

Board Watch (9.13.16 ed.)

At its Sept. 13 meeting, the first of the school year, the PCCD Board of Trustees approved all items unanimously, including the appointment of seven interim administrators and the contract of a consultant who will consult on the work of another consultant.

Trustees also gave the nod to the final 2016-17 budget, presented by VC Ron Little. The budget projects a \$14.6 million reserve—the highest it's been in years, over twice the state minimum—and shows an increase of 17% in administrative costs since 2014-15.

During public comment, PFT President Ed Jaramillo urged the board to support a resolution in favor of Proposition 55 (it did), and he criticized the district for cutting classes even as it continues to expand an already bloated administration. BCC Multimedia prof Joe Doyle and four of his students also voiced concerns about aggressive class cuts.

Trustee Nicky Gonzalez Yuen, upon learning of enrollment problems plaguing students, proposed that he and his board colleagues test Peralta's registration system on their own and report on its difficulties.

Beyond the boardroom:

*Don't miss Emily Gordon, Research Director of the California Federation of Teachers, who will hold a faculty workshop on the PCCD budget, Th., Sep. 22, at 3 p.m. in the PFT offices (500 E. Eighth St., Oakland, across the intersection from district A&R). Emily will offer an accessible overview of district finances, and give faculty a clear picture of Peralta's spending priorities—a useful snapshot to consult as contract talks continue. Email union@pft1603.org if you plan to attend the 9/22 session so there are plenty of handouts and snacks.

*I, along with staff, will be holding a President's hour at CoA on Wed., Oct. 12, 11:30-1:00 p.m. in room D-208. In addition, plans are forthcoming to hold a Proposition 55 Day of Action event in the Laney Quad, on Tues., Sep. 27, at noon. CFT, our parent union is supporting us at this event and the goal is to combine Prop 55 education with engaging local media publicity. We will be holding another PFT President's hour at this event. Please make plans to stop by and join in on the activities.

*Nominations for Co-Chair seats at Laney and Merritt on the Executive Council are now open. Look for nominations forms in your faculty mailbox or download one on our website. Nominations are due by 4 p.m. on Fri., Sep. 30.

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