1. **Rate the CSEF:**
   - Excellent – 45%
   - Very Good – 18%
   - Good – 18%
   - OK – 9%
   - N/A – 9%

   **Comments:**
   - I think we are one of the best state science fairs in the country, but it would be even better if we had support from the state government.
   - There is always room for improvement.
   - We see more and more imitation of ISEF.
   - There are always areas for improvement. I think the Friday needs to be more hands-on activities and tours.
   - I think the judging is fine for both the special and grand awards.
   - Unable to attend.

2. **What is the best thing about the CSEF?**
   - The fact that the state community comes together in such a positive way.
   - Interactions between the students, judges and the public. Show case for student achievement.
   - That so many students receive awards.
   - Judge interaction with the student presenter, student to student interactions, opportunities for students to communicate about their work, tours/demonstrations around campus, keynote speakers.
   - Place and judges.
   - Educational opportunities for the students.
   - The excitement of learning shared by the students and judges.
   - The volunteers; the students and the collaborations that happen with teachers from all over the state.
   - Fair organizations, overall a very dedicated group of volunteers.
   - Courtney.
   - Provides a forum for encouragement for the excellence in science.

3. **Where do you see deterioration in what the CSEF does well?**
   - Parking on campus.
   - Additional funding as regular sources begin to dry up.

4. **What is(are) the worse thing(s) about the CSEF?**
   - Parking
   - The people we need to talk to never attend the meetings or advisory council meetings; the moving around with the awards ceremony, but that is something that can’t be helped.
   - A major challenge is tours.
   - Tour organization and execution.
   - Organization of the Friday day, length of the awards ceremony.
   - The tours cannot be allowed to be a black eye for the CSEF.
   - Personal expenses and time commitments of judges, BOD, etc.
   - The chaos of the tours – leaders not showing up.
   - Parking. Marketing could also be improved.
5. What can be done to improve the CSEF?
More sponsors (better funding) to take the CSEF to a new level; publicity and recognition statewide (nice to be like sports).
More awards in some areas for special awards.
Get one large sponsor to fund the event. Since this is the state science fair, it would be nice to be able to give larger cash and equipment prizes. Also, it would be nice to give out goodie bags.
We need more publicity and more involvement by more schools at the regional level.
Organization – Rob Kolstad does an amazing job with the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair.
Whatever logistics need to go into place for smooth operations – line up everything in advance as early as possible.
Things are going well. Maybe signs directing people to the auditorium at the Awards Ceremony.
Somehow figure out how to solve the publicity problem.
Publicity.
The tours need additional oversight. More focus needs to be on the kids and the CSEF politics.

6. What concerns do you have about the CSEF?
None.
Maintaining involvement from regional science fairs and local science fairs for regional fairs. It seems as there are more and more items competing for student time. Science fairs should be held in similar sacredness as athletics.
We need more publicity and more involvement by more schools at the regional level.
Long term funding.
To broaden the base and level of support.
Publicity, there must be a better way to do publicity.
Burn out of board members.
Religious groups awarding prizes to projects of questionable scientific merit. Special awards should be carefully monitored.
Finances need to improve, but my biggest worry is losing participation.

7. Rate the CSEF Web Site:
Excellent – 27%
Very Good – 27%
Good – 36%
Excellent with a few tweaks needed.
Excellent and improving on top of that.
There are still some things to improve about the web site, but there are many people who like the changes that have been made over the years.
Courtney has done an excellent job developing the web site.
In general, I would rate the web site as quite good. One improvement would be to make it easier to identify and obtain a description of the categories for entries.
Could be better, I do not see anything still about getting material together for the future and put more material into the archives.

8. What resources are underutilized or overutilized?
We rely too much on certain individuals and do not use communication tools as well as we should.
I think some of the Advisory Council do an awful lot of work and others don’t. Perhaps there needs to be some tasks to have the group help with from a distance through the year.
Teacher meetings would be nice to have more of. The advisory meeting should be in September, not November. We know that Courtney has another full time job, but it would be great if the CSEF could do the workshops and not have to depend on grants to do them.
Overutilized: Gina. Underutilized: judge’s time outside of the actual CSEF day.
None that I can see.
9. How can the CSEF improve with publicity and financially?
   Too much talk about money and little to help students or understand them.
   The CSEF needs to fund a publicity firm that covers the regions, state fair and tracks where these kids go from the CSEF.
   Actively seek sponsors. Work with the malls to display student’s work after the CSEF.
   Publicity to attract more entrants at the regional level.
   Effort.
   Develop more funding sources either through sponsorship or unrestricted gifts. Consider developing an endowment for special projects such as helping the regional science fairs.
   From a financial perspective, I would suggest that we broaden the areas from which we solicit donations.
   Publicity-wise, I believe we need to improve, but I have no suggestions for how to improve it.
   We continue to agonize over this.
   Publicity we are working hard on now I think. We will have a product to show the media. We need to break into the hospitals, ag community, behavioral organizations, etc. for finances.
   If board members need assignments or goals to bring in funding, so be it.
   If we could get a member of the media as a board member or an advisory council member, that would help tremendously. Perhaps if each board member were responsible for finding a new sponsor and/or board member each year.

10. What do you see as the purpose of the Board of Directors?
    To guide the overall operation of the CSEF through policy making; to present the CSEF at all possible opportunities to the Colorado public; to fundraise for the CSEF. But I also think they need to be involved as workers during the CSEF in order to get a real sense of what it is all about. If they don’t see what is happening at the CSEF, then they can’t represent it and the students very well.
    Guidance and oversight of the director and operations. Financial oversight is a biggie!
    Decide on the policy of the CSEF, the organizations of the CSEF itself.
    See our mission statement.
    I see our role as primarily to set policy, raise funds, and insure the CSEF is successful.
    That is a good question. We should develop a job description for BOD Members. Generally, however, I see the board serving to further the goal or objectives of the CSEF. Goals and objectives for the board need to be developed. Do we have a mission statement? Does the CSEF have a mission statement?
    To ensure that the CSEF thrives into the future.
    Provide guidance and resources to Courtney.
    Direction and support (fiscal, publicity, parental, academic, etc.).
    Provide advice and guidance to the 13 regional science fairs and the state science fair. Review the finances of the science fair and provide direction. Seek additional funding opportunities.
    They are on the board because the represent those who give money, but are they really interested about students or do they understand out school system? There are some who do, but many do not understand.

11. Is the Board of Directors accomplishing its purpose?
    For the most part they are, but we need help in finding sustainable new sponsors.
    Pretty well, I think.
    Yes.
    I believe that the Board of Directors is generally doing a good job. The one area that could be improved is fund raising. We seem to always be operating on the ragged edge of going in the hole!
    For now, yes. But I worry that our foresight is clouded by near term issues. We need to think bigger.
    The Board of Directors could probably be more effective if the subcommittees did meet outside of the BOD meetings. Historically, the BOD has not been as successful with fund raising. Are we really looking for a large corporate sponsor? What are we offering them as a major sponsor?
    I do not think so.
12. What else can the Board of Directors be doing or doing better?

Hmmmm... more volunteers for the audit committee.
Getting additional BOD members, increasing funding base.
Striking a balance between ambition and reality. Perhaps we are losing focus on the student.
Attracting new sponsors and BOD members is key.
We need to recruit key BOD members that have the expertise such as publicity, fund raising, etc.
Understand the complicated school system and make decisions and not be a yes board and do whatever is suggested.

13. Do the Board of Directors meeting locations need to be changed?

Since there are a lot of BOD members from the San Luis Valley, we should have a meeting more central.
I would recommend we hold one meeting in Denver, two in Fort Collins, and one that rotates elsewhere in the state.
I am perfectly happy with their current locations. They are generally fairly central for most BOD members and the advisory council.
Something to always consider, but I think we have some good locations identified.
No.
Depends on the alternative. They are working fine for me.
Yes. Harvey Teyler tried this, we went to Colorado Springs a couple of times and that was nice. But then you also need someone from the local area to set the meeting up, invite the local folks if you to meet teachers, etc. That was also done in the San Luis Valley for a year and some schools just opened the library for us to meet in. At some schools, we actually met the teachers, one school took our whole BOD out to dinner before the meeting. If we had members from the Western Slope, it would be nice to go out there. Again, this is also a way to meet the teaching staffs and get more teachers involved.

14. The Board of Directors meets four times a year. Is this too much, too little or just right?

It is OK as is.
Just right, if the committees are working in between the meetings.
It seems like every time I’m going to make it to a BOD meeting, it gets cancelled or moved.
We could use one additional meeting, either before the CSEF or during the summer.
I believe that we are meeting sufficiently to accomplish the BOD goals. We can always have a special meeting if necessary. Depends on what is going on. I sometimes think that March might be a good time to make sure all is in place before the CSEF, etc. and I really think there should be a meeting in the summer to start planning for the next year as that September meeting is long and there is a lot to do. In the summer, the officers could be nominated, budget proposed, and then voting taking place in September, with time to make adjustments about different items.
Just right. The BOD use to meet less frequently, and it was harder to get business done. We need the four meetings to facilitate communication.
With the work we do, four times per year is good, although the one right after CSEF is very tiring and hard to get through at times.
15. **Is the Board of Directors representing the groups that should be represented?**

We certainly reward large donors. I think it would be nice if more regions were represented – they are certainly closer to the grass-roots of the science fair.

I think so.

Need to broaden membership.

Whenever sponsorship is tied to board membership, one may question are we getting food representation.

We do have a category of associate director. Perhaps we need to look at getting more associate directors to meet special needs – if we can define these needs or groups that should be represented. Sidenote: I thought we had additional policy or bylaws regarding associate board membership – I know we had a lot of discussion about this a few years ago.

Yes, some students should be on the board.

Seems diverse, just not sure how we could get western slope attendance though.

Need some ag people there, other than David, state wide offices, some behavioral folks, just go down the awards listing and try to fill in some of the gaps.

I don’t feel we hear enough from some of the regions.

16. **What concerns do you have about the Board of Directors?**

None. It’s a good group, very effective and good chemistry.

There is evidence of losing corporate memory – look at the distribution of number of years of the BOD.

None – it seems to have come together as a group in the past few years – it is so much more enjoyable to go to meetings where we can work through issues in a civilized manner.

I used to have a lot of concerns about contention with the BOD. Some personalities have left the board and now I think we work well together. We still have some individuals that like to dominate conversations, however. It has improved over the years, though.

We need fresh folks as regional science fair directors and on the BOD.

That is not getting enough new blood. That does not include more regional directors.

They must know about our schools more and about the teachers. It is easy to say to do this or that, but can it be done? There are so many things that are asked of students and that teachers do.

None at the present.

17. **How do we compare to other Board of Directors?**

This group seems to be on the same page, and if not, there is ample time for explaining items, etc. You guys work so well together. Was not the case a few years ago, but that was the management style.

For the other boards that I am on, we have specific assignments. To have budgets not closed for 2 years is not very productive.

Some boards have real issues working together. We have a very good board overall.

About the same – it’s run fairly efficiently.

I would say that we function very much like the other boards of which I am a member.

More open than others and conducive to conversation. Imperative that we maintain that.

Excellent group compared with others.
18. Five years from now, what key differences will there be regarding the CSEF?

We will have landed ISEF.
Wonder about the nature of projects and inclusion of more of the latest technology. Will judges need some background in the tools used by students?
I suppose we will probably need to find a larger place to hold the CSEF if we wish the regional fairs to grow as well.
More projects and people involved.
Lucy will not be on the board in five years. The CSEF may actually be smaller if there does not seem to be interest and support on the part of the school administrators and if we do not have those folks on board, it is an uphill battle. Then other times, all fields of science are moving so fast, there has to be an interest, but at the same time we read in the papers that schools are cutting out teaching science so that the school can spend more time during the day reading, what gives?
Even more rules from ISEF and we probably demand more from the students.
We need to watch for shifting trends in technology used with displays and support and encourage students to follow suite.
I am hoping that the fair will grow to more schools.
Between now and 5 – 10 years from now, I believe that we will need to work much harder to encourage schools to participate in science and the science fair. In my opinion, science is being de-emphasized throughout the state and country. Unfortunately, many of the current and future problems in society will require scientific and technical solutions and the country may not have the personnel to accomplish those solutions.

19. Ten years from now, what key differences will there be regarding the CSEF?

I think the CSEF will become more technologically sophisticated.
I would love to see the CSEF Director’s position be a full time paid position where he/she could use the time not organizing the CSEF working with the Regional Science Fairs and directly with schools to increase participation and truly making this the best program in the nation.
Will there be more categories or regrouping of categories depending upon trends in science?
Vast technological improvements, more expensive to run the CSEF and more difficult to the to the CSEF.
I hope by then I will look down from heaven and see drastic changes for the better. Research must go on.
Lots more aerospace and high-tech projects from the students.

20. How can this survey be improved?

I really enjoy organizing the CSEF, but I wish it could be my full-time job as there is so much I’d like to do, but other things get in the way of getting those things accomplished at times.
Does CSEF reach the intended audience? Are we incorporating sufficient creativity?
Back in the old days, we all did volunteer work and gave money to the students and not to those who are running the fair. Every year, there is more money spent on food, travel, salary, bonuses, etc. In 30 years of teaching, the teachers never received any bonuses from our school district.
Courtney has been the best thing that has happened to the CSEF.
Things are on track. No changes.