

BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Reference: *Accreditation Standard IV.B.1.a, e, & h*

Board Approved: 04/13/05

The Board maintains high standards of ethical conduct for its members. Members of the Board are responsible to:

- Protect the interests of students in every decision, and assure the opportunity for high-quality education for every student.
- Acting only in the best interests of the entire community.
- Ensuring public input into board deliberations; adhering to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations.
- Preventing conflicts of interest and the perception of conflicts of interest and act honestly and openly at all times.
- Exercising authority only as a Board and should conduct their relationships with college staff, students, local citizenry, and the media on that basis.
- Using appropriate channels of communication.
- Being informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of trusteeship.
- Devoting adequate time to board work.
- Maintaining confidentiality of closed sessions.
- Maintain an atmosphere in which controversial issues can be debated openly and fairly, protecting the dignity of individuals.
- Promote a healthy working relationship with the President/Superintendent through supportive, open, and honest communication and regular evaluation.
- Employ a competent, productive administration and staff, giving them confidence and support; when that is not possible, accept the responsibility for acting upon recommendations for personnel and organizational change, and restoring confidence.
- Use the powers of the office honestly, ~~and~~ constructively and avoiding even the appearance of any personal gain, communicating and promoting the needs of the community to the College, and the needs of the College to the community.
- Respecting others; acting with civility.
- As individuals, Trustees have no authority to direct staff, determine programs and procedures, or represent the college, and ethical Trustees do not try to do so. (Wording from the CCLC Trustee Handbook 2006, p. 61)
- The governing board has a procedure that clearly defines the manner for dealing with behavior that violates this code. (wording from WASC Accreditation Standard IV B-1h)

See Administrative Procedures #2715.