



PFT Staff &lt;union@pft1603.org&gt;

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Tue, Nov 13, 2018 at 11:18 AM

The Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees returns to action tonight at seven in the boardroom at 333 E. Eighth St. The board's only regular session of the month, the meeting's the last before freshly elected Cindi Reiss takes over the Area 5 seat.

Reiss, a West Valley art history prof and state academic senator, replaces board doyen Bill Riley, who leaves after 20 years of service. Reiss defeated Riley in the same Nov. 6 election that saw East Bay voters overwhelmingly approve Measure E, the continuation of a \$48-per-parcel annual tax for augmenting instruction, and Measure G, an \$800 million facilities bond.

So a new-look board will mount the dais Dec. 11, flush with both the confidence and the cash of local taxpayers—and PFT, as well as the revamped Citizens' Oversight Committees, will keep working to make sure the district delivers on its promises.

And it's clear that PFT must remain vigilant. The union has decried—again and again and again—the district's misuse of interim appointments. PFT's reminders notwithstanding, the chancellor is asking trustees to approve two district-level interim positions tonight, one of which got filled two weeks ago without board approval and in direct violation of AP 7123. The other interim job—Director of Public Information, Communications and Media—was listed on the district freeze list as late as last week. PFT urges the board not to duck its authority by lamely acquiescing to its lone report.

Trustees will also hear the formal sunshining of articles for the district's ongoing talks with PFT, a proposal to pay Osafran Okundaye \$86K to oversee repairs of the blue emergency phones, and a \$34.5K change order on the Laney elevator-modernization project. Elevator contractor KONE will see its recent haul from Peralta rise to \$463K; when colleges can look forward to fully functional elevator service remains unclear.

In other news:

\*Laney faculty are encouraged to attend the campus chapter meeting today, Tu., Nov. 13, 12-1:30 p.m., in ROOM A239. Among the agenda items: PFT's election successes, contract negotiations, and continued fallout from Janus. Snacks and lively conversation galore!

\*The PFT executive council reiterates its support for SEIU's decision to hold the district accountable to legal settlements, contractual obligations, and California Education Code mandates. Peralta's continued over-reliance on part-time/hourly faculty and staff does not promote a strong district that supports its faculty, staff, and, most importantly, students. We stand in solidarity with our SEIU sisters and brothers and back the hiring of full-time staff to do the work required for our programs, classes, and community.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Shanoski, President  
Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603

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