



PFT Staff <union@pft1603.org>

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The Peralta Community College Board of Trustees heads to Berkeley City College tonight, where it holds its only regular meeting of the month. Curtain rises at seven in the first-floor auditorium at [2050 Center St.](#), half a block from the Downtown Berkeley BART station.

The meeting, the year's penultimate, includes a couple of items of concern to PFT—and, indeed, to the wider community.

An effort's afoot to raise, by a cool \$100K, the amount the chancellor can spend without board approval. As guardians of the public interest, trustees are tasked with staying on top of district expenditures; to surrender oversight of all contracts under \$125K would be an unfortunate retreat from their responsibilities as elected officials. PFT and concerned citizens throughout the Peralta service area urge the board to use tonight's "first reading" to send the district back to the drawing board on [BP 6340](#).

Another worrisome agenda item is consent-calendar consideration of a [Quarterly Financial Status Report](#) showing that district reserves, thought to be at 14%, have been revised downward dramatically. The district appears to have overspent by \$7 million last year and sustained \$5.6 million in "prior year adjustments." The chancellor's hard-to-parse explanation of his finance team's giant gaffe in his Nov. 8 [C-Direct](#) doesn't satisfy PFT, and it shouldn't satisfy the board.

In other news:

*PFT's A's Working Group met on Veterans Day to discuss results of its faculty survey and to develop its final position on the baseball team's push to build a stadium on district land. The group will make its recommendation to the PFT Executive Council during its next meeting, Th., Nov. 16, 3-5 p.m. at union HQ. PFT will announce its formal position on the ballpark project following the meeting.

*PFT's fall membership drive at Laney was a smash: more than 200 cards were signed and collected, and scores of new members were added to Local 1603's rolls. The organizing effort is a key part of PFT's strategy for managing the likely fallout from [Janus v. AFSCME](#), the antiunion case that will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in June.

*PFT's Committee on Political Education (COPE) meets Th., Nov. 16, 2-3 p.m. at the union offices, [500 E. Eighth St., Ste. B](#). All COPE members are urged to attend. For info, contact COPE President Jeff Sanceri at sanceri@gmail.com.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Shanoski, President

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