Statement of Ethics

As a member of the Board, I shall strive to improve community college education, and to that end I shall adhere to all state and federal laws, College District policies, and the following ethical standards set out in this policy:

1. I shall attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible and devote time, thought, and study to become informed concerning issues to the duties and responsibilities of a Board member, so that I may render effective and credible service at those meetings.

2. I shall bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures, upholding and enforcing all applicable statutes, regulations, and court decisions pertaining to community colleges.

3. I shall establish work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the College District to the College President.

4. Establish and adhere to policies and practices prohibiting unlawful discrimination, including harassment on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law.

5. I shall hold that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings.

6. Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.

7. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members and seek systematic communications between the Board and students, staff, and all elements of the community.

8. Communicate to other Board members and the College President expressions of public reaction to Board policies and College District programs.

9. Become informed about current and emerging educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national college organizations.

10. Support the employment, retention, and promotion practices that include an inclusive and diverse workforce and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all faculty, staff, and administration.
11. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.

12. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.

13. Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the College District.

14. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the College District and its students, faculty, staff, and administration.

I shall treat all persons with respect and consideration regardless of race, religion, gender, abilities, age, or national origin.

I shall demonstrate high standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and honesty.

Collaboration

I shall work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation and encourage the free expression of opinion in spite of differences that arise during vigorous debates of points of issue.

I shall base my personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation; vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; and abide by and uphold the final majority decisions of the Board.

I shall treat Board members and staff with respect by recognizing there are differences of opinions and points of view.

Authority

I shall remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and to conduct my relationships with the College District staff, the local citizenry, and all media of the community on the basis of this fact.

I shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Board member to benefit myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the College District.

Roles

I shall recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the College District as it is to plan for the business of College District operations.

I shall delegate the administrative matters of the College District to the College President and support the employment of qualified College District staff.
I shall welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the College District media by communicating with respect to policy on current College District operations and proposed future developments.

I shall speak with one voice as a Board member once a Board decision or policy is made.

15.5. I shall act responsibly on behalf of the College District and be accountable and transparent with constituents and to one another, including sharing information when appropriate without sacrificing confidentiality.

Teamwork

I shall become informed about current and emerging educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national college organizations.

I shall work step by step toward ideal conditions for the most effective College District Board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and the perpetuation of our representative democracy.

16. Treat Board members and staff with respect by recognizing there are differences of opinions and points of view.

17. Treat all persons with respect and consideration regardless of race, religion, gender, abilities, age, or national origin.

18. Demonstrate high standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and honesty.

REFERENCE: derived from the National School Boards Association of Community College Trustees Guide to Ethical Governance with local modifications based on relevant legal authorities and best practices.