

PCCD Unification Taskforce Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 12, 2026, from 12pm to 2pm, PCCD Boardroom

Taskforce Goal: Develop an actionable plan for transforming into a three-college district, including programmatic, operational, accreditation, and communication components, to ensure a smooth and equitable transition.

Taskforce Members present in-person:

- ✓ Tammeil Gilkerson (Facilitator, Administrator)
- ✓ Nancy Cayton (Service Employees International Union)
- ✓ Richard Thoele (Service Employees International Union)
- ✓ Chungwai Chum (Peralta Classified Senate)
- ✓ Yang Hu (Peralta Classified Senate)
- ✓ Jennifer Shanoski (Peralta Federation of Teachers)
- ✓ Leslie Blackie (District Academic Senate)
- ✓ Eva Jennings (Administrator)
- ✓ Gary Albury (Administrator)
- ✓ Amy Lee (Administrator)
- ✓ David Johnson (Administrator)
- ✓ Rebecca Opsata (Administrator)
- ✓ Kristina Hoessl (Student)
- ✓ Bianca Ramirez (Student)

Taskforce Members online or absent:

- Jeff Sanceri (Peralta Federation of Teachers) ONLINE
- Rosa Perez (Student) ONLINE
- Tom Renbarger (District Academic Senate) Absent

Guests:

- Student Trustee Ahyan Malik
- Mark Johnson (notetaker)

1. Welcome

Mark Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:15pm with a quorum present and welcomed those attending in-person and online. He explained that Chancellor Gilkerson was delayed by a prior event and had asked that he get the meeting started without her, and that she would arrive soon (Tammeil arrived around 12:30pm).

2. Public Comment

No public comments were made. No hands were raised in the Zoom room.

3. Review of Notes from the February 12, 2026, Meeting

The [notes from the February 12th meeting](#) were reviewed and approved without changes.

4. Communication plan – FAQ and Shared Governance Summit

Mark provided an update on Unification Plan Communication. The new [FAQ workshopped and approved at the February meeting is now live on the Unification/Transformation website](#). [Slides from the February 27th summit](#) are [posted on the Transformation site](#). An article in *Peralta Gems* is forthcoming to provide broader access to these materials. Discussion occurred regarding proactive outreach to students and employees to provide the FAQ. Mark agreed to send a district-wide announcement via email and create campus flyers to direct students and staff to the new Unification FAQ.

5. Review BP 1100 and BP 2510

The Taskforce discussed the necessary revisions to [board policy and administrative procedures \(BPs and APs\)](#) to reflect the reorganization into a three-college district.

[BP 1100 The Peralta Community College District](#) needs amendment to reflect the change from four colleges to three (College of Alameda, Berkeley City College, and the proposed Oakland City College). It was noted that BP 2510 doesn't need changing but AP2511 does. The Taskforce acknowledged that many BPs and APs (specifically AP 2511) require technical updates. Leslie and Tom / DAS has already done some work here and Leslie will share out their materials after the meeting.

We also briefly discussed the possibility of changing the district's name (removing "Peralta") simultaneously with unification. There seemed to be consensus that updating the district name while also updating college names would make sense. Richard asked about costs for changing the colleges' and district name. Tammeil referenced COO Nelson's preliminary, non-scientific estimate of **\$10 million** (wayfinding, signage, athletic facilities, ADA compliance). Tammeil pointed out that much of this cost is associated with existing facility needs (needs updating whether with a new name or not) and could be funded via bond-eligible projects rather than the General Fund. Tammeil shared her idea that we could pick a new "P" word so the district would continue as PCCD. There was some enthusiasm for Jeff's previously proposed name, The People's Community College District. It was agreed that changing the district name should be agendized at a future meeting and continued.

6. Student Services Listening & Ideation Session Feedback

Gary asked the taskforce to take a few minutes to review the [Unification Taskforce Student Services Listening Sessions Summary Report](#). This report provides insight based on listening sessions with six programmatic areas: EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS/NextUp, Puente, Umoja, Student Accessibility Services (SAS), Student Life, and Veterans. He shared that engagement was high; discussions centered on "pain points" and "ideal thinking" for the unification. He then shared the System Design Principles that emerged, which were pulled from the Executive Summary:

1. Design the system around the student experience and not internal structures
2. Align infrastructure while preserving campus identity and program culture
3. Build shared operational systems to reduce duplication and increase capacity
4. Invest in staffing stability, training, and role clarity
5. Center belonging, equity, and relationship-based support

Jennifer noted that the same themes emerged from the earlier staff survey, and Richard echoed he's received similar staff feedback for years.

Meeting guest Student Trustee Ahyan Malik noted the opportunity for closer collaboration across the colleges for programs like Puente and Umoja and shared his positive experience navigating between MESA centers at Laney and BCC, and how MESA really helped him find peers and feel more comfortable about his college experience.

Gary noted that some groups are meeting across the colleges already, like SAS, and Tammeil noted the same with Basic Needs coordinators.

There was a suggestion for a district-wide events calendar – going beyond the shared Academic calendar that already exists – so people can find events relevant to them that may not be at their home campuses.

Bianca said more district-wide standardization would help. Her experience taking classes at Laney and COA is that she gets different info. Smoothing out those inconsistencies would help.

Bianca also suggested making materials available in both English and Spanish would also help.

Leslie noted that students who swirl see us as Peralta and how challenging it can be when accommodations are made by class, not even by campus.

Tammeil explained we have an opportunity to fundamentally change how we train employees, with orientations and updates, to make sure we are consistent.

Nancy noted program review differs at each college.

Amy suggested we have similar listening sessions with Institutional Research, Financial Aid and workshop coordination across the district.

Richard said he appreciated that we held these listening sessions in-house and did not pay consultants for the work. He also noted that due to some differences between the colleges, clever students will cherry-pick the best options from each campus, like EOPS gives more money for gas at one campus than it does at others.

Leslie said the data gathered from listening sessions can help us be more proactive in dealing with certain situations, and not so reactive.

Gary made the point that alignment across campuses was needed, but not necessarily uniformity. We still want unique campus cultures to thrive. Jennifer echoed that thought, saying “we need to keep the humanity.”

Chungwei said it's a good opportunity to empower classified professionals. Tammeil agreed and pointed out how Roberto / SAS has been influential.

Tammeil noted that each college sends different post-application CCCApply surveys to students. We have an opportunity to be more welcoming.

Tammeil also noted that people came out of the listening sessions full of hope for the future and asked what other cohorts might we have for listening sessions? Suggestions included bargaining units, tutors, librarians, counselors, department chairs, A&R.

Leslie championed the need for more communication around unification / transformation work. David shared that there was a rich discussion at Merritt Flex Day.

Gary volunteered to help review the ideas stemming from the listening sessions into Tier 1 (do now), Tier 2 (do later but must be done) and Tier 3 (nice to have but not urgent). He asked that Taskforce members send their recommendations.

7. Student Involvement and Activities

Special guest, Student Trustee Ahyan Malik, provided some insights based upon his student experience. When he first started at BCC, it was a challenge to find clubs. The charter process is different for each of the colleges, and the way they promote themselves is different. When he eventually found the clubs and through the MESA center, he found community.

Each college has some thriving clubs offering students great bonding opportunities, but the problem is visibility. What clubs are at each college? Clubs use Discord for communication with current members, but it is hard to bring in new people. The problem is Visibility. How do we make clubs more visible, and encourage more students to charter their own clubs?

Ahyan suggested we use CANVAS, since most students use Canvas for accessing things like syllabus even for in-person classes. If there was a Canvas shell for clubs accessible to all students, they would have an easier time finding like-minded peers to help enrich their experience. Ahyan also advocated standardizing the chartering process for new clubs across the colleges.

Yang commented that Canvas is a good venue for student communication.

Ahyan noted that in the past, elections have suffered from low voter turnout. Promoting student elections via Canvas might help with student engagement and lift voter turnout.

Leslie liked the idea of Directors of Student Life being added as faculty to Clubs Canvas shells and pointed out there's also functionality for a pop-up message in Canvas, to help raise visibility even further.

Eva noted that moving clubs into Canvas might also help sustain clubs from year to year.

Tammeil shared that she invited Ahyan to speak in part to show that we – the people of the Peralta Colleges – have agency and can help make things better for each other. Faculty & staff may not even know what clubs are functioning at the colleges.

Richard and Chungwei liked the idea of using Canvas to promote clubs.

8. Next Steps

Mark to send out Unification FAQ to students and employees.

Leslie will send out a preliminary review of BP/APs that need updates.

Taskforce members will send their ideas for tier 1 and tier 2 areas of focus/emphasis to Tammeil and Gary from the Student Services listening session notes and survey feedback.

Tammeil will work with Gary on another round of listening sessions for some of the suggested cohorts.

Consider working on a framework for governance committee check-ins and report-outs.

Next meeting is April 9, 2026, at noon as the District boardroom.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned shortly before 2pm.