If we have a dysfunctional Chapter, do we have measurement/checks/balances?

**Answer** Douglas McDowell stated that the Regional Mentor program is designed to act as a system of checks and balances and when it is fully functioning it is the intent that RMs can better serve in these situations..

14. **Question (Community Member)** Why isn’t there a Chapter in Japan?

**Answer** Rushabh Mehta explained that there was a PASS J in the past which no longer exists, and in order to grow in this (and other) areas, PASS needs local representation.

15. **Question (Geoff Hiten)** It was a great Summit but he would like to see it move location - can this happen in the future?

*General discussion ensued from various Board/community members brainstorming where and what the drawbacks/benefits to moving would be. The question was put to Mark Souza as a Microsoft representative to give his thoughts.*

**Answer:** Mark Souza stated that Microsoft doesn’t have a preference as to where the Summit is held and that it is up to the community to decide what’s more important: a) Microsoft representation in large numbers by remaining in Seattle, or b) Microsoft representation cut drastically by moving to another city outside of Seattle. Mark stated that there isn’t budget dollars to meet the T&E costs for the number of developers/Microsoft folk that currently are able to attend in Seattle (300 plus). Mark reiterated that it is completely up to the community to make that informed decision.

16. **Question (Scott Klein)** Is it possible for PASS to have a payment plan for the Summit fees?

**Answer** Bill Graziano responded that it was not likely based on the tiered pricing structure but that he would revisit the question post-Summit.

17. **General comments** were made about the “First-Timer” session. It was felt that the format used was not informative, nor was it conducive to providing quality information to a first-timer. It was also stated that the printed program should be better laid out with information that would help first-timers.

**Answer** Bill Graziano stated that the Board is aware of this and that PASS would be revisiting a structure that would be beneficial. Bill is to follow up with community members in the future as it relates to what would be beneficial information as a first timer and implement that for the 2011 Summit.