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1 message

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The Dec. 11 meeting of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees saw the swearing in of newly elected member Cindi Reiss and two re-upped colleagues, Julina Bonilla and Linda Handy. The meeting also featured tributes to Trustee Bill Riley, voted out after two decades of service in Area 5.

The revamped board promptly elected fresh leadership, making Bonilla president, Karen Weinstein vice. Meredith Brown and Handy backed Bill Withrow's losing VP bid, the second major setback suffered by the former Alameda mayor in as many meetings (the [Area 1 rep](#) authored the failed Nov. 27 censure resolution against Trustee Nicky Gonzalez Yuen). Per tradition, trustees appointed the chancellor, Jowel C. Laguerre, board secretary.

During public comment, trustees heard concerns from SEIU about the district's treatment of hourlies, praise for Laney's state-champion football team, and enthusiasm over BCC's outstanding transfer rate. PFT formally welcomed the new board and expressed hope for improvement at the DO.

Trustees removed a number of items from the consent calendar, mostly General Services-related, calling for greater clarity on big money issues ahead of future meetings. And Peralta's latest bout with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) got more interesting: trustees rejected what they saw as the district's inadequate response to ACCJC's recent letter re Peralta's fiscal problems.

In explaining the board's unhappiness with the district's draft reply, [Withrow](#) suggested that shared governance—"the most elongated kind of a process that doesn't make any sense"—is a hindrance to district operations. He went on to assert that Peralta's constituent groups have "no concept of what the total requirements are in terms of carrying out the mission of this district." Withrow expressed particular impatience with constituents—presumably faculty, students, and staff—who apprise trustees of leaks and low temperatures at the colleges.

PFT wishes all district constituents—dyspeptic trustees included—a safe and happy holiday season.

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