

Good evening. I'm Matthew Goldstein, president of the Peralta Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1603. PFT represents over 1,000 full- and part-time instructors, counselors, librarians, and nurses, many of whom—I'm here to tell you—are growing anxious.

So tonight, as you can see, many of my PFT brothers and sisters have taken time out of their packed schedules to join me in making clear to the board the urgency that faculty feel about at last settling the third and final year of our soon-to-expire contract.

As I pointed out at this podium back on March 24, negotiations have been creeping along, and faculty members are justifiably worried that no deal will be reached before the end of the school year. And as I said last month, any delays now would almost certainly mean that we'd still be working on closing out 2014-15 at the start of 2015-16.

And there's simply no reason for the district to put off making an agreement any longer. The last board meeting featured a budget workshop, at which all of the rosy assessments of Peralta's financial health were more than confirmed—the district's in the strongest financial shape it's been in in years. There's no credible reason for the district not to wrap

things up right away. Delays are costly to the faculty and costly to the peace of the district—all the more so, given the district's uncertain accreditation future and coming changes in the chancellor's office.

As I make the case for fair treatment and reasonable consideration of all faculty, full- and part-time, it's crucial to remember that faculty have the most face-to-face contact with students. It is in those personal interactions with faculty that students are inspired to grow, to learn, and to pursue their goals. Treating faculty fairly and respectfully is fundamental to creating an environment in which faculty can do their best work, feel supported, and create an atmosphere conducive to real student success.

Now I'd like to review some salient details about the district budget, and faculty's contributions to overall district health over the last several years:

*Audited budget reports from the last four years show the reserve was 7% in 10-11, 11% in 11-12, 13% in 12-13, and 14% in 13-14; at the April 14 board budget workshop, interim CFO Susan Rinne shared district projections that the reserve would hit \$21 million, or 16.3%, next year. So by next year, Peralta's reserve will be more than three times the state requirement.

*Further, audited budget reports show that the district has understated projected revenues by \$8 million over the last four years.

Actual audited numbers demonstrate that the district has consistently lowballed income, even as employee salaries have continued to wither due to inflation.

*The district has received, in addition to Prop 30 monies, millions from the Measure B parcel tax, COLA dollars, and funding for equity and student success. Growth money is also on the table for the first time in years. Faculty worked overtime to pass Prop 30 and Measure B, walking precincts, phone banking, and supporting the campaigns generously.

*Peralta faculty made major sacrifices to keep the district solvent during the depth of the financial crisis, forgoing raises and tolerating deteriorating working conditions to ensure the colleges could continue to serve students. Now that the financial picture has brightened dramatically, it's time for faculty to be made whole.

And let me add that many districts in the Bay 10 have already given their faculties significant increases this year: San Mateo faculty got 3.7%; San Jose-Evergreen faculty got 4.3%; College of Marin faculty got 4%; Foothill-De Anza faculty got 2.5% across the board and an additional 7.5% for part-timers. Peralta must keep pace with neighboring districts if it's going to compete for top faculty.

PFT fervently hopes that we can get something worked out at the next negotiating session, set for tomorrow morning, and that the board will move quickly to approve any deal. We've got many issues to take up in the

next round of comprehensive talks, but they're unlikely to get the attention they deserve until leftover bottom-line issues are dealt with.

Thanks for your time. I look forward to coming back to this podium in a couple of weeks to announce a ratification vote.