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The Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees holds its sole November meeting tonight at seven in the boardroom at 333 E. Eighth St.

Among the agenda items is a head-scratcher: consideration of a contract extension for Chancellor Jowel C. Laguerre, not halfway into his original three-year deal. The proposal comes amid dragging contract talks between the district and all the major bargaining units, and lingering accreditation uncertainty.

Further, the chancellor's aggressive expansion of the administration during a time of steep enrollment declines has raised questions about district priorities. And recent press reports hold that a district contract with IT consultant Ferrilli may have violated state law. The public awaits a thorough explanation from trustees.

In other news:

*PFT congratulates Karen Weinstein on her commanding victory in the race for Cy Gulassa's seat on the PCCD Board of Trustees. A worthy successor to the highly respected Gulassa—who's retiring after many years of service on the board—Weinstein will represent Area 6. The union is also pleased with the overwhelming passage of Prop 55, the state initiative that will help maintain funding for California's K-14 public schools. PFT commends all those who worked hard in the local elections to advance a pro-education agenda.

*PFT will meet with district-side negotiators Nov. 16 in the ongoing round of comprehensive contract talks. The two sides have made progress on a number of nonmonetary issues but have yet to reach agreement on salary and benefits.

* Merritt Faculty: The PFT will be holding a President's hour from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Merritt College. In addition, we will be conducting a chapter meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. also at Merritt College. Both events meet in Room S-435.

Ed Jaramillo, President

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