

BP 2715 Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice

Reference:

ACCJC Accreditation Standard 4.6

The governing board functions effectively as a collective entity to promote the institution's values and mission and fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities. The governing board demonstrates an ability to self-govern in adherence to its bylaws and expectations for best practices in board governance.

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

1. Acting only in the best interests of the entire community.
2. Ensuring public input into Board deliberations; adhering to the law and spirit of the open meeting laws and regulations.
3. Preventing conflicts of interest and the perception of conflicts of interest.
4. Exercising authority only as a Board.
5. Using appropriate channels of communication.
6. Respecting others; acting with civility.
7. Being informed about the District, educational issues, and responsibilities of trusteeship.
8. Devoting adequate time to Board work.
9. Maintaining confidentiality of closed sessions.

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

All Governing Board members are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior and to adhere to the Board's Code of Ethics. The Governing Board will be prepared to investigate the factual basis behind

any charge or complaint of Board member misconduct. A Board member may be subject to a resolution of censure by the Governing Board should it be determined that Board member misconduct has occurred. Censure is an official expression of disapproval passed by the Governing Board.

A complaint of Board member misconduct will be referred to an ad hoc committee composed of two Board members not subject to the complaint. In a manner deemed appropriate by the committee, a fact-finding process shall be initiated and completed within a reasonable period of time to determine the validity of the complaint. The Committee shall be guided in its inquiry by the standards set forth in the Code of Ethics as defined in Board Policy.

The Board member subject to the charge of misconduct shall not be precluded from presenting information to the Committee.

The Committee shall, within a reasonable period of time, make a report of its findings to the Governing Board for action.

The Committee, if it determines censure may be appropriate, will direct the Superintendent/President to draft a Resolution of Censure and place the matter on the agenda of the next regular or special Board meeting for consideration by the Board as a whole.

See Administrative Procedures AP 2715