



PFT Staff &lt;union@pft1603.org&gt;

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**Board Watch (2.27.18 ed.)**

1 message

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Presentations on the district's shapeshifting budget provided much of the action at the Feb. 27 meeting of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees.

After what district administrators called an accounting error unexpectedly added millions to Peralta's reserves earlier this year, Chancellor Jewel C. Laguerre and VCs Romaneir Johnson and Siri Brown took to the podium to try to explain.

Discrepancies between the board-approved budget and what presenters termed "the current budget" initially furrowed brows in the boardroom. Trustee Nicky González Yuen's frustrated effort to sort out the dueling documents led to some tense moments. Bottom line: Laguerre & Co. said their new budget document reflected changes in district finances since trustees approved the official budget last fall.

PFT is determined to see that, however they're characterized, budget changes go through clearly established shared-governance processes. Community college financing can be maddeningly dynamic; still, the district is obligated to play by the rules and honor its commitments.

And honoring commitments was very much on the mind of Michael Mills, chair of the Citizens Oversight Committee. Mills, in a separate presentation, briefed the board on COC concerns over district parcel tax expenditures. Noting that all COC members had endorsed his report, Mills showed that the district hasn't been using the \$8 million raised annually by Measure B as it had promised taxpayers. [The lion's share of the money, Mills demonstrated, has gone to cover Classified expenses.](#)

PFT, like Mills and the COC, feels strongly that Peralta's hardworking staffers deserve fair compensation. The union also feels strongly that the district needs to provide what it promised taxpayers in the text of 2012's [Measure B](#): "core academic programs including math, science and English; training students for successful careers; and educating students to transfer to university"—all of which are, of course, delivered by teachers in the classroom.

The meeting also saw Classified Senate President Tim Brice argue for hiring more staff, and DAS President Cleavon Smith call for greater DO and BoT accountability on budget matters and for using parcel tax money appropriately.

Elsewhere:

\*Calendar *this*, faculty: PFT will hold its next General Membership Meeting at BCC on Th., March 8 (International Women's Day!), 3-5 p.m., in Room 55. Agenda items include planning for the union's Mayday for May Day Conference, updates on the latest negotiations survey, reminders on upcoming workshops, and notes on the College for All campaign. After the meeting, we will join other area locals for an International Women's Strike in downtown Berkeley from 4:30-6 p.m.

\*The PFT has endorsed the 3/14 day of action against gun violence. At 10 a.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>, students across the country plan to walk out of classes for 17 minutes in honor of the victims of the 2/14 shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglass High School in Florida.

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Check out President [Jennier Shanoski's Feb. 27 comments](#) to the BoT, and review her [sharp questioning of the district budget presentation](#).