

## CODE OF ETHICS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

The Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board pledges to carry out its policy-making responsibilities with the highest ethical standards as it fulfills its mission to promote student learning, progress and development. The Governing Board is committed to regularly assessing its own ethical behavior and Board effectiveness in order to identify its strengths and areas in which it may improve.

The Governing Board operates under the following principles:

- Service** We represent all residents of the District. We will act in the best interests of the students as we support the mission of our colleges.
- We represent the District as a whole, but recognize the unique needs of the individual colleges and local communities. We are not advocates for special interest groups.
- Respect** We will conduct meetings in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. We acknowledge the values and opinions of fellow trustees and will maintain a forum within which controversial issues are debated respectfully.
- Accountability** We recognize that we have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of the District and will approve budgets that maintain the fiscal integrity and stability of the District. The public deserves responsive colleges and we will ensure that our services and programs meet the needs of our students and communities.
- We take the needs of our many communities seriously and will thoughtfully examine data and trends to ensure well-prepared students to meet those needs.
- Integrity** Adhering to the highest standards of responsibility, integrity and honesty, we will not engage in activities that could be considered a conflict of interest or impair our fair judgment. We will not use the position of trustee for personal benefit. We will represent the District with pride.
- Confidentiality** We will maintain confidentiality of privileged information, including all closed session discussions.
- Openness** We will conduct District business in public except for those items appropriate for closed session.

### **Behavior that Violates the Governing Board Code of Ethics**

The Chancellor and Board 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 District Attorney or Attorney General as provided for in law.

Violations of the Governing Board Code of Ethics will be addressed by the Board President, 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\* to examine the matter and recommend further courses of action to the Board. The Board President or ad hoc committee shall make recommendations to the Governing Board for appropriate sanctions which may include censure of a Board member who is determined to have violated this Policy. If the Board President is perceived to have violated the Governing Board Code of Ethics, the Board Vice President is authorized to pursue resolution.

\* Any ad hoc committee established pursuant to this policy shall also be subject to the Brown Act unless it is composed of only two members of the Governing Board with no other persons involved.