GOVERNING BOARD

BP 2715 CODE OF ETHICS/STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

References:
Accreditation Standards IV.B.1.a, e, and h

As a member of the Palomar Community College District Governing Board, I will perform my duties in accordance with my oath of office. I am committed to serving the educational needs of the citizens of the District. My primary responsibility is to provide learning opportunities to each student regardless of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.

It is my further responsibility to:

1. Devote time, thought, and study to my duties as a Palomar College Board member so that I may render effective and creditable service.
2. Work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during vigorous debates of points at issue.
3. Base my decisions upon all available facts in each situation, vote my honest conviction in every case unswayed by partisan bias, and abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
4. Remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board and conduct my relationships with District staff, students, the local citizenry, and the media on that basis.
5. Be aware that I am responsible to all citizens of the District and not solely to those who elected me. The authority delegated to me by the voters must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.
6. Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a community college board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total welfare of the Palomar Community College District.
7. Recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of Palomar College as it is to plan for the business of District operation.

8. Bear in mind under all circumstances that the Board is legally responsible for the effective operation of the District. Its primary function is to establish the policies by which the Palomar Community College District is to be administered. The Board shall hold the Superintendent/President and his/her staff responsible for the administration of the educational program and the conduct of District business.

9. Welcome and encourage the active involvement of students, employees, and citizens of the District with respect to establishing policy on current District operation and proposed future developments and consider their views in my deliberations and decisions as a Board member.

10. Recognize that deliberations of the Board in closed session are not mine to release or discuss in public in accordance with the Brown Act.

11. Avail myself of opportunities to enhance my potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops, and training sessions offered by local, state, and national organizations.

12. Be informed about the actions and positions of state and national community college trustees' associations.

13. Strive to provide the most effective community college board service of which I am capable, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

The Superintendent/President and Governing 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's Policy #2715 (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 Governing 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 Governing Board officers [or committee] and may include a recommendation to the Governing Board to censure the Board member. If the President of the Governing Board is perceived to have violated the code, the Vice President of the Governing Board is authorized to pursue resolution.