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## Board Watch (9.4.18 ed.)

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If “budget drama” sounds like an oxymoron, stick around.

A public hearing on the 2018-19 budget headlined the agenda of the Sep. 4 meeting of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees. Curiously, the hearing came *after* trustees had already approved the budget.

Added intrigue: the Participatory Governance Council, the highest shared-governance body in the district, didn't approve the budget before Chancellor Jowel C. Laguerre recommended its passage to the BoT.

During her boardroom presentation, VC of Finance & Administration Romaneir Johnson appeared to acknowledge some misgivings about the document. Still, she argued, “The budget is not a problem. It shows the symptoms of a problem.”

But the VC's defense didn't quiet questions about how the district plans to spend its dwindling resources. And just days after the Sep. 4 meeting, the *San Francisco Chronicle* put Peralta's travails on its [front page](#).

As PFT said in this space in the spring, the union “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.”

The Sep. 4 meeting also saw 1021 President Richard Theole lament the district's overreliance on consultants and hourlies, and a unanimous board vote in favor of a resolution supporting [Measure AA](#), the Oakland Children's Initiative.

Elsewhere:

\*Don't miss PFT's first general membership meeting of 2018-19, Tues., Sep. 11, 12-1 p.m., in Room 341 (TLC) at BCC. On the agenda: *Janus* update, recent executive motions, negotiations news, district budget breakdowns, fall elections, snacks and lively conversation.

\*It's not too late to register for the Sep. 28 [Academic Freedom Conference](#) at BCC, co-sponsored by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC), the District Academic Senate, and PFT.

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