



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

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**PCCD Board Watch (9.10.19 ed.)**

1 message

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

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At its epically long Sep. 10 meeting—nearly five hours, “study sessions” included—the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees looked out on a sea of blue and orange, as more than 75 faculty members turned out in their PFT colors to demand a fair contract.

Full-time Laney counselor Janelle Tillotson, one of about a dozen faculty members to address the board during public comment, spoke for many of her sisters and brothers when she detailed her experience doing the “part-time hustle” and [urged trustees to bring part-timers to full parity](#).

BoT President Julina Bonilla and her fellow trustees appeared rapt throughout public comment. And when faculty finished having their say, [Bonilla thanked PFT members](#) and asked that they continue to make their concerns known directly to the board.

“It’s only through your action,” Bonilla said, “that this board is able to put all the pieces together to have a complete story about what is going on.”

George Holland, Sr., president of the Oakland chapter of the NAACP, also took the podium during public comment. Holland presented his organization’s analysis of the recent report by the Financial Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT, see below), and stressed the importance of keeping district control local.

During the budget study session, interim CFO [Al Harrison explained that the “contingency reserve” in the district budget is for the board to use as it sees fit](#), that it’s “not allocated it to any particular expenditure.” Harrison also confirmed that a budget line showing \$1.2M in savings comes from class cuts; under questioning by Trustee Karen Weinstein, the board veep, he allowed that the money might be used for salary increases.

Harrison went on to say the district is deficit spending even as it insists on keeping a 10% reserve. He called a \$10M line item “a small amount of administration,” and held that there was no “fat” in the budget. Trustee Nicky González Yuen stumped Harrison with a question about Peralta’s allocation of parcel-tax revenue. The interim money man would do well to review [BP 6471](#).

The board’s study session on the district’s FCMAT Implementation Plan served as another reminder that the IP never got vetted through any participatory governance bodies. Curiously, trustees mentioned that they’d already asked most of their questions about the plan in closed session.

Later, a presentation by FCMAT Deputy Executive Officer Michelle Giacomini [confirmed what PFT has been saying](#): Peralta has plenty of money, the district just manages it poorly. Among the points Giacomini made: Peralta needs a new auditor, should stop relying on so many consultants, and ought to shed some vice chancellors.

Elsewhere:

\*Save the date, island faculty: CoA will hold its first PFT chapter meeting of the year on Wed., Sep. 18, 12-1:30 p.m., in Room C 211. [RSVP](#) if you’d like lunch.

\*At its Aug. 22 meeting, the PFT Executive Council passed a resolution to protect the faculty members most vulnerable to district class-cutting: "To help limit the loss of part-time jobs, the PFT Executive Council urges full-time faculty not to request extra-service assignments, including during the summer and intersession. Keeping faculty employed, particularly in tough economic times, is a fundamental concern of our union."

\*PFT will link arms with sisters and brothers from the Alameda Labor Council on Sep. 20, as unions from around the Bay Area team up to fight global climate change. Check out ALC's draft resolution for the Days of Climate Action and be sure to turn out on Sep. 20!

In solidarity,

Jennifer Shanoski, President  
Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603  
[union@pft1603.org](mailto:union@pft1603.org), 510.763.8820

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