

# SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

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WHEREAS, Santa Monica Community College District (the "District") has been successful at elections conducted on March 5, 2002, November 4, 2004, November 4, 2008, November 8, 2016 and November 8, 2022 (collectively, the "Elections"), in obtaining authorization from the District's voters to issue up to \$160,000,000, \$135,000,000, \$295,000,000, \$345,000,000, and \$375,000,000 respectively, aggregate principal amount of the District's general obligation bonds ("Bonds"), under the provisions of the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000 ("Prop 39"), as set forth in the respective Ballot Measure and Project List approved at each Election; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 15278 of the Education Code of the State, the District is obligated to establish and has established its Citizens' Oversight Committee (the "Committee") in order to satisfy the accountability requirements of Prop 39; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the District (the "Board") has requested the Citizens' Oversight Committee (the "Committee") to oversee the expenditure of proceeds of the Bonds in accordance with the related Project Lists approved at the Elections; and

WHEREAS, the Board has established the following bylaws (the "Bylaws") to govern the operation of the Committee:

**Section 1. Purposes.** The purposes of the Committee shall be those purposes set forth in Prop 39 and, in particular, Section 15278 of the Education Code of the State. The Committee is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Public Meetings Act of the State of California, being Section 54950 *et seq.* of the Government Code of the State (the "Brown Act") and shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the provisions thereof. The District shall provide necessary administrative support to the Committee as shall be consistent with the Committee's purposes set forth in Prop 39.

The proceeds of general obligation bonds issued pursuant to either Election are hereinafter referred to as "Bond proceeds."

**Section 2. Duties.** To carry out its stated purposes, the Committee shall perform the following duties:

2.1 **Review Expenditures.** The Committee shall review expenditure reports produced by the District to ensure that (a) Bond proceeds are expended only for the purposes set forth in the Ballot Measure and the Project List; (b) no Bond proceeds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other operating expenses of the District.

2.2 **Annual Report.** The Committee shall present to the Board, in public session, an annual written report which shall include a summary of the Committee's proceedings and activities

for the preceding year.

### **Section 3. Authorized Activities.**

3.1 In order to perform the duties set forth in Section 3, the Committee may engage in the following authorized activities:

(a) Receive and review copies of the District's annual independent performance audit and annual independent financial audit.

(b) Inspect facilities and grounds at or for which Bond proceeds have been or will be expended, in accordance with any access procedure established by the Superintendent/President.

(c) Review copies of deferred maintenance proposal or plans developed by the District.

(d) Review the District's efforts to maximize use of Bond proceeds in ways designed to: (1) reduce costs of professional fees or site acquisition; (2) incorporate efficiencies in design; (3) encourage joint use of core facilities; or (4) involve cost-effective and efficient reusable facility plans.

3.2 Make requests for copies or inspection of District records in writing to the Superintendent/President of the District through the District staff supporting the Committee.

### **Section 4. Membership.**

4.1 Number. The Committee shall consist of a minimum of 7 members appointed by the Board.

4.2 Qualification Standards.

(a) To be a qualified person, he or she must be at least 18 years of age, in accordance with Government Code Section 1020 and reside or operate a business within the District's geographic boundary, in accordance with Section 15282 of the Education Code.

(b) The Committee may not include any employee, official of the District or any vendor, contractor or consultant of the District, or members of their immediate families.

4.3 Ethics; Conflicts of Interest. By accepting appointment to the Committee, each member agrees to comply with Articles 4 (commencing with Section 1090) and 4.7 (commencing with Section 1125) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code and the Political Reform Act (Gov. Code § 81000 *et seq.*), and to complete the Form 700 as required by all "designated employees" of the District. Additionally, each member shall comply with the Committee Ethics Policy attached as Attachment A to these Bylaws.

4.4 Term. Except as otherwise provided herein, each member shall serve a term of two

(2) years, beginning on the date of adoption of these Bylaws, or on the date appointed by the Board. No member may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. At the Committee's first meeting, members shall draw lots to select a minimum majority for an initial two-year term and the remaining members for an initial one-year term.

4.5 Removal; Vacancy. The Board may remove any Committee member for cause, including failure to attend three consecutive Committee meetings or for failure to comply with the Committee Ethics Policy. Upon a member's removal, his or her seat shall be declared vacant. The Board, in accordance with its established appointment process, shall fill any vacancies on the Committee, in compliance with Prop 39.

4.6 Compensation. The Committee members shall not be compensated for their services.

#### **Section 5. Meetings of the Committee.**

5.1 Regular Meetings. The Committee shall establish a schedule for the date and time of regular meetings to be held periodically, and to include an annual meeting to be held to approve its report to the taxpayers of the District, as required under Prop 39.

5.2 Location. All meetings shall be held at 1900 Pico Boulevard, located in Santa Monica, California, or at some other location within the District freely accessible to the public, as may be designated by the Committee on the particular agenda.

5.3 Procedures. All meetings shall be open to the general public in accordance with the Brown Act. Meetings shall be conducted according to such additional procedural rules as the Committee may adopt. A majority of the number of Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business except adjournment.

#### **Section 6. District Support.**

6.1 The District shall provide to the Committee necessary technical and administrative assistance as follows:

(a) preparation of and posting of public notices as required by the Brown Act, ensuring that all notices to the public are provided in the same manner as notices regarding meetings of the Board;

(b) provision of a meeting room, including any necessary audio/visual equipment;

(c) preparation and copies of any documentary meeting materials, such as agendas and reports; and

(d) retention of all Committee records, and providing public access to such records on an Internet website maintained by the District.

6.2 District staff shall attend all Committee proceedings in order to report on the status

of projects and the expenditures of Bond proceeds.

**Section 7. Reports.** In addition to the Annual Report required in Section 3.2, the Committee shall report to the Board periodically in order to advise the Board on the activities of the Committee. Such report shall be in writing and shall summarize the proceedings and activities conducted by the Committee.

**Section 8. Officers.** The Committee shall elect a chair and a vice-chair who shall act as chair only when the chair is absent, each of which positions shall continue for a one-year term. No person shall serve as Chair for more than two consecutive terms.

**Section 9. Amendment of Bylaws.** Any amendment to these Bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board.

**Section 10. Termination.** The Committee shall automatically terminate and disband when all Bond proceeds are spent.

*[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]*

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ETHICS POLICY STATEMENT**

This Ethics Policy Statement (this "Statement") provides general guidelines for Committee members to follow in carrying out their roles. Not all ethical issues that Committee members face are covered in this Statement. However, this Statement captures some of the critical areas that help define ethical and professional conduct for Committee members. The provisions of this Statement were developed from existing laws, rules, policies and procedures as well as from concepts that define generally accepted good business practices. Committee members are expected to strictly adhere to the provisions of this Statement.

#### **POLICY**

- **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** A Committee member shall not make or influence a District decision related to: (1) any contract funded by Bond proceeds or (2) any District construction project which will benefit the Committee member's outside employment, business, or personal finance or benefit an immediate family member, such as a spouse, child or parent.

- **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT.** A Committee member shall not use his or her authority over a particular matter to negotiate future employment with any person or organization that relates to: (1) any contract funded by Bond proceeds, or (2) any District construction project. A Committee member shall not make or influence a District decision related to any construction project involving the interest of a person with whom the member has an agreement concerning current or future employment, or remuneration of any kind. For a period of two (2) years after leaving the Committee, a former Committee member may not represent any person or organization for compensation in connection with any matter pending before the District that, as a Committee member, he or she participated in personally and substantially. Specifically, for a period of two (2) years after leaving the Committee, a former Committee member and the companies and businesses for which the member works shall be prohibited from contracting with the District with respect to: (a) bidding on projects funded by Bond proceeds; and (b) any District construction project.

- **COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD LAW.** A Committee member shall uphold the federal and California Constitutions, the laws and regulations of the United States and the State of California (particularly the Education Code) and all other applicable government entities, and the policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the Santa Monica Community College District and its Board of Trustees.

- **COMMITMENT TO DISTRICT.** A Committee member shall place the interests of the District above any personal or business interest of the member.