

Board Watch (10.25.16 ed.)

The Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees held a “retreat” Oct. 25, four hours of administrative reports in the same boardroom where regular meetings are held. The action wasn’t made available to the public via the usual channels—no TV, no streaming, no radio.

The most dramatic moments came courtesy of Michael Mills, past PFT president and current member of Peralta’s bond oversight board. Mills demanded that CFO Ron Little’s presentation on bond expenditures be pulled from the agenda, citing insufficient notice and a lack of proper consultation.

The item went ahead, with Tom Seufert of the Temecula-based consulting firm NBS taking over for Little. On its [website](#), NBS says its mission is to “help uncover opportunities to decrease the pressures on general funds and increase the revenue needed to ensure the quality of life and business for those in your community.” The presentation offered little in the way of specifics, and failed to explain how monies from Measure B, sold to taxpayers as a way to maintain class sections, are being used. It appears that the district hasn’t managed to spend all the Measure A money that had been earmarked to be used by 2013. The lack of clarity on bond issues concerns PFT.

Chioma Ndubuisi and Jon Olkowski reported on improvements needed in IT, including hiring a chief information officer. (IT leadership has been farmed out to the Ferrilli consulting outfit, the legality of whose contract with the district was recently called into question by the [East Bay Times](#).) The IT staffers’ report was supported by 14 of their departmental colleagues. Yashica Crawford, the chancellor’s chief of staff, talked up acceleration as a way to move students to transfer-level courses more efficiently.

In other news:

*PFT discussed compensation for part-time office hours, salary proposals, and changes to Article 30 in its Oct. 26 negotiations session. No agreements were reached.

*Campus Equity Week for California’s part-time faculty continues today, Th., Oct. 27, at noon, at Laney, in Room E 255B. Faculty, students, and staff are invited to celebrate with a pizza lunch.

*CFT’s Fred Glass, part-time CCSF labor studies prof and long-time PFT supporter, will give a talk, “Come Here, Get Rich: Immigration, Upward Mobility and California Labor History,” tonight, Th., Oct. 27, 6-7:30 p.m. at the [UC Berkeley Labor Center](#) at 2521 Channing Way. The talk is free and open to the public.

*All faculty are encouraged to attend PFT’s General Membership Meeting Wed., Nov. 9, at noon. The lunch meeting is set for Laney, Room F-200. RSVP to union@pft1603.org.

*CoA faculty should plan to attend a chapter lunch meeting Mon., Nov. 14, at 11:30 a.m. in room D 207. RSVP to union@pft1603.org.

Ed Jaramillo, President

Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603

union@pft1603.org, 510.763.8820

Website: pft1603.org

Keep up with the board [online](#), and follow the union on Twitter [@PFT1603](#). And like us on [Facebook](#), too!