

## Board of Trustees

**BP 2715 CODE OF ETHICS****References:**

ACCJC Accreditation Standards IV.B.1.a, e, and h;  
Title 5 Section 51016

Understanding that the Board can legally function only as a group, each member should exercise appropriate care to speak as a member of the Board and accurately represent Board policy to the community. Personal opinions should be identified as such.

It is recognized that Trustees may from time to time have to balance the special needs and desired advantages of their own areas with the good of the entire community college district and its student population. Each Trustee shall, as to such matters, make a particular effort to consider all of the facts and arrive at a sound and fair conclusion.

Board members should recognize that the Board makes policy and employs the Superintendent/President to administer the policies. Rather than dealing directly with the staff, it is appropriate for Board members to take their concerns directly to the Superintendent/President.

Trustees should understand that while each Board member has the right, if not the duty, to speak strongly as to issues, a demonstration of respect and consideration for each other, the College staff, and members of the community, will facilitate positive decision making at the College. Attempts should be made to re-establish collegial communications in the event that violations of ethics are perceived to have occurred.

Trustees should be aware of the California laws governing conflicts of interest of public officials (see BP 2710 titled Conflict of Interest).

Board members shall maintain confidentiality as to closed sessions (see BP 2315 titled Closed Sessions).

The Board President and Superintendent/President are authorized to consult with legal counsel when they become aware of or are informed about actual or perceived violations of 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. Violations of law may be referred to the appropriate governing agency, District Attorney, or Attorney General as provided for in law.

Violations of this policy (BP 2715 titled Code of Ethics) will be addressed by the President of the Board, who will first discuss the violation with the Board member to reach a resolution. If resolution is not achieved and further action is deemed necessary, the Board President may appoint an ad hoc committee composed of two Board members to examine the matter and recommend further courses of action to the Board. Sanctions will be determined by the Board officers (or committee) and may include a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to censure the Board member. If the President of the Board

of Trustees is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Board of Trustees is authorized to pursue resolution.

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**Date Adopted:** May 18, 2010  
(Replaces College of Marin Policies 1.2090 and 1.2091)