BP 2715  Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Reference:  ACCJC Accreditation Standard IV.C.11
Board Approved:  04/13/05
Revised:  02/12/07, 05/06/09, 03/12/14, 05/08/19

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

1) Acting only in the best interest of the entire community and adhering to District Policies and Procedures.
2) Protecting the interests of students in every decision and assuring the opportunity for high-quality education for every student.
3) Using the powers of the office honestly and constructively, communicating and promoting the needs of the community to the College, and the needs of the College to the community.
4) Maintaining an atmosphere in which controversial issues will be debated openly and fairly, protecting the dignity of individuals. Respecting others; acting with civility.
5) Exercising authority only as a Board and conducting their relationships with college staff, students, local citizenry, and the media on that basis.
6) Ensuring public input into board deliberations; adhering to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations.
7) Maintaining confidentiality of closed sessions.
8) Preventing conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest and informing the entire Board or the Board President when a matter under consideration might involve such a conflict, as stated in the District’s Conflict of Interest Code.
9) Using appropriate channels of communication, authority and responsibility.
10) Devoting adequate time to board work.
11) Being informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities to trusteeship.
12) Promoting a healthy working relationship with the President/Superintendent through supportive, open, and honest communication and regular evaluation.

The Governing Board will promptly address any violation by a Board member or Board members of the Code of Ethics in the following manner:

1) The Board Officers and President/Superintendent are authorized to consult with legal counsel when they become aware of or are informed about actual or perceived violations of the Code of Ethics, pertinent laws and regulations, including but not limited to conflict of interest, open and public meetings, confidentiality of closed session information, and use of public resources. Potential violations of law may be referred by College legal counsel to the District Attorney or Attorney General as provided for in law.

2) Alleged violations of the Board’s Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice BP 2715 will be addressed by the President of the Board, who together with the Vice President of the Board will first discuss the alleged violation with the Trustee to reach a determination of the potential existence of a violation. If it is determined that a potential violation of BP 2715 has occurred, the Board President will appoint an ad hoc committee to examine the matter and identify further courses of action to the Board. Sanctions, including censure of the Board Member, may be considered by the full Board. If either the Board President or Vice President
is perceived to have violated the Code, they will be replaced with another Board member selected by the other unaffected Board officer authorized to pursue appropriate processes.

3) Consideration by the full Board of any and all actions under the Provisions of this Policy shall be in a formal and open meeting of the Board of Trustees, under an agenda item with appropriate and legal Notice, as required by State Law.