



PFT 1603 <union@pft1603.org>

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Facing a relatively light agenda, the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees gets back to business tonight at seven in the boardroom at 333 E. Eighth St.

Among the items PFT is watching: Merritt's proposed contract with a charter school, Conservatory of Vocal/Instrumental Arts High School (COVAH). PFT shares the concerns of its parent union, the California Federation of Teachers, about the ways charters can adversely affect truly public education.

The union is also keeping an eye on a \$17M deal, to be paid for out of bond funds, with AECOM Technical Services, a consulting firm the district's bringing in to manage Measures A and G. Scope of work includes "writing reports for the Board, Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC), and other interested parties." As an avowedly interested party, PFT looks forward to getting CC'ed on the Fortune 500 Company's (presumably leather-bound) reports.

And Local 1603 will continue to make sure the Citizens' Oversight Committee, whose members' terms are undergoing adjustment tonight, has the resources and information it needs to carry out its duties. PFT expects the district to follow its own board policy on parcel-tax expenditures, and to honor its commitment to taxpayers.

Finally, PFT wonders how the district will justify its request to pay another \$75K to Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong for legal work. Just last month, the board approved an interim general counsel/chief of staff position—a gig that adds around \$200K/year to the budget for the office of the chancellor.

In other news:

*Join PFT's Contract Action Team (CAT) again tonight at 6:30 in the district boardroom (333 E. Eighth St.), as faculty members continue their campaign for a fair contract. Sign-making materials and pizza provided.

In solidarity,

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