

## PCCD Board Watch (10.11.16)

At its Oct. 11 meeting, the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees approved all items with little fuss. Bill Withrow demanded a roll-call vote on Laney's \$189K purchase of Apple computers—the trustee denounced the Cupertino giant's tax-dodging strategies—but the buy still got the nod, 5-1.

During public comment, PFT President Ed Jaramillo decried the runaway expansion of the Peralta administration, pointing to a 30% increase in management costs over the last two years, a period of declining student enrollment. He also called for paying part-time faculty for office hours proportional to load, and for improving working conditions at the colleges. He reminded trustees that faculty working conditions are student learning conditions.

District Academic Senate President Cleavon Smith announced plans to work with PFT on the part-time office-hour issue, and Local 39's Tim Brice argued for hiring more custodial staff, lamenting that two positions have gone unfilled for two years.

Trustee Cy Gulassa, set to retire after the November election, has missed a number of meetings over the last several months with an illness. The board voted to excuse the absences formally. PFT wishes Trustee Gulassa, a longtime faculty friend, a speedy recovery.

Elsewhere:

\*The deadline for responding to the district's eligible-dependent healthcare audit has been extended to Nov. 11. Thanks to strong advocacy by past-PFT President Debby Weintraub (current Peralta Retirees Organization President) and PFT support, the district is giving employees more time to get documentation to the auditor, CoreSource. An inconvenience, the audit nevertheless can help keep down healthcare costs for actives and their eligible dependents. For more information, visit the [Peralta Benefits website](#).

\*Laney and CoA faculty: Ballots for PFT Co-Chair positions are due Wednesday, October 26 by 4 p.m. Contact [union@pft1603.org](mailto:union@pft1603.org) if have not received a ballot in the next few days.

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