



PFT Staff <union@pft1603.org>

PCCD Board Watch (1.23.18 ed.)

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“Strangely uneventful!” remarked one observer as the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees wrapped up its Jan. 23 meeting, its first of the year.

But there was at least one newsworthy event: \$21 million showed up in Peralta’s reserves, a swing of more than \$13 million since the last board meeting. The district’s explanation? A simple accounting error. PFT’s public budget vigilance brought new attention to district finances. And so far, faculty scrutiny seems to have paid off nicely for Peralta.

Also of note: Trustees Julina Bonilla and Karen Weinstein asked tough questions about the budget blunder and two recent audits. Bonilla also wondered how Peralta dug itself into its current FTES hole.

More predictable action included board approval of an interim administrator—Debra Jones as Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Continuing Education—and a series of district-office reassignments.

PFT’s concerns about district efforts to get around participatory governance in management hiring only grow graver—as do Nicky González-Yuen’s, it seems. The Berkeley trustee, citing a lack of shared governance in hiring decisions, was the lone nay on a \$50K contract with consultant Sharon Cornu.

During public comment, trustees got briefed by adjunct faculty members on the pay gap between full- and part-timers. Brad Balukjian, PFT’s part-time rep, headed up the delegation.

Elsewhere:

*Following publication of the Jan. 23 PFT e-Communique, which pointed out ambiguous language in this week’s board agenda, Chancellor Jowel C. Laguerre let PFT know that trustees weren’t considering raising his salary.

*Another follow-up from this week’s agenda: [background documents](#) included with item 9.2 show that a \$50K increase, to \$150K, on a contract with the law firm Van Dermyden Maddux is in response to a “whistleblower complaint brought by a district employee.” The size of the contract for a single complaint may suggest all’s not so quiet at [333 E. Eighth St.](#)

*Don’t miss PFT’s faculty happy hours, 4-6 p.m., near each of the four colleges: today, Th., Jan. 25., [Federation Brewery](#) (Laney); Mon., Jan. 29, [Monaghan’s](#) (Merritt); Mon., Feb. 5 [Rockwall Winery](#) (CoA); and Th., Feb. 8, [Eureka](#) (BCC). Welcome back, faculty—[c’mon get happy!](#)

*Put ’em down in ink: PFT General Membership Meetings will be held Th., March 8, 3-5 p.m., at BCC, and Tu., May 8, 3-5 p.m. at Laney. Rooms TBD.

In solidarity,

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And check out President [Jennifer Shanoski’s Jan. 23 remarks](#) to the BoT (starting at the 25:14 mark).

4/25/2018

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