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1 message

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Tonight's meeting of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, the last of the fall 2017 semester, promises to get interesting despite what seems a routine agenda. Action begins at 7 p.m. in the boardroom at 333 E. Eighth St.

PFT members will turn out to congratulate trustees for their vote halting discussions on a proposed Oakland A's stadium on Peralta grounds and ask for clarity on future discussions. And it's likely that sports fans sore about the breakdown of ballpark talks will also show up. Public comment will likely stretch into extra innings.

But about that agenda: eleven interim administrators will see their contracts extended and two new interim appointments will be made. Permanent hires, with shared governance behind them, remain unattractive to the district, leaving temps to run significant areas of the colleges and the DO. To be clear: PFT isn't arguing for expanding the administration—it wants the stability that comes with small, efficient and properly vetted management.

Also on the agenda is the 2018 board calendar. The calendar looks almost the same as last year's and, once again, doesn't incorporate budget oversight in any meaningful or timely way. AP 6250 says the BoT will give direction for budget development in February; the calendar has the topic of discussion for February as "P-1 Enrollment Reports." The budget isn't listed until June.

The agenda is mostly notable for what's not on it. There's no discussion of the state of our finances, no discussion of potential hiring freezes or cuts, no discussion of the surprise\$6 million dollar deal the district tried to make with the A's, and no discussion of the cryptic comments made in the press about future development of PCCD land.

To prep for tonight, the Peralta community should check out PFT's analysis of the district budget. With 333 E. Eighth St. failing to offer clear explanations about its financial stumbles, PFT took it upon itself to give it to you straight. Prefer your budget analysis non-virtual? Hardcopies go into mailboxes this week.

In other news:

*PFT invites faculty to gather tonight at six in the parking lot of the PCCD district offices, 333 E. Eighth St., Oakland, to tailgate ahead of the BoT meeting. The union encourages folks to acknowledge trustees for putting public education first, to urge the chancellor to make a firmer commitment not to hock district land, and to remind the district of its legal obligation to honor participatory governance.

*Don't miss PFT's annual holiday party, Peralta's glitziest clambake, Th., Dec. 14, 5-7 p.m. at union HQ (500 E. Eighth St., Ste. B, across the intersection from district A&R). Food, drink, and general merriment will abound—bring the whole labor-friendly family! Let us know you're coming at union@pft1603.org.

In solidarity, Jennifer Shanoski, President Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603

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