



PFT Staff <union@pft1603.org>

Board Watch (9.4.18 ed.)

Jennifer Shanoski <jshanoski@peralta.edu>
To: Jennifer Shanoski <jshanoski@peralta.edu>

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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.

Jennifer Shanoski, Ph.D.

President, Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603

[500 E. Eighth St., Ste. B](#)

[Oakland CA 94606](#)

jshanoski@peralta.edu

510.763.8820