

RESOLUTION OF THE PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SUCCESS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND
PRESERVING ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABLE
EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Peralta Community College District (“Peralta Colleges or Peralta”) realize that the path towards a lasting fiscal solvency for our district and colleges will be long and will require sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Peralta is uniquely placed to meet the needs of the educationally underserved community residing in the geographical service area surrounding our campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Peralta Board of Trustees, as well as the faculty, staff and administration must work together to ensure that Peralta continues to offer affordable, accessible educational opportunities by providing the academic support and resources necessary to help our students achieve their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, genuine student engagement, recruitment, support and retention will require that even the most necessary of budget cuts are not visited upon our classrooms, faculty, or student support programs that facilitate student success; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area Census data shows that the residents living in the geographical area Peralta serves can benefit from the high quality, accessible, affordable higher education provided by Peralta faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, over seventy percent (70%) of local residents have not obtained a bachelor’s degree and/or training to be eligible for a job

that pays a living wage¹, sixty-six percent (66%) of the families in our service area live below the California self-sufficiency standard—which includes the cost of basic needs for California’s working families²-- and an estimated 129,500 undocumented immigrants live in Alameda County³; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Office of Probation reports that fifty-seven percent (57%) of Alameda County’s paroling population and forty-six percent (46%)⁴ of the probationers in Alameda County are located in or around the zip code surrounding Laney College; and

WHEREAS, Peralta’s educational mission is grounded in social justice, or the simple principle that all students should have the tools and resources that they need to excel and succeed; and

WHEREAS, Peralta’s Umoja, Puente, AANAPISI, ROC, Veterans Center, EOPS, and DSPS support programs and their respective predecessors have helped facilitate student success at Peralta, and in doing so enriched the Bay Area Community;

WHEREAS, effectively promoting the success of these programs requires an unrelenting commitment to professional collaboration and investment of resources in order to close achievement gaps that are deeply grounded in institutionalized inequities that persist in

¹ Bay Area Census Report, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments (2017), Source Census 2000, Census 2010, American Community Survey 2006-2010, <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/cities/Alameda.htm>

² Alameda County United Way, Snapshot on Poverty, <https://uwba.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Alameda-Snapshot.pdf>

³ Alameda County Public Health Department, Immigration and Public Health, An Issue Brief (2017), <http://www.acphd.org/media/470384/immigration.pdf>

⁴ Alameda County Probation Department Data Dashboard, <http://www.acgov.org/probation/dashboard.htm>

the environment surrounding our colleges and directly impact our students; and

WHEREAS, the overall reduction of funding for community colleges from the state of California requires our vigilance in regards to spending decisions made by our district that might be deemed unnecessary or even wasteful from academic perspectives; and

WHEREAS, the heightened scrutiny of the state and regional accreditation board will inevitably necessitate difficult decisions that will require the participation of all stakeholders, including faculty, classified staff, administration, and especially students through the participatory governance system; and

WHEREAS, we commit to work together with faculty, staff, administration and our surrounding community to engage, enroll, support, retain and educate our students, and work to reverse the declining enrollment trend of the last several years;

WHEREAS, unified efforts throughout the Peralta Colleges endeavor to uplift our community while also minimizing and mitigating any budget cuts that may be contemplated as we engage in efforts to ensure our present and future fiscal health; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees is to higher learning for our students, and a student-centered approach to achieving such learning; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees understands that central to the proclamation of “student-first” education is ensuring that the faculty who are in direct contact with and support our students are supplied with the assistance, training and resources that they need to facilitate student success, as well as social and intellectual growth; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees affirms and readily subscribes to the calls for transparency in our actions as we approach this challenging moment in our history together.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, in matters of budget management, maintain as our first priority the educational health of our students and the social justice principle that at Peralta, *all* students should have the tools that they need to succeed, which is in essence a commitment to support collaboration and cooperation between faculty, staff, and administration in a sincere effort to provide an environment that facilitates student success and supports faculty and staff in the delivery of education to students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will endeavor to keep any budget cuts as far away from our classrooms as possible, and will urge the district and college leadership to do the same, for the benefit of our students and to support our faculty and staff in their support of student success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees reaffirms its commitment to budgetary transparency, adherence to our own Board Policies, and communication with all stakeholders in the participatory governance process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees will be unwavering in their pursuit of student success, equity, inclusion and ample funding for education from the State of California an undertaking that can best succeed through partnership and solidarity with Peralta's faculty, staff, administration, and students.

Passed this ____ day of _____ 2019

Peralta Community College District

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain: