

Board Watch (9.27.16 ed.)

The PCCD Board of Trustees came into its Sept. 27 meeting to find itself awash in a sea of orange.

Forty-plus members of Local 1603, the district's biggest bargaining unit, donned their orange-and-blue t-shirts and turned out to present their concerns to trustees. Among PFT's issues: frustration with the slow pace of negotiations, deteriorating working conditions on campus, and the explosive growth of the administration.

During public comment, PFT Chief Negotiator Rick Greenspan questioned the district's priorities. How, Greenspan wondered, could Peralta justify a 17% increase in management costs during a time of steep enrollment decline? President Ed Jaramillo decried the sorry state of college facilities, and suggested that the district's \$14 million reserve might well be put toward making faculty and staff whole after years of sacrifice.

CoA rep Mary Shaughnessy wondered how the district office could explain why it grabs a third of the entire Peralta budget when it doesn't serve a single student, and BCC Multimedia instructor/former rep Joe Doyle asked whether the district had taken steps toward improving student-enrollment procedures. CTE rep Peter Brown offered a critical analysis of the creeping privatization of public education.

In other boardroom action: Ethnic Studies prof Alicia Caballero-Christenson led a group of Laney faculty in arguing for raising the cap on the number of undergraduate units faculty can use toward column advancement. And students from Laney's Culinary Arts program voiced displeasure over the sorry state of their classroom kitchens. PFT has been active in pressing the district to fix the flagship's cooking facilities.

The board, as has been customary over its last several meetings, approved the hire of more administrators: two new associate dean positions (CoA and Merritt), a VPI (Laney), and a director (BCC).

Elsewhere:

*Students, faculty, PCCD Trustees, community members, and local media gathered on the Laney quad Sept. 27 to show support for Prop 55, the statewide ballot initiative that would help maintain funding for public education through 2030. The California Federation of Teachers, PFT's parent union, sponsored the event.

*Nominations for Co-Chair seats at Laney and Merritt on the Executive Council are now open. Look for nomination forms in your faculty mailbox or on our website. Nominations are due this Friday, Sept. 30, by 4 p.m.

*The Educator's Choice Online Voter Guide is an excellent resource for this election season. Enter your address in the search bar to find your polling place and California

Federation of Teachers and PFT endorsed candidates that will appear on your ballot.
Visit <http://www.cft.yourvoter.guide/#/search>

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