

Question	Asker Name	Answer(s)
<p>Public Comment for item 5.1: PUBLIC COMMENT FROM GEOFFREY BAUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHELSON PHILANTHROPIES RE: ITEM 5.1 – Total Cost of College and College Affordability Spotlight Good afternoon Chancellor Oakley, President Epstein, Vice President Haynes, and members of the Board of Governors. We are grateful for your leadership advocating for our students and our state. My name is Geoffrey Baum, and I am the executive director of Michelson Philanthropies, the philanthropic enterprise led by Dr. Gary Michelson and his wife, Alya Michelson. Our organization is comprised of three private foundations. The Michelson Medical Research Foundation, the Michelson Found Animals Foundation, and the Michelson 20 Million Minds Foundation. The Michelson 20 Million Minds Foundation is devoted to helping disadvantaged students—including justice-system involved students—gain access to college. We support organizations that help them stay enrolled until they graduate, and help them re-enroll if they drop out.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>agenda. Given the historic challenges our students are facing, I urge you to keep college cost, access, and affordability on the agenda for every meeting.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>The Michelson 20MM Foundation recently announced an important partnership with the Foundation for California Community Colleges and Compton College to find ways to get students emergency aid they so desperately need.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>Furthermore, as our system has transitioned to online instruction, we have identified another challenge for our students and want to bring it to your attention.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>The exorbitant cost of textbooks has been a significant issue dating back more than a decade. We have made some progress, but publishers are shifting their tactics to extract even more revenue while removing important alternatives for students.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>Many are now requiring students to purchase access codes rather than actual textbooks. By doing so, they are locking students and colleges into expensive automatic billing contracts that fail to disclose pricing, require quotas, and restrict options.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>There are better options, such as freely available open educational resources and zero-cost textbook degree programs.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>For example, at the Michelson 20MM Foundation, we helped launch Openstax, a free, nonprofit library with dozens of peer-reviewed textbooks that are being used by millions of students in California and around the world.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>We urge you to continue your focus on these important issues. We call on you, the Academic Senate, and our other system partners to support common-sense measures like price transparency to ensure that students of all income levels have the resources and options they need to succeed.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>Thank you very much.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	<p>Hi Geoffrey. Thank you for your comment. This item will not be heard until tomorrow. For your comment to be read aloud during the webinar, please submit your comment during the public comment period for that item, otherwise we will include it in our post-meeting document online with all meeting comments.</p>
<p>That concludes my statement.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>Just so you have it, I emailed it as well, so it might be easier to read that way.</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	
<p>OK, that makes sense. Thanks Christina! What time will they be convening tomorrow?</p>	<p>Geoffrey Baum</p>	<p>The board convenes 9am - 1pm tomorrow. Thank you.</p>

Will submitted comments be read tomorrow?	Jennifer Shanoski	Hello Jennifer- comments submitted to ccastro@cccco.edu will be read during the corresponding public comment period for each item. (Public Forum is scheduled for tomorrow).
Has the closed session ended or is it still ongoing?	mikhailzinshteyn	Closed session has just concluded. We will get started shortly.
Thank you. I submitted my comment to boardcomments@cccco.edu. I will resubmit. Have a nice evening.	Jennifer Shanoski	Thank you Jennifer. You are correct, public comments should be submitted to boardcomments@cccco.edu. My mistake.
Will there be a report out from the Closed Session?	Wendy Brill-Wynkoop	live answered
I cannot seem to find the agenda on the board docs agenda and minutes page. Perhaps a link or description of where to look on the page could be shared here?	Associated Students Of Merritt College President Cooper	live answered https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/ccchan/Board.nsf/Public#
Re: Item 3.3. My name is Geoffrey Baum and I am a former board colleague, and now commenting a member of the public ... and as a personal donor to the foundation. I wholeheartedly support this nomination and join the call for increased philanthropic support for California Community Colleges. She is an exceptional colleague, board member, and leader.	Geoffrey Baum	
Re. Item 3.3. see my comment above.	Geoffrey Baum	
Item 3.4: On behalf of the CCLC CEO board, I would like to welcome the newest college to our system. Joe Wyse, Superintendent/President of Shasta College	Joe Wyse	
Item 3.5 Resolution Supporting Proposition 16 Good afternoon, President Epstein, Vice President Haynes, Chancellor Oakley, and the Board of Governors. This is Debbie Klein, president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. The repealing of Prop 209, passed in 1996, is long overdue. During this national and global movement for racial justice, Prop 16 is even more urgent. One of FACCC's top priorities is diversifying the faculty as we increase full-time positions. Re-establishing affirmative action will ensure that our colleges address systemic racism in our hiring and retention processes and practices. FACCC's board voted to support Prop 16. FACCC's Political Action Committee will be engaging in a "get out the vote" and an education campaign. In support of the Prop 16 campaign, FACCC is also collaborating with our system partners who serve on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Workgroup. Thank you!	Debbie Klein	
On behalf of the League Boards and Staff, a hearty congratulations to the State Center CCD Board of Trustees, President Reyna, and the faculty, staff, and students of Madera Community College. We look forward to working with you in the years to come. Larry Galizio President & CEO, Community College League of California	Larry Galizio	
3.4 My name is Stephen Kodur and I am the President of the SSSCC and also former Student Trustee of the State Center Community College District. I have had the amazing privilege of working with President Reyna and his staff. He has exhibited exemplary leadership and persistence in the process of accreditation. We as Reedley College Tigers are excited to see the Mountain Lions take this momentous step. Go Madera! #116	Stephen Kodur	
3.4 The community of Madera is very grateful for your support!	Shelly	
From Debi Bray, President & CEO, Madera Chamber of Commerce...thank you for this consideration of this exciting recognition...for many years we have looked forward to this designation...thank you from the Chamber and our community! Madera County is behind the campus, students and staff!	Debi Bray	

On behalf of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, congratulations to Madera College!	Dolores Davison	
Item 3.5 The Community College League of California urges an Aye vote. Proposition 16's passage supports the statewide effort to further diversify faculty and all of the dedicated current and future employees of our 116 colleges. A 21st century education necessitates passage of this Measure. Larry Galizio The League	Larry Galizio	
I would like to thank the Board for its support for of this proposition. As an employee of the Peralta CCD for forty plus years I have seen the damage done by prop 209. <u>Shirley Coaston</u>	George & Shirley Coaston	
4.1 Adoption of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement into Title 5 Regulations of the BOG Good afternoon again. This is Debbie Klein, president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. FACCC is encouraged to see this powerful statement become part of our system's regulations. The FACCC board will be voting to adopt this statement as we further institutionalize our association's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Thank you!	Debbie Klein	Thank you for your comment. This item will not be heard until tomorrow. For your comment to be read aloud during the webinar, please submit your comment during the public comment period for that item, otherwise we will include it in our post-meeting document online with all meeting comments. Correction- we will hear item 4.1 today, and will read your comment. Thanks again.
Thank you for letting me know! ~ Debbie	Debbie Klein	
Okay, great!	Debbie Klein	
4.3 Chancellor's Emergency Authority Regulation Good afternoon again. This is Debbie Klein, president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. FACCC appreciated the Board of Governors' action to adopt an emergency regulation authorizing the Chancellor to take appropriate actions during the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency in the spring. However, FACCC does not support a change to Title 5 granting the Chancellor emergency authority that would allow him or her to act outside of the governance process that exists to ensure checks and balances. FACCC values the role of the entire Board of Governors. Your collective wisdom is even more essential during times of emergency. Furthermore, the convening of the board via Zoom is easier and more convenient these days; it is no burden to convene an emergency session of the entire board if necessary.	Debbie Klein	
Which agenda item is currently being discussed?	Rudy R.	Item 4.3
"(a) During a period of emergency proclaimed by the Governor of the State of California, the Chancellor may assume emergency authority upon a finding, made in consultation with the <u>President of the Board</u> "	Rudy R.	
why not have the whole board vote on the emergency powers?	Rudy R.	
Why subvert democracy over timing? Rushing into actions is not always the best option	Rudy R.	
Congratulations to all the winners. Classified Professionals Yeah!!!	Ramona Butler	
Congratulations to all the recipients. Keep up the awesome support. Thank you to CCCCO for the awesome acknowledgment.	Nicole Almassey	Hello Nicole, and thank you for your comment. Since the public comment period for item 5.2 has ended, your comment will be included in our post-meeting document online with all meeting comments.
5.2	Nicole Almassey	

I submitted a written comment via email yesterday on this agenda item. Do I need to resubmit it via this portal to have it read for the record? Thanks, Geoff Baum	Geoffrey Baum	Hi Geoffrey- I have confirmed that your emailed comment has been received and will be read. No need to re-submit. Thank you
That is for item 5.1	Geoffrey Baum	
Many thanks.	Geoffrey Baum	
Instead of Good Afternoon, could you rephrase that to Good Morning?	Geoffrey Baum	Yes
Item 5.3 Good morning, Board of Governors. This is Debbie Klein, president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. FACCC has been engaged in the discussions of the Funding Formula Oversight Committee for the past year and a half. When it comes to adjusting the funding formula during a recession, increasing the base allocation is the most equitable approach. Base funding ensures that colleges are able to offer the courses our students need. Base funding is about equity for the residents of California who are low-income, minoritized, and underrepresented. If our potential students do not have access to our colleges, how can we meet the goals of the Chancellor's Vision for Success? We do not want to repeat the same mistake we made during the last recession when we turned away 600,000 students. Regarding the budget request, FACCC would like to see a final budget request that reflects a unified system voice. We must focus only on the priorities that every system stakeholder can support.	Debbie Klein	
Thank you for making this a priority at IVC Dr. Garcia! Looking forward to hearing what the CCC plans to do to help address this challenge.	Melody Chronister	
Same please. Thank you!	Mayra Lombera	
Are Part time faculty eligible for food distributions?	Margaret Hanzimanolis	
Have we looked into refer a friend incentives. A lot of people will not ask for help. It is difficult to share with others food insecurities.	Carmen Stephens	
Sound quality of the public comment reader is poor. Can his microphone be adjusted?	Eric Kaljumägi	
5.3 I was wondering what kind of priority is mental health getting in the allocation of the block grant? Is correspondence going out to colleges on this issue? A lack in basic needs resources is causing a decrease in mental health for our students	SSCCC President	
Item 5.4 Good morning again, President Epstein, Vice President Haynes, Chancellor Oakley, and members of the Board of Governors. This is Debbie Klein, president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. FACCC-sponsored AB 2884, which would allow for surplus lottery funds to be used for student basic needs, has passed the Assembly floor and is currently in the Senate. We appreciate the Chancellor's Office's continuing support of this legislation and will continue to advocate for increased resources for our students. Now more than ever, these resources are needed to support our students. As Congress returns to session this week, FACCC will be engaging with federal representatives to advocate for increased stabilization funding for our state and colleges. We encourage the Board of Governors to advocate for this federal funding to ensure our system's fiscal resiliency. Thank you!	Debbie Klein	
The comments from Peralta are diverse and should be read	Christopher Weidenbach	

Board of Governors Meeting
Chat Box Report - July 20, 2020

From	Text
Bill Rawlings	Congratulations!

Board of Governors Meeting
 Chat Box Report - July 21, 2020

From	Text
Colm Fitzgerald	Congratulations all! Thank you for your dedication to our system and most importantly to the students you serve so well!
Colm Fitzgerald	Dolores, Excited to work with you!!!
Christina Castro	Public Forum Comments regarding Peralta:
	Anita Black
	Julina Bonilla
	Meredith Brown
	Donald Moore
	William Trego
	Jennifer Briffa
	Andrea Mullarkey
	Jennifer Shanoski
	Thomas Renbarger
	Linda Handy
	Kimberly King
	Richard Thoele
	Adam Balogh
	Alicia Caballero-Christenson
	Chris Weidenbach

July 15, 2020

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Oakley and Honorable Members of the Board of Governors:

This is in response to your request for a report from the Board and following the May 2020 presentation at the Board of Governors meeting regarding the fiscal health of the Peralta Community College District.

As I (or the District team) shared during the Board of Governors meeting, the Peralta Board of Trustees has taken very seriously the fiscal challenges of the District. As you may recall, it was the Peralta Board that reached out to the Chancellor's office for support and asked for assistance in addressing fiscal and operational issues that we saw plaguing the District for which we were seeking your support. It is still unclear to me how the Board's request for help has now turned into calling into question the Board's role and actions to support the District's fiscal health. I can unequivocally assure you that this Board is fully committed to the fiscal health of the District.

Specifically, after the 2018 election the Board has:

- Brought in new administrative leadership team including a seasoned community college administrator to serve as Chancellor;
- Engaged and welcomed the outside assistance both of the Fiscal Crisis Management Team and the Community College Brain Trust, leading to informative reports and providing a roadmap to help us correct prior administrative errors and omissions;
- Based on these recommendations, driven financial reforms and processes that have in a very short amount of time made dramatic progress is righting our fiscal ship;
- Engaged skilled financial consultants who helped us restructure unstable debt obligations (implemented by prior administrations as a failed attempt to deal with long-term health care obligations --Other Post-Employment Benefits); and
- Engaged the services of former Chancellor Bryce Harris to assist us in successfully recruiting a new chancellor in order to implement the recommendations described above.

The cumulative result of Board action is that of the 75 recommendations made by the Fiscal Crisis Management Team, 72 have been addressed in some manner. We also have a strong ending balance, supported by ongoing parcel tax revenues. We have a large construction bond

and have made significant progress in transitioning our administrative team towards an effective bond management program. Overall, in fact, as our Chancellor reported at the Board of Governors meeting in May, if FCMAT returned today, our financial risk score would be a manageable 5.3%, versus the 69% FCMAT reported after performing the initial financial study the Board requested. In the words of Jim Austin at your May meeting, this is a score that is “clearly below the threshold” [where intervention would be called for.] In other words, the Peralta Board of Trustees initiated actions that have led to a significant recovery from our fiscal cliff.

Of course, like many districts in the state we are facing enrollment challenges, impoverished and working class students trying to overcome serious life challenges in order to find success in their studies, and rising costs of living that have completely outmatched our ability to pay our employee salaries sufficient to support sustainable lives and healthy communities.

Given the dramatic progress our Board has made to insure greater fiscal stability we are frankly disturbed that greater attribution has not been given to the District and the Board of Trustees.

While we are providing specific responses to the questions you have asked below we must note that we remain concerned about this request and the Chancellor’s office failure to provide any tangible support of the District instead of fueling accusations and having a negative effect on the Board’s working relationship with our Chancellor and administrative team either through Mr. Austin or indirectly through this requested report. Please know that Mr. Austin has engaged in an “investigation” of trustees which directly resulted in rumors and innuendos being spread through the District. We had hoped Mr. Austin’s presence was a sign of your office’s support and a response to our initial request for assistance but it is clear that his work has created a wedge between the Board and the administration and we see it now affecting the Chancellor’s office in seeing the Board’s commitment or actions. In at least one way that this is apparent to us is your request for this report and the comments at the BOG meeting came without any support or examples or evidence and was in response to a report by our District that provided lots of evidence of significant progress being made by the District, under this Board.

Concern I

Clearly delineate the delegated authority that the Chancellor of Peralta Community College District has to conduct the business of the district and execute the goals of the Board.

Response:

The Peralta Board of Trustees has a clearly articulated set of Board Policies regarding the delegation of authority to the Chancellor. Please see the following Board Policies which we have attached as addenda to this letter:

- **Board Policy 2430, Delegation of Authority to the Chancellor;**
- **Board Policy 6100 Delegation of Authority, Business, and Fiscal Affairs;**

- **Board Policy 7110 Delegation of Authority for Human Resources;**

The Peralta Board has clearly delineated policies for the delegation of authority with which we are in complete compliance. We have been provided with no evidence to the contrary or even an explanation of what aspects of our delegation of authority we have allegedly violated.

Nonetheless, we would like to address one specific Board policy regarding our delegation of authority because it has recently been a source of “tension” between the Administration and the Board. This is Board Policy 7110, Delegation of Authority for Human Resources which states in part:

*The Board delegates authority **to the Chancellor** to authorize employment, fix job responsibilities, oversee collective bargaining, and approve personnel actions **except as noted below [emphasis added]:***

- ***The Board of Trustees [emphasis added]** will approve the appointment of management employees.*
- ***The Board [emphasis added]** will approve the appointment of non-academic temporary substitute and short-term employees who are paid for less than 75 percent of the fiscal year (except for professional experts, apprentices and student workers).*

In other words, while the Board has delegated to the Chancellor the right to approve hiring for faculty, and most staff, our human resources delegation policy specifically reserves to the Board of Trustees the right to make appointments of two specific classes of employees based on the needs and history of our District. This regular interchange of ideas and understandings was, until the arrival of our current chancellor, always carried out in closed session which provides the necessary confidentiality for frank discussion of personnel matters. Prior to the current chancellor, the result of this policy and practice, was the nearly-universal approval of all administrative hiring recommendations. In our collective memory, virtually every management recommendation has been approved by the Peralta Board through this policy and practice.

Keeping in mind that our board policy does not delegate final hiring of administrators to the chancellor, the board has nonetheless approved **every single management hiring recommendation except two**. Because this is a personnel matter, unfortunately, we are not at liberty to say more about the board’s decision not to approve these two candidates. We believe the Board has within in its authority to reject a chancellor’s hiring recommendation on a limited basis. It is clear to us that if the Board was never intended to exercise any discretion on these issues, they would not be brought to the Board for consideration. Again, the Board has and will continue to act in compliance with all of our Board policies and best practices in delegation of authority to our Chancellor.

Peralta Board of Trustees will engage in a systematic review of the Chancellor job description, Board/CEO goals, Chancellor's employment agreement and a review of Peralta Board Policies to ensure the board and the chancellor each stay within their respective roles as established in Board policies regarding delegation. Among our next steps, we have a PCCD Board Retreat scheduled for July 21, 2020 and facilitated by former Contra Costa Community College District Chancellor Helen Benjamin.

Concern II

Articulate how the Board will ensure that there will be no interference in the Chancellor's ability to execute their role, as enumerated in the employment contract, and the delegated authority granted by the Board.

Response:

This concern assumes, contrary to evidence, that the Board has interfered with the Chancellor's ability to execute her administrative role or that it has violated the terms of our mutually agreed-upon employment contract. This contract requires that the Chancellor both operate within board policies and to carry out board policies. It also requires the Board of Trustees to support the Chancellor in carrying out her administrative assignment, consistent with board policy. There are numerous references throughout the employment contract to roles, responsibilities and board policy. We have attached a copy of the Employment Agreement for your reference. Here are two specific sections from the Employment Agreement:

Chancellor shall be responsible to the Board for the proper administration of all affairs of the District. Chancellor shall administer and enforce policies established by the Board on behalf of the District and promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement District policies.

IX. Board Support of Chancellor

The Board shall operate at the policy level and shall delegate to the Chancellor the authority of the internal management of the district. The Chancellor will provide the Board with appropriate information, in a timely manner, in order that the Board may promulgate policy. The Chancellor, as Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for executing policies and implementing identified goals through the day-to-day management of the district. The Board and its individual members agree not to interfere with or to usurp the responsibilities of the Chancellor.

As noted above in our response to Concern #1, the delegation of authority to the Chancellor is spelled out in the various board policies included at the end of this response. We have not been informed of any Board actions that would constitute a breach of relevant board policy or of the terms of the employment contract or interference with the Chancellor's

administrative duties. In fact, the board has engaged in significant professional development regarding complex financial instruments in order to make informed choices and to exercise administrative oversight and decision-making in the finance area. The Board has engaged in policy revisions, approved internal financial reforms, tightened up budget processes, insisted on more regular administrative updates regarding all fiscal matters to insure that administrators are meeting stated policy goals and objectives, and overall worked with the chancellor to bring about vast improvements in the District's fiscal health, as measured by the District's FCMAT scoreboard which can be accessed by both the BOG and your staff. By any objective measure, this Board has acted with haste and cooperation to insure the fiscal health of the Peralta Community College District.

We would be pleased to discuss any documented specific concerns you or the Board of Governors may have about alleged interference with the Chancellor's contract or delegated authority. Otherwise, we encourage you and the BOG to look at the objective data regarding board actions and administrative fiscal outcomes.

The Board and Chancellor had to reschedule a retreat between the Board and the Chancellor which was called for in the contract. The retreat was initially scheduled and postponed due to the COVID 19 Shelter in Place orders; however, the Peralta Board of Trustees did hold a "Special Board" meeting on May 5, 2020 to discuss the Chancellor evaluation and expectations to ensure both the Chancellor and Board are clear on goals and path forward. Next steps include a rescheduled PCCD Board Retreat scheduled for July 21, 2020 led by Dr. Helen Benjamin.

Concern III

Articulate what steps the Board will take to provide comprehensive and mandatory professional development for all Board members. The professional development should be conducted by qualified and impartial individuals and include at a minimum topics such as: the role of boards in the governance of community college districts, the role of individual board members in relation to the role of the board, CEO/board relationship, and how to develop, implement, and measure district goals.

Response:

The Peralta Community College Board of Trustees is comprised of a skilled, experienced and committed group of elected officials who have collectively spent decades engaging in professional development as trustees. Though we do not always agree with each other, we are collectively committed to the welfare of our District and work hard to be good trustees.

We have scheduled a PCCD Board Retreat scheduled for July 21, 2020, facilitated by Dr. Helen Benjamin, former long-time Chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District. We believe that we will be able to clarify our respective roles and expectations with our Chancellor at that time. In the meanwhile, in addition to the ongoing internal trustee

education regarding budget, finance and other Peralta matters, members of the Peralta Board of Trustees will engage in a number of professional development trainings including: Virtual CCLC 2020 Annual Convention; 2021 Effective Trusteeship Workshop & Board Chair Workshops; ACCT Board Member Roles & Responsibilities. Board members have and continue to engage in statewide and national professional development.

Concern IV

Articulate what steps the Board is taking to ensure that confidentiality is enforced during all closed session items, that board members are well versed on the district's code of ethics, and that there is a transparent process of engaging with the Chancellor to evaluate their progress and to allow them to express any challenges faced in carrying out duties.

Action

The Peralta Board of Trustees takes the requirements of the Brown Act extremely seriously, especially as regards the sanctity of our closed sessions. Without expectations of confidentiality we cannot successfully do our jobs to establish policy, set direction for labor negotiations, review legal and personnel matters and handle the range of other sensitive matters appropriately and legally dealt with in closed session.

This issue, however, was not raised as a concern at all during the May BOG meeting; and as with other aspects of the concerns raised in Vice Chancellor Navarette's follow up letter, there was no specific data or instance of a breach of confidentiality cited. Accordingly, it is difficult to respond to allegations that might require a Board review of the District's code of ethics. Nonetheless, please be assured that the Board regularly engages in trainings regarding its legal responsibilities as trustees.

We do feel it necessary to share with you concerns regarding Mr. Austin's access and sharing of closed session information. Of deep concern to us is the fact that during Mr. Austin's presentation at the May BOG meeting he himself either knowingly or unknowingly referred to closed session matters in some of his comments to the BOG regarding potential litigation and confidential employee matters. We find it deeply disturbing that someone provided Mr. Austin with details of alleged employment concerns and confidential legal matters. That he cited such concerns as part of his report, especially of completely unsubstantiated claims regarding employees, was a serious breach of his responsibilities not to trade in rumor or speculation, especially about matters he neither fully understand nor has the right to know about. Where and how Mr. Austin came across this information is a matter that we sincerely hope you will pursue with him so that you can assist us in identifying apparent weaknesses in the seal of confidentiality we expect of our closed sessions. Mr. Austin also took it upon himself to investigate the Trustees and most of his questions were related to closed session. We hope that you will counsel Mr. Austin regarding the seriousness of his breach, and we would appreciate support from Mr. Austin in not seeking and sharing closed session information.

Again, if you are aware of actual (not rumors) violations of closed session confidentiality, please help us by providing us with specific details. In the meanwhile, we will bring this matter up with our Chancellor and ask her to engage in appropriate investigations to determine if there are ethics or Brown Act violations we must attend to. In addition, we are currently engaging in other internal investigations to determine through facts and evidence whether we are experiencing other violations of closed session confidentiality.

Finally, to respond to the very last concern, the Board and the Chancellor are currently engaging in a process of clarifying and articulating an evaluation instrument based on transparent performance goals with measurable standards that allow frequent and clear mutual feedback. A Board ad hoc committee has presented the Chancellor with a draft document and the Board will engage in a dialogue with the Chancellor to shape and finalize the evaluation instrument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juliana Bonilla". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Juliana Bonilla

Peralta Board of Trustees, Board President

Addenda

Board Policies

PCCD Chancellor Employment Contract

CC

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley

Chancellor Regina Stanback Stroud

Peralta Board of Trustees

Tom Epstein, President Board of Governors

Senator Nancy Skinner, District 9

Assembly Member Rob Bonta, District 18

Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, District 15

Honorable Loni Hancock, Former California State Senator

Honorable Tom Bates, Former Mayor of Berkeley

From: [Jennifer Shanoski](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: BOG Meeting | Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 1:54:31 PM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Good afternoon, Chancellor Oakley and honorable members of the Board of Governors,

My name is Jennifer Shanoski, and I am the president of the Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603. I write to you today representing some 1,000 faculty members in the Peralta Community College District - instructors, counselors, librarians, and nurses.

I am submitting these comments in response to questions raised about our district generally, our elected trustees specifically.

The Peralta Board of Trustees is a body of seven democratically elected leaders, representing hundreds of thousands of constituents in the six cities that make up our district's service area. Trustees have volunteered their time and energy to support our four-college district. In the past year, the fiscal health of our district has improved significantly and this is, in no small part, due to the dedication and perseverance of our trustees.

A May 2020 presentation to the Board of Governors (responded to in a July 15 letter from Peralta trustees) describes an antagonistic relationship between our board and chancellor. The board and chancellor, however, make it clear in a July 17 joint letter that they see things quite differently:

We want to assure everyone in the Peralta Community that our organization is strong. While this situation is not ideal, there is no doubt that we will continue to serve students and our community with dedication and compassion. The last 5 months have shown that not even a global pandemic can stop us from educating students and fulfilling our mission to be the social, financial and cultural engine of the communities we serve.

In nine short months, Dr. Stanback Stroud made tremendous progress in filling key leadership roles, strengthening the fiscal integrity and health of the district, modernizing the technology infrastructure, refining organizational structure and clarifying centralized and decentralized services, increasing the "productivity" in the offering of instruction, strengthening the relationship with the Peralta Colleges Foundation, and restructuring OPEB debt.

That board leadership and the chancellor strike such a note of comity and common cause

so soon after the latter's resignation suggests a professional, respectful, and productive relationship.

Whatever the feelings between board and chancellor, Education Code Section 70901 is clear about the fundamental importance of local authority: "The work of the board of governors shall at all times be directed to maintaining and continuing, to the maximum degree permissible, local authority and control in the administration of the California Community Colleges."

We encourage this body to continue supporting our district as we navigate the many challenges that face us all. That can be done by ensuring that our local leaders, elected by our community, continue to do the work they've begun.

Jennifer Shanoski, Ph.D.
President, Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT 1603

July 19, 2020

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Oakley and Honorable Members of the Board of Governors:

My name is Dr. Lawrence VanHook, President of the Peralta Association of African American Affairs (PAAAA). PAAAA was established in the academic year 1972/73. PAAAA is a member of the Western Region Council of Black American Affairs (WRBAA) and the first chapter of the National Council of Black American Affairs (NCBAA) which is an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). PAAAA is an organization designed to:

- To promote activities designed to sensitize community college personnel to the special needs of Black students in academic curriculum development, retention completion and success in the non-academic areas of personal counseling, career/vocational guidance, academic advisement, and financial aid
- To promote activities and programs that emphasize the professional development of Black leadership within colleges, and that recognize and support the implementation of diversity and inclusion.

Given the problems caused by individual board members, we are here to voice our concerns regarding the resignation of Chancellor Regina Stanback Stroud and the issues she outlined as the cause of her resignation. As a result, we are calling for the immediate investigation into those issues. A failure to address these issues in a timely manner will impact the enrollment and achievement gap of students of color—particularly, African American students.

In the May 19, 2020 Board of Governor's meeting, Chancellor Stroud and Peralta Board President Bonilla addressed the progress made by the Peralta Board of Trustees in making structural changes to the culture of the Peralta Colleges Board. However, in our opinion nothing has changed.

In fact, we have observed an increase in racism towards the Chancellor by some Board members: 1) "...the interference with fair and effective hiring practices, putting the district in legal jeopardy..."; 2) "...exhibiting hostility and contempt toward administration, particularly a pattern of practice against African American executive staff." PAAAA addressed an issue of racism toward Chancellor Stanback Stroud with a proclamation at the April 21, 2020 Peralta Community College District Board meeting. (See attached)

On several occasions as documented in Peralta board meeting minutes, some trustees undermined Chancellor Stanback Stroud's decision-making, hiring recommendations, and her ability to carry out CEO responsibilities. Overall, during Chancellor's Stroud's nine-month tenure, some members of the Peralta Board of Trustees continually overstepped their authority as outlined in the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

In closing, while some of the board members have stated that they are "pro- labor" we want to state that we are "pro-student". The students in our community must be our top priority.

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811
Page 2

During the current pandemic, and the demand for a climate of social justice, how well students are served is of the utmost importance. The current culture in Peralta is impeding our ability to address and remove barriers that hinder student success. We therefore request an immediate external investigation of the issues outlined in Chancellor Stanback Stroud's letter of resignation by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lawrence VanHook

Dr. Lawrence VanHook, President
Peralta Association of African American Affairs
Lvanhook@peralta.edu

Attachment: April 21, 2020 - A Resolution in Support of Chancellor Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

A Resolution in Support of Chancellor Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud

The Peralta Association of African American Affairs presents this resolution to the Peralta Board of Trustees, on Tuesday April 21, 2020 in support of Chancellor Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud who began her tenure October 2019, a mere 6 months ago. Dr. Stanback Stroud was hired to provide leadership for the Peralta Community College District and guide us through the most perilous period in the history of this district. In addition, Chancellor Stanback Stroud has provided leadership to:

1. work collaboratively and share ideas to provide seamless and consistent customer service where everyone is treated with fairness, civility and respect.
2. foster relationships built on trust by delivering consistent customer resolutions that inspire confidence and credibility.
3. [be] accountable to ethically utilize our resources in an efficient and effective manner.
4. encourage innovation and creativity through an open exchange of ideas, progressive thinking, and responsible risk-taking and

WHEREAS, the Peralta Board of Trustees via Chancellor Stanback Stroud wishes to ensure the district and campuses are adequately supported and able to continue providing educational services to students during this COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, students are making great efforts to continue their education in the face of uncertainty and challenges occasioned by the necessity to participate in courses remotely due to the existing state of emergency; and

Whereas the Chancellor has led the district in implementing more than 25 recommendations from the Financial Crisis Management Assistance Team Report thereby improving the District's fiscal integrity and stability; and

Whereas Chancellor Stanback Stroud has led the district in kicking off an \$800 million bond program to improve the community's access to excellent educational facilities; and

Whereas the Chancellor has led the modernization of contract oversight processes thereby eliminating timely processes performed manually, often resulting in delayed execution and payment; and

Whereas the Chancellor has reorganized the structure and functions of the district to clarify centralized and decentralized services in an effort to be responsive to the four colleges; and

Whereas Chancellor Stanback Stroud has led the development and implementation of a strong financial aid infrastructure that is decentralized to the colleges in service of our students; and

Whereas the Chancellor has built a strong and talented Executive Administrative Team including welcoming two new college presidents, General Counsel, and a Vice Chancellor of Finance; and

Whereas the Chancellor has led the district to maintain institutional and academic continuity amid a worldwide pandemic; and

Whereas the Chancellor and her leadership team is made up of a diverse, talented group of professionals who have committed their lives' work to service; and

Whereas the Peralta Board of Trustee must adhere to accreditation policies and procedures, California Educational Code, and Title 5 that allows the Chancellor to manage the district and hire a leadership team to accomplish the goals and objectives as stated; and

Whereas factions in the District constantly demonstrate and articulate racist notions of their entitlement and privilege toward the Chancellor and the diverse, talented administration; and

Whereas the Chancellor was welcomed to the district on her second day of employment and to opening flex day and multiple board meetings by Peralta Federation of Teachers (PFT) with protests and confrontations; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Peralta Association of African American Affairs on behalf of its members, stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Chancellor Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud, and recognizes the significant contributions she has achieved thus far and supports her accomplishments in the opening months of her tenure as Chancellor.

The Peralta Association of African American Affairs urgently and fervently request the Peralta Board of Trustees to stand in support and encourage all segments of the district to work collaboratively with Chancellor Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud as we face and will overcome these unprecedented challenges.

From: [Andrea Mullarkey](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Public Forum (Item 7.1)
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:48:10 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Good afternoon,

I am Andrea Mullarkey, an SEIU 1021 member and the Co-Chair of the Alameda County Committee on Political Education. We represent classified workers throughout the district and I want to speak to concerns members have about the possibility of state intrusion in the democratically elected governance of the district.

We are all familiar with the history of state intrusion through takeovers and appointments of non-elected decision-makers in education. There are times where this is an appropriate and important step to protect the institution. And there are times when it is not. Right now is not a time for this at Peralta. While there has been difficulty in the past, since the current board came to power in 2018 they have taken serious steps to address the financial issues in the district starting with an invitation to FCMAT to evaluate the district's finances as one of their first acts. They have engaged stakeholders, drafted reports, and provided a roadmap to correct errors and omissions from the prior administration. Based on these they have driven financial reforms, restructured unstable debt they inherited, established processes and made dramatic progress in correcting financial course. The cumulative effect is that 72 of the 75 recommendations made by the Fiscal Crisis Management Team have been addressed in some manner. We have a strong ending balance, support from ongoing parcel tax revenues, a large construction bond and financial data from mandatory reports does not support any finding of fiscal crisis worthy of state intervention.

Compared to other jurisdictions and compared to Peralta's own recent history, there is simply not the same level of concern and no just cause for taking such dramatic action as removing authority from the democratically elected voice of our community.

Thank you.

From: [Meredith Brown](#)
To: [Board Comments](#); [Castro, Christina](#)
Cc: [Linda Handy](#); lvahook3@gmail.com; [Anita Black](#); [GEORGE HOLLAND](#); naacpsecretary1051@gmail.com; cynthiaadams209@gmail.com Adams; [cheryl ward](#); [Meredith Brown](#); [Meredith Brown](#)
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Peralta Community College District
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 8:52:48 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Dear Ms. Castro:

Trustee Handy and I would each like to submit the following public comment for the Board of Governor's Meeting today as noted below and request that Board of Governors staff read the comments into the public record and that Trustee Handy and I each have a separate allocation of time for public comment. This comment is composed of excerpts from the letter submitted for public comment on Sunday evening.

- We request that the Board of Governors and the Chancellor of the California Community College District appoint a special trustee for the Peralta Community College District.
-
- Peralta's ability to act on its commitment to the Vision for Success and to close the equity gap for our service area and students the majority of whom are people of color, is weakened by a culture of racial aggression that has contributed to constant turn-over of District administrators.
-
- Peralta has had no shortage of talented leaders. However, the culture at Peralta is to undermine its CEOs leadership as they work to turn the institution around, and then oust the CEOs under a hail of criticism for systemic problems that the CEOs were precluded from addressing due to strong internal opposition and board interference.
-
- By way of example, from 2015 to 2018 Chancellor Laguerre filled vacancies in three of the four Peralta Colleges and led Peralta in restoring its four colleges to full accreditation. With the help of Vice Chancellor of Finance Romanier Johnson, Laguerre addressed Peralta's structural deficit to balance Peralta's budget² and developed a plan for addressing the OPEB debt liability for retiree health benefits.³ Laguerre also led Peralta in passing a \$200,000,000 Parcel Tax and \$800,000,000 facilities general obligation bond. Some Board members opposed the Bond and Parcel Tax, but prior to 2018, there was enough Board support to overcome some of the internal opposition.
-
- The facilities bond is currently being used to implement much needed technology

upgrades and the parcel tax is providing funding to ensure continuity of educational services to Peralta students. As is the pattern with Peralta, CEO's Laguerre's arrival was greeted with hope and anticipation. However, he was soon mired in a culture of harassment and intimidation that served to undermine his leadership and which even led to life-threatening health challenges.

-
- Evidence of the efforts to address Peralta's fiscal challenges are available for review in the records of public meetings⁴. What is less apparent is that the budget models and practices utilized at Peralta must be reformed to change the culture of inefficiency. These elements of Peralta's culture are insidious and difficult to see as a Trustee who does not get "into the weeds" of operational matters. Yet, on occasion, the impact of these practices can be disastrous.
-
- In the nine months that Chancellor Stanback Stroud has led Peralta, she has addressed 72 of FCMAT's 75 recommendations – changing the FCMAT score from 69% to an impressive 5.3%. Stanback Stroud has filled a key positions in administration at Peralta's colleges that were identified as creating structural weaknesses in Peralta's internal controls and service to students. At Merritt College 9 of the 12 administrative positions were vacant because it was so difficult to get administrative positions approved by the board.
-
- Dr. Stroud has also selected outstanding educators to lead Merritt College and Berkeley City College as president of those campuses. Dr. Stroud has addressed Peralta's structural deficit, and developed a process to reserve funds for payment of the debt service to on the OPEB Bonds which has been memorialized in a resolution recently adopted by the board. Additionally, Dr. Stroud has succeeded in refinancing the Retirement Board's OPEB Bonds. Despite her high quality performance, like Peralta's last Chancellor, Stroud's leadership was undermined by the Board.
-
- The recent departure of Peralta's Chancellor indicates that the cycle of destabilization and disruption is continuing. The Board's behavior towards District staff has exposed the District to risk of liability from litigation. The State Monitor made reference to the exposure to the threat of litigation in his report to the Board of Governors in the context of factors that may impact Peralta's fiscal health and was rebuked by the Board President in her July 15, 2020 letter that was not shared with or discussed with the Board before it was sent.
-
- It is important to note that the State Monitor was tasked with interviewing District staff as well as Interim Chancellor White and Chancellor Stroud CEO for the purpose of assessing the culture at Peralta, including concerns regarding board governance. The culture of intimidation and harassment and racial aggression which is considered an

unlawful employment condition under California law is acutely felt by many employees at Peralta. Peralta's exposure to liability due to Board behavior cannot reasonably be described as a confidential matter that would only be known through a violation of closed session confidentiality.

-
- The Peralta Community College Board of Trustees has demonstrated an unwillingness to modify its behavior regardless of training. The Board received training on governance principles in January 30, 2018 and March 27, 2018 and adopted a Board Handbook on March 27, 2018. Yet, the Board has continued to engage in the behavior that prompted the need to assign a State Monitor and provide a written response to the queries regarding board governance and behavior.
-
- There is no indication that this issue has been addressed or resolved. At the July 12, 2020 Board meeting, the Board leadership engaged in what appeared to be a violation of the Brown Act in an effort to manage the Chancellor's appointments of executive staff in a manner that conflicts with the Chancellor's duties and the terms of her employment contract as explained herein.

Meredith Brown, Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees

From: [Donald Moore](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: Public Comments for BOG Meeting 20-21
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 9:58:29 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Donald Saotome Moore, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology
Laney College
District Academic Senate President
Peralta Community College District

This public comment is in regards to the May BOG meeting comments by Chancellor Oakley to Peralta Board of Trustees President Julina Bonilla and former Chancellor Regina Stanback Stroud regarding the possibility of a state takeover of Peralta by imposing a Super Trustee.

The District Academic Senate opposes any state takeover with a Super Trustee on the grounds that Peralta is implementing its changes to secure our financial stability. As Jim Austin noted at that meeting of the Board of Governors, Peralta had a FCMAT rating of 5.3 or in Jim Austin's view 7 down from the high of 69 when the Peralta Board of Trustees requested FCMAT.

The colleges and district have been aggressively addressing the fiscal and IT issues. The Finance Department, the Board, and the Chancellor have restructured its OPEB bonds and everything is moving forward in our report to ACCJC in November.

The Board of Trustees have quickly moved to have an Acting Chancellor in place and are moving quickly to hire an Interim Chancellor for Peralta.

We are trying to be clear based on comments from Chancellor Oakley in May and hope that any comments in closed session at this meeting understands that there is a counter view grounded in our fiscal actions and a clear collective view that we do not want more confusion of a super trustee imposed or even put on the BOG agenda.

I would be happy to provided more detailed information about our Academic Senate position and why at a later point than this public comment.

Thank you,

Donald

Donald Saotome Moore, Ph.D.
Anthropology
District Academic Senate President

From: [Adam Balogh](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: Public Forum
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:23:53 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

I would like to have the following public comment presented to the Board of Governors at their meeting today. Thank you!

Adam Balogh
Laney College
Chair, Machine Technology Department

I am very disturbed by comments made by State Chancellor Oakley during the May 20th Board of Governors meeting which suggest the possibility of assigning a special trustee to oversee the Peralta Community College District. A state takeover would be nothing more than a power grab and would not result in improved education or services for Peralta's local community.

The Peralta governing board is accountable to its constituency and follows transparent processes as outlined in its administrative policies. Trustees have a deep commitment to the mission of the Peralta Community College District and the diverse students it serves. Subverting the democratically-elected governing board of Peralta would effectively disenfranchise the voters in this area of Alameda County, who are majority working class people of color. Decision-making and control of the budget would be taken away from the local community.

A special trustee accountable only to Sacramento would know very little about, and would have very little investment in, the issues which are important to East Bay residents and the Peralta community. Conversely, the current governing board has demonstrated its commitment to fighting systemic racism and championing social justice alongside its constituents. For example, after listening to public comments and testimonies, the governing board recently decided to end Peralta's contract with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. A special trustee might undo Peralta's efforts to replace the ASCO with new community-minded safety measures which make all, not just some, students feel safe on campus.

A special trustee could also undermine the community in other ways, like through the sale of district-owned lands. In 2017, community members successfully convinced the board to discontinue planning a stadium for the Oakland A's on the location of Peralta's district office. The community opposed the stadium because it would result in extreme rental cost hikes, displacement and gentrification of the current low-income community residents by market rate housing and the upscale restaurants and shops that would accompany the stadium. The community vehemently opposes the sale of Peralta's land for private development projects.

It should also be noted that the community which Peralta serves has been disproportionately impacted by both the Covid-19 pandemic and the attack on black lives. Assigning a special trustee in the middle of these two crises would destabilize the district and undermine our

efforts to provide education and services at a critical time for our community.

From: [Kimberly King](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: Public Forum
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:08:17 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

My name is Kimberly King. I am an African American female faculty person who teaches psychology and ethnic studies at Laney College, in the Peralta District. I've served on the Laney Faculty Senate for the past 4 years and am the Vice President for the Faculty union, PFT. I speak in support of the importance of local community control. I am confident that our Board of Trustees, current administration, faculty and classified staff are working and will continue to work successfully on our fiscal and academic health for student success and thriving.

As a very recent example of how the Peralta Board is working together with District staff and the Peralta community, just a few weeks ago, the Board *unanimously* voted to replace the Alameda County Sheriff's Office as a campus security at Peralta after listening to the outcries from the community. Meanwhile, a group of students, faculty and classified professionals calling ourselves "Black Minds Matter At Peralta" had been meeting around this issue, and called for the Chancellor and Board to form an ad-hoc committee to develop a new fabric of security, safety & mental health in place of the Sheriff's Office. The Chancellor agreed, and directed our Vice-Chancellor of General Services to coordinate with us. We will have our first meeting with VC Leigh Sata this Thursday, July 23rd and are happy for this collaboration for our students health and safety.

Thank you!
Kimberly

Kimberly R. King, Ph.D.
Psychology Instructor
Vice President, Peralta Federation of Teachers
Umoja-Ubaka Faculty Co-Coordinator
Laney College
900 Fallon St.
Oakland, CA 94607

From: [Jennifer Briffa](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: PUBLIC FORUM
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:34:19 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Hello members of the Board of Governors,
The State has no right to interfere with the Peralta Community College District matters in the middle of a pandemic and social unrest! Even in the midst of all of this, our students, faculty, staff, union leaders, administrators, and board have continued to work for the betterment and continued service of our students. There is no just cause for such an obtrusive action, and no grounds for that action to survive challenges and appeals.

Thank you,
Jennifer Briffa
C0-Chair of the Human Development Department
Faculty in Child Development
Coordinator of CDTC (Child Development Training Consortium)
Coordinator of (CECMP) California Early Childhood Mentor Program
Co-Liaison of the Merritt College CTE Committee
Academic Senate Member

Jennifer Briffa

C0-Chair of the Human Development Department
Faculty in Child Development
Coordinator of CDTC (Child Development Training Consortium)
Coordinator of (CECMP) California Early Childhood Mentor Program
Co-Liaison of the Merritt College CTE Committee

510-436-2549

From: [Leecee Caballero](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Cc: [Eleni Economides](#); [Donald Moore](#); [Chris Weidenbach](#)
Subject: Public Forum Comments for CCC BOG
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:03:12 AM

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Greetings,

I'm an Ethnic Studies faculty at Laney College and I would like to submit a public comment at the meeting this afternoon. Please let me know that you received this message and that this message will be shared. Below is what I would like to be shared during public comment:

Good afternoon. My name is Alicia Caballero-Christenson and I'm a full-time faculty in the department of Ethnic Studies and Mexican/Latin American Studies at Laney College. I'm commenting here today to give more context to the Peralta Board as an Oakland based Xicana community activist/faculty committed to racial and economic justice. Furthermore, I would like to share my deep concerns regarding the appointment of a 'super trustee' and state takeover.

Prior to working at Laney College, I was a full time community organizer at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights where I worked to mobilize young Black and Brown communities in the Oakland flatlands to engage in the political and electoral process. As I transitioned to Laney, I have worked with the larger Oakland community to ensure we elect anti-racist, anti-classist, pro-social-justice, pro-public education board members that are intersectional in approach and intune with our communities most marginalized students. The Board majority that began in 2018 is widely supported by the Peralta Educators and many grassroots activists, in part because of its focus on students and the people who work in the district. The new board majority strives towards building a more progressive student and community centered Peralta Community. For example, they listened to the voices of our formerly incarcerated students, survivors of state violence, and Black Lives Matter activists as they voted to terminate our contract with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department and committed to new community minded safety measures. As someone whose brother was murdered by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, this was both a personal and community victory that I'm deeply grateful for.

As you contemplate on your decision this week, I urge you to look at things beyond rigid one dimensional binaries and understand the complex landscape of our Peralta board and the city of Oakland. We are located in a city that is a locus for innovative grassroots intersectional organizing and union building. We hold ALL elected officials and high power decision makers accountable, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or religion. We have

become a district that heavily values shared governance, relationship building, collaboration, community organizing, and racial and economic agendas that put our most economically disenfranchised students first. A state takeover would likely threaten to reverse the development of new community minded safety measures and could invite ACSO back to Peralta, further worsening our ability to serve our most marginalized students.

The fight against the take-over is a fight for the self-determination of our community. As with CCSF and OUSD, the state is trying to silence our democratic voice that we have organized and fought for. We cannot, and will not let that happen. In a time of a global pandemic and community uprisings across the country, this moment requires healing and collaboration, not top down takeovers that delegitimize the democratic process

--

Alicia Caballero-Christenson
Ethnic Studies & Mexican/Latin American Studies Faculty
Laney College
Office Phone: 510.986.6988
Email: caballerochristenson@gmail.com

From: [Richard Thoele](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: Public Forum Comments
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:13:51 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Good Afternoon,

My name is Richard Thoele and am an SEIU 1021 member, the Peralta Chapter President and an Alameda County Area Representative on the SEIU 1021 Executive Board. I represent classified workers throughout the district and want to speak to concerns members have about the possibility of state appointment of a special trustee at Peralta.

The current democratically elected governance of the district has taken serious steps to address the financial issues in the district. As they recognized a need to evaluate and correct the course of our financial situation at Peralta, they took action to bring in FCMAT and the Collaborative Brain Trust. Other actions to improve our fiscal stability and to improve procedural oversight have improved as evidenced by an independent audit, the restructuring of our OPEB obligations, and per the report submitted by Fiscal Monitor Jim Austin to the State Chancellor's Office and Board of Governors. Furthermore, most of the recommendations made by FCMAT have been addressed, while we continue to receive support from healthy parcel tax revenues and a large construction bond.

In the two instances where the State made special appointment of a trustee to oversee community college districts, the justification for such action was predicated by allegations and findings of corruption and the gross mismanagement of financial resources. The Peralta Community College District does not fall within the legal parameters the State has previously identified as justification for a state takeover.

For these reasons and more, I am here to state that such dramatic action as a state takeover is unwelcome an unwarranted where conditions of corruption and fiscal instability does not exist.

Thank you.

Richard Thoele
Peralta Chapter President (PCCD)
Alameda County Area Representative (SEIU 1021)

From: [Thomas Renbarger](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Cc: [Thomas Renbarger](#)
Subject: Public Forum for July 20-21 Board of Governors meeting
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:52:39 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Dear Chancellor Oakley and the Members of the Board of Governors,

My name is Tom Renbarger. I am a professor of physics and astronomy at Merritt College, and I am also entering my second year as the Merritt College Academic Senate President.

I am writing in response to certain comments that Chancellor Oakley made at the end of the May Board of Governors meeting about the possibility of a change in the governance structure of the Peralta Community College District. I do not believe such action is necessary or warranted, and I shall give a synopsis of my reasoning as to why, from a Merritt College-centered perspective.

When Chancellor Stanback Stroud was first hired in October, Merritt College was severely under-administered. Rarely is it the case that faculty would call for more administrators to be hired, but Merritt suffered from crippling vacancies at Vice President of Student Services, two of our three instructional Deans, and the Director of Campus Life and Student Activities. Furthermore, our college President decided to retire for health reasons shortly after the Chancellor's assumption of her role.

In the face of this daunting administrative shortage at Merritt, the outgoing Chancellor, with the consent of the Peralta Board of Trustees as stipulated in PCCD Board Policy 7110, worked swiftly and tirelessly to staff these managerial positions so vital to the proper functioning of Merritt College. While it is regrettable that the relationship between the Chancellor and the Board deteriorated in such a rapid and dramatic manner, in my judgment both parties were acting in a manner that they believed to be consonant with the best interests of the district. The PCCD Board of Trustees, as it is presently constituted, has my confidence that they will continue to act in the best interests of the district.

I thank you for your attention.

From: [William TREGO](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: Public Forum
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 11:26:49 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Dear Board of Governors,

I wish to share with you my deep concern over comments made by Chancellor Ortiz-Oakley at the Board's May 19, 2020 meeting concerning the Peralta Community College District. Particularly, I wish to challenge the chancellor's suggestion that a special trustee may be necessary for the PCCD. This comment was made after fiscal monitor Jim Austin reported the great strides that have been made to improve the fiscal health of the district, and after Peralta Chancellor Regina Stranback Stroud clearly delineated the progress made to address the recommendations from the FCMAT report. The appointment of a special trustee would silence the voices of the voters of Alameda county by upending the authority vested in their democratically elected Board of Trustees, and would negate the shared governance processes ensured by Title 5. As Peralta Board President Bonilla suggested in her comments at the May 19 BoG meeting, the district is in the hands of a capable board of trustees who are committed to the mission and values of the institution. While Chancellor Ortiz-Oakley alleges that the Peralta Board of Trustees is micromanaging its CEO, most examples cited are examples of the Peralta board acting within the scope of the district administrative procedures. The Peralta BoT is more than capable of addressing any negative cultural issues--real or perceived. I strongly feel the appointment of a special trustee to the PCCD would represent overreach on the part of the Board of Governors, and considering the relative financial stability of the PCCD is totally unmerited in this particular case. Interference with local control of public education institutions should be reserved for the most extreme cases—Peralta is far from that point. Democracy is not always pretty, but it is our way of life.

Respectfully Submitted,
William E. Trego
Instructor
Laney College
Co-chair, Budget Advisory Committee
Faculty Senator

July 20, 2020

Via Electronic Mail

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Oakley and Honorable Members of the Board of Governors:

We are both members of the Board of Trustees for the Peralta Community College District. We are writing to request that the Board of Governors and the Chancellor of the California Community College District appoint a special trustee for the Peralta Community College District. This letter serves to inform you and the Board of Governors of the practices of the Peralta Trustees that contribute to the high turnover of administrators, inefficient business practices and the consistent failure of the Peralta Board to support a Chancellor in making the changes necessary to achieve fiscal and operational stability at Peralta and improve the institutional cultures. Please note that the letter provided on July 15, 2019 from the Peralta Board President was neither reviewed nor approved by the Peralta Board and the document was not shared with the Board prior to it being submitted to the State Chancellor.

A Culture of Discord and Intimidation

The Peralta Community College District is experiencing a persistent destabilization resulting in large part from a culture of structural racism and anti-blackness that has undermined the efforts of the executive administration to make the necessary reforms to implement financial controls and change the culture at Peralta to be student centered and efficient for the benefit of our students, faculty and staff. This climate and pattern of racial hostility has been predominantly aimed at Black executive leaders serving Peralta — including our two recent Chancellors, Jowell Laguerre and Stanback Stroud; Interim Chancellor Francis White, Vice Chancellors of Finance, Romaneir Johnson and Christine Williams; Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance, Al Harrison, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Chanelle Whittaker, and Interim General Counsel and Chief of Staff, Delisle Warden.

Peralta's African American administrators, including the Chancellor, are frequently addressed in public board meetings in a hostile, dismissive and condescending manner that would constitute harassment. This behavior has persisted for years and is evidenced in tape recorded meetings of the Board. African American administrators and staff have described feeling intimidated and threatened by members of the Board. Most recently, in a board meeting during public comment a white faculty member complained that he would not be led by his inferiors, referencing the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, and General Counsel, all African American executives. This was done

during a two-hour attack on the administration in public comments. While it is understood that criticism in public comment is permitted, the racial aggressions spoken by members of the internal Peralta community should have alerted the Board President to the opportunity to remind the meeting participants that racial aggressions are not necessary to communicate dissatisfaction with a position or action taken at the Districts and such comments erode Peralta's efforts to create an inclusive environment.

At the subsequent board meeting, a coalition of Black faculty members and community members registered their concerns about such an unchecked climate of racial hostility. While the Board President did not clarify or comment, one Board member noted that "hate speech is protected speech". It fell to the Student Trustee to give an impassioned plea to the Board to indicate that such behaviors towards African Americans in the district are hurtful and harmful and that a lack of sensitivity to such matters demonstrates a lack of cultural competency.

Peralta's ability to act on its commitment to the Vision for Success and to close the equity gap for our service area and students, the majority of whom are people of color, is weakened by a culture of racial aggression that has contributed to constant turn-over of District administrators. The core of this problem appears to be a struggle for control of the limited resources available at Peralta. Where the Chancellors desire to invest monies in to the information technology system, facilities and student equity programs to build a stronger Peralta; members of the Board oppose those efforts. By way of example, student achievement has not been the focus of a Board Retreat since 2017.¹.

Peralta's African American administrators, including the Chancellors, are frequently addressed in public board meetings in a dismissive and condescending manner that would constitute as harassment. This behavior has persisted for years and is evidenced in tape recorded meetings of the Board. African American administrators and staff have described feeling intimidated and threatened by members of the Board on numerous occasions.

In the nine months that Chancellor Stanback Stroud has led Peralta, she has addressed 72 of FCMAT's 75 recommendations – changing the FCMAT score from 69% to an impressive 5.3%. Stanback Stroud has filled a key positions in administration at Peralta's colleges that were identified as creating structural weaknesses in Peralta's internal controls and service to students. At Merritt College 9 of the 12 administrative positions were vacant because it was so difficult to get administrative positions approved by the board.

Dr. Stroud has also selected outstanding educators to lead Merritt College and Berkeley City College as president of those campuses. Dr. Stroud has addressed Peralta's structural deficit, and developed a process to reserve funds for payment of the debt service to on the OPEB Bonds which has been memorialized in a resolution recently adopted by the

¹ Peralta Board Retreat 11-8-17

[https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/ATJTF78C61B/\\$file/Student%20Success%20Board%20Presentation_November%202018.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/ATJTF78C61B/$file/Student%20Success%20Board%20Presentation_November%202018.pdf)

board. Additionally, Dr. Stroud has succeeded in refinancing the Retirement Board's OPEB Bonds.

With regard to facilities, Dr. Stroud had led her team in addressing repairs mandated under the Americans With Disabilities Act and finished key projects such as the "Blue Telephone Safety Project" and Repairs to the Laney Tower. And of great importance, she led the District in getting the colleges off a year-long stint of Firewatch. These accomplishments were made in an environment of orchestrated resistance and protest from interest groups within Peralta and an absence of Board support.

Peralta has had no shortage of talented leaders. However, the culture at Peralta is to undermine its CEOs leadership as they work to turn the institution around, and then oust the CEOs under a hail of criticism for systemic problems that the CEOs were precluded from addressing due to strong internal opposition and board interference.

A Cyclical Pattern of Destabilization

By way of example, from 2015 to 2018 Chancellor Laguerre filled vacancies in three of the four Peralta Colleges and led Peralta in restoring its four colleges to full accreditation. With the help of Vice Chancellor of Finance Romanier Johnson, Laguerre addressed Peralta's structural deficit to balance Peralta's budget² and developed a plan for addressing the OPEB debt liability for retiree health benefits.³ Laguerre also led Peralta in passing a \$200,000,000 Parcel Tax and \$800,000,000 facilities general obligation bond. Some Board members opposed the Bond and Parcel Tax, but prior to 2018, there was enough Board support to overcome some of the internal opposition. The facilities bond is currently being used to implement much needed technology upgrades and the parcel tax is providing funding to ensure continuity of educational services to Peralta students. As is the pattern with Peralta, CEO's Laguerre's arrival was greeted with hope and anticipation. However, he was soon mired in a culture of harassment and intimidation that served to undermine his leadership and which even led to life-threatening health challenges.

Evidence of the efforts to address Peralta's fiscal challenges are available for review in the records of public meetings⁴. What is less apparent is that the budget models and practices

² August 21, 2018 Budget Workshop, presenting Adopted Budget for Year Ending June 30, 2019)
[https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/B3V5S3788F5F/\\$file/FY18-19%20ADOPTED%20BUDGET%20PRESENTATION.pptx.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/B3V5S3788F5F/$file/FY18-19%20ADOPTED%20BUDGET%20PRESENTATION.pptx.pdf)

³ See OPEB July 12, 2016 Board Presentation
[https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/APFQ25651E08/\\$file/OPEB%20July%2012%202016%20Board%20Presentation.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/APFQ25651E08/$file/OPEB%20July%2012%202016%20Board%20Presentation.pdf)

⁴ **2019-2020 Budget**

Budget Education Presentation – Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Workshop presentation delivered at the September 18, 2018 Board Budget Workshop. The presentation includes written budget assumptions and multiyear projections that are reasonable, clearly articulated and aligned with the signed State budget and the SCFF.

2018-2019 Budget

Adopted Budget for Year Ending June 30, 2019 (Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget) which includes written budget

utilized at Peralta must be reformed to change the culture of inefficiency. These elements of Peralta’s culture are insidious and difficult to see as a Trustee who does not get “into the weeds” of operational matters. Yet, on occasion, the impact of these practices can be disastrous.

Specifically, in 2018 Peralta had a budgeting process whereby the Budget Governance Committee will not permit the budget for the Department of General Services (“DGS”) (the department from which facilities costs are paid) to be loaded until January and facilities costs are paid with salary savings. The Peralta Budget requires that facilities repair and maintenance costs are attributable to the District Office budget even though the repairs are made at all of Peralta’s colleges. Also, the funds for facilities repair and maintenance are not loaded in the financial system to pay vendors at the time that the budget is adopted by the Board, thus leaving the facilities budget short of funds to perform tasks anticipated in the adopted budget. An example of the problems created by this practice is that the funds earmarked to pay the contract for a vendor to perform extensive and urgent fire and life safety repair at Laney College were not loaded when the board formally adopted the budget — consequently, the repair work was not performed for lack of funds. The District had to pay tens of thousands of dollars per week for a security service to perform a manned fire watch at Laney College to ensure the safety of students and the campus property. This situation lasted for months and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars before the work that was included in the budget was could be completed. The delay resulting from not loading the budget and reallocation of the facilities monies caused the District to be unable to pay the vender and start the project as scheduled even though the Board and Chancellor had worked together to avoid that scenario. We lost our quoted price and our project start date and had to renegotiate both items.

Chancellor Stanback Stroud changed the budget model and required the budget for the DGS to be loaded upon adoption of the tentative budget. In taking this action, Stanback Stroud freed the Executive Staff to marshal sufficient funds to pay the fire, life, safety contractor to perform the necessary work at Laney College to end th fire watch. This corrective action occurred soon after Dr. Stroud arrived at Peralta. Even after experiencing profound impact of the previous budget practice, the 2020-2021 tentative budget was criticized by Board Members at the July 12, 2020 Board Meeting for the increase in the District Budget for DGS and construction related legal costs. Chancellor Stroud explained that the budget for DGS had been loaded so that facilities repairs could be performed rather than waiting until January. T

assumptions multiyear projections that are clearly depicted in charts and graphs explaining budget development and projections based upon the SCFF. (August 21, 2018 Board Budget Workshop) The budget was balanced as per the August 21, 2018 meeting.

Budget Education Presentation – Adopted Budget Presentation presented at the August 21, 2019 Board Budget Workshop of the Peralta Community College Board of Trustees .Given that the SCFF was implemented in 2018, SCFF would not be reflected in budgets prior to the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

2017-2018 Budget

The District has included reasonable, clearly articulated budget assumptions that are aligned with the state budget prior in the following documents:

Similar to Chancellor Stanback Stroud's experience with FCMAT and Collaborative Brain Trust, Chancellor Laguerre and the Board engaged consultants to provide recommendations regarding Peralta's business operations and internal controls as noted in the report BRJ Associates Report presented at the May 8, 2018 Board Meeting . The BRJ Report provided a detailed analysis of the Department of General Services and the Office of Finance and Administration and was shared with District personnel through the District's Shared Governance Bodies. The BRJ Report made key recommendations that parallel the recommendations made by FCMAT and the Collaborative Brian Trust. However, Chancellor Laguerre's tenure was too short to implement the recommendations.

In 2018, the Board also developed trustee work groups to discuss policy issues in the areas of Finance, Campus Safety and Student Enrollment and Outreach. These trustee workgroups/committees operated pursuant to the Brown Act. However, they were discontinued in 2019. At the time that the committees were operating, members of the Board stated that there was insufficient transparency, although there were frequent board workshops on budget matters enrollment management and committee meetings regarding these topics. Once the Chancellor was ousted and the board membership changed with the 2018 election, the calls for transparency ended, the committees were discontinued and Interim Chancellor White began her period to calm before the overt opposition .

Peralta Needs the Support of a State Trustee

The recent departure of Peralta's Chancellor indicates that the cycle of destabilization and disruption is continuing. The Board's behavior towards District staff has exposed the District to risk of liability from litigation. The State Monitor made reference to the exposure to the threat of litigation in his report to the Board of Governors in the context of factors that may impact Peralta's fiscal health and was rebuked by the Board President in her July 15, 2020 letter that was not shared with or discussed with the Board before it was sent:

It is important to note that the State Monitor was tasked with interviewing District staff as well as Interim Chancellor White and Chancellor Stroud CEO for the purpose of assessing the culture at Peralta, including concerns regarding board governance. The culture of intimidation and harassment and racial aggression which is considered an unlawful employment condition under California law is acutely felt by many employees at Peralta. Peralta's exposure to liability due to Board behavior cannot reasonably be described as a confidential matter that would only be known through a violation of closed session confidentiality.

Concern I

Clearly delineate the delegated authority that the Chancellor of Peralta Community College District has to conduct the business of the district and execute the goals of the Board.

Response:

Chancellor Stanback Stroud has received resistance to her efforts to fill key positions referenced in the FCMAT report. The Chancellor's recommendation to hire a Vice Chancellor of Human Resources was voted down by the Board majority in December 2019. Her

recommendation for the Director of Marketing, Communications and Public Relations was not approved in March. Most recently on July 14, 2020, three renewals of interim contracts for the General Counsel/Chief of Staff, Public Information Officer, Risk Manager, and Vice Chancellor of Instruction at Merritt College were tabled by the Board majority. The board voted not to renew the contract for the General Counsel/Chief of Staff during a closed session portion of a special meeting although the General Counsel/Chief of Staff position was not listed on the agenda for action as it should have been in accordance with the Brown Act.

In support of its decisions, the Board President has stated in a communication dated July 15, 2020 that Board Policy 7110 provides that the Board retains the right to appoint administrative positions. However, Board Policy 7110 specifically states that the board “will approve the appointment of management employees”, which language is distinct from other intentional language in Board Policies which states that the Board will “consider approval”. As we well know, an action to approve an employment contract must be taken in open session pursuant to the Brown Act for transparency. Bonilla has suggested that that the Board can manage the Chancellor’s choices regarding appointment of employees. Bonilla’s analysis ignores the ACCJC Governance Standard on Leadership and Governance which requires clear delineation between designated responsibilities of the governing board and the Chancellor. The Board reviews and approves the candidates that are recommended by the Chancellor from a fiscal and governance perspective to ensure that the hires are appropriately within the organizational structure of the institution and that the positions are accounted for in the budget. It is not the Board’s role to make appointments as suggested by Board President Bonilla.

Furthermore, over our repeated objections, at the July 12, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board President and Vice President included on the agenda a closed session meeting under the designation of “Public Employee Appointment, Dismissal and Discipline”. The closed session did not appear to comply with the Brown Act in that the closed session did not involve discussion of a public employee personnel matter and involved policy matters that were required to have been discussed in open session. After the meeting, the Board voted down renewals of interim appointments as described above.

Concern II

Articulate how the Board will ensure that there will be no interference in the Chancellor’s ability to execute their role, as enumerated in the employment contract, and the delegated authority granted by the Board.

Response:

The Board has demonstrated unwillingness over time to refrain from interfering with the Chancellor’s ability to execute her role as enumerated in the employment contract. Specifically, prior to resigning, the Chancellor appointed Steve Crow as Interim President of the College of Alameda and Rudy Besikof as Interim President of Laney College. I have been informed by concerned staff at Peralta that Board President Bonilla has directed that Donald Miller is to be Acting President of College of Alameda, without consulting the Board and in

contradiction of the authority exercised by Dr. Stroud as Chancellor. I have been further informed that Vice Chancellor of Finance, Carla Walter has been appointed Interim Chancellor. Dr. Walter is the newest member of the Peralta Executive Team having arrived at the District in or around March 2020. If she is being asked to reverse the decisions that were made by the Chancellor, she may be unaware that such action is inappropriate. She may also be aware that her appointment must be approved by the Board in open session. In any case, these recent actions coupled with the cycle of disruption that Peralta has been experiencing over the past few years demonstrate the immediate need for a State Trustee.

Dr. Stroud's employment contract states that:

Chancellor shall be responsible to the Board for the proper administration of all affairs of the District. Chancellor shall administer and enforce policies established by the Board on behalf of the District and promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement District policies.

IX. Board Support of Chancellor

The Board shall operate at the policy level and shall delegate to the Chancellor the authority of the internal management of the district. The Chancellor will provide the Board with appropriate information, in a timely manner, in order that the Board may promulgate policy. The Chancellor, as Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for executing policies and implementing identified goals through the day-today management of the district. The Board and its individual members agree not to interfere with or to usurp the responsibilities of the Chancellor.

(Emphasis added.)

The languages of Dr. Stroud's employment contract which prohibits the Board from interfering with the responsibilities of the Chancellor have been disregarded as indicated by the actions described herein.

Concern III

Articulate what steps the Board will take to provide comprehensive and mandatory professional development for all Board members. The professional development should be conducted by qualified and impartial individuals and include at a minimum topics such as: the role of boards in the governance of community college districts, the role of individual board members in relation to the role of the board, CEO/board relationship, and how to develop, implement, and measure district goals.

Response:

The Peralta Community College Board of Trustees has demonstrated an unwillingness to modify its behavior regardless of training. The Board received training on governance principles in January 30, 2018 and March 27, 2018 and adopted a Board Handbook on March 27, 2018. Yet, the Board has continued to engage in the behavior that prompted the need to assign a State Monitor and provide a written response to the queries posed in this letter. In short, the

Board has had extensive training and there has been no abatement of the Board's micromanagement and interference with the Chancellor's duties and authority. As noted herein, three of the four appointments for existing employees were separated out from other appointments and voted down by the Board at the July 12, 2020 meeting. The Board then called a special meeting, and voted not to approve the contract of the acting General Counsel during a sensitive period where the District has exposure to litigation as explained by the State Monitor in his report to the Board of Governors. Again, the position of Chief of Staff/General Counsel was not listed on the agenda as required by the Brown Act and the position was the renewal of an interim appointment by the Chancellor.

Concern IV

Articulate what steps the Board is taking to ensure that confidentiality is enforced during all closed session items, that board members are well versed on the district's code of ethics, and that there is a transparent process of engaging with the Chancellor to evaluate their progress and to allow them to express any challenges faced in carrying out duties.

Action

There is no indication that this issue has been addressed or resolved. At the July 12, 2020 Board meeting, the Board leadership engaged in what appeared to be a violation of the Brown Act in an effort to manage the Chancellor's appointments of executive staff in a manner that conflicts with the Chancellor's duties and the terms of her employment contract as explained herein.

Conclusion

The recent departure of Peralta' Chancellor indicates that the cycle of destabilization and disruption is continuing. The repetitious cycle of disruption noted in this letter evidences the need for a State Trustee to provide stability of operations and continuity of education at Peralta. We have no confidence that the board is willing or able to behave in a manner that will support a Chancellor who will implement the reforms necessary to achieve fiscal stability and improve the culture at Peralta.

Sincerely,

/ S/ /S/

Peralta Board of Trustees, Meredith Brown and Linda Handy

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Chancellor Regina Stanback Stroud
Peralta Board of Trustees
Tom Epstein, President Board of Governors
Senator Nancy Skinner, District 9
Assembly Member Rob Bonta, District 18
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, District 15

Honorable Loni Hancock, Former California State Senator
Honorable Tom Bates, Former Mayor of Berkeley

From: [Chris Weidenbach](#)
To: [Board Comments](#)
Subject: SLIGHT CORRECTION: Public Forum -- Peralta Governance
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:37:42 AM

[External Email: Do not click any links or open attachments if you do not trust the sender and know the content is safe]

Would you please substitute this revised statement? -- I would greatly appreciate it!

Peace

CW

Public Forum statement:

An inaccurate narrative about the Peralta Community College District has been given a dangerous level of credence, and needs to be interrupted and corrected. In the May BOG meeting, at least two people made mention of the Peralta Board "micro-managing District staff" and fueling "conflict and tension". I urge Chancellor Oakley and others on the Board of Governors to talk with faculty and classified professionals who lead and participate in our Colleges' and District-wide Senates, so you can hear from multiple perspectives and get a more fully developed picture of the state of our District as a whole.

Adherence to Shared Governance policies and principles is what we need at Peralta -- and it's happening on a large scale. Substantial conflict and tension within the District over the past several years has been caused mainly by several Chancellors failing to adequately collaborate and consult with Classified Senate and Faculty Senate leaders, or failing to "primarily rely upon" recommendations from those bodies. The current Board has signaled their commitment to respecting shared governance policies and principles, so educators at Peralta have good reason to believe that new leadership will work with duly elected leaders from all four Colleges to truly do planning and budgeting the way our Administrative Procedures and Board Policies say we do.

Thank you for considering the broad input that should provide a more accurate understanding of Peralta's challenges -- and our strengths.

CHRIS WEIDENBACH (WHY-den-bok)
Faculty Accreditation Coordinator
English department chair
Laney College, Oakland