

## **PCCD Unification Taskforce Meeting Notes**

Thursday, April 9, 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)
- ✓ Jeff Sanceri (Peralta Federation of Teachers)
- ✓ Tom Renbarger (District Academic Senate)
- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Rosa Perez (Student)

Taskforce Members online or absent:

- ??? ONLINE

### **1. Welcome**

Tammeil started the meeting at 12:02pm, welcomed everyone, and shared that Mark Johnson was away.

### **2. Public Comment**

- Heather Sisneros expressed gratitude for the listening sessions that are happening and suggested a session for curriculum and program review folks.
- Stefani de Vito thanked the taskforce for the Unification Q&A page and suggested it be made interactive so people can submit additional questions.

### **3. Review of Notes from the March 12, 2026, Meeting**

Amy Lee asked that we update the note, "Amy suggested we have similar listening sessions with Institutional Research, Financial Aid, and workshop coordination across the district." Her comment was actually in reference to the themes that emerged from the listening session. In

considering gaps and opportunities, it may be beneficial for services to engage in more cross-functional collaboration with other departments. For example, we currently hold a quarterly meeting that brings together Finance, Financial Aid, and Student Finance, which has been a valuable space to troubleshoot issues and identify shared pain points.

March 12, 2026, Notes have been updated.

#### 4. Communication Update: Merritt College Flex Day Feedback

- David discussed the [document of the comments](#).
- Many at Merritt see benefits to the unification.
- Perceived challenges seem to be fed by uncertainty. Shows a need to continue educating people on activities and plans.
- Folks seem to agree on the WHY of this project and now have moved into a HOW questioning period.
- About 80 participants

#### 5. Shared Governance Next Steps Outline

Leslie:

- Planning a constitutional convention for Faculty Senates on August 28 for Merritt and Laney Colleges
- Will need to dissolve the existing Laney and Merritt senates and replace with Oakland City College (OCC)
- Participatory governance reviews needed, including how chairs are done
- Did some research on other colleges with multiple campuses to see how they did Senates
- Created a list of AP/BP that need to be edited
- What projects need to be done to open OCC? - [Shared a doc](#)
- Admin integration
- Governance integration
- Instructional integration, CORs and curriculum work, concern about META ever working
- Student services integration, concerns about funding model – headcounts of double vs single
- Functional map and position control
- Budget and Resource Allocation, do we have the money to do this? Some faculty are skeptical
- Accreditation, need an OCC ISER
- EMP – need a new one for 27-28, when is that being developed? They take time to develop, need an environmental scan and writing time
- In sum, there are many things being done on these, which is good. Tina provided answers to most of the questions. All these things need to happen.

Tina – thanks for the energy on this! They did a lot of work.

Jennifer: representation is a factor, the size of campuses are a factor.

## 6. Student Services Listening & Ideation Session Follow-up

### A) Additional Listening Sessions Feedback

Since the last meeting, more sessions have taken place.

#### A&R summary of session – from Amy L.

- Reviewed the previous reports that have been done (2023 and 2024)
- Summarized and shared the findings of these reports.
- Eva noted the e-form testing is making progress; she has been a tester.
- Repeating themes: there are issues with our technology across sessions.
- Repeating the theme: there is a need for more thoughtful roll-out communication when there are changes.

#### More focus groups – Gary

- Did four more – mental health, counseling, library and learning resources
- Tier ranking system – what should it look like?

#### Counseling

- Full room, great session. Reviewed the emerging opportunities and student expectations vs our systems
- Balance of counseling with the administration time they do
- Inconsistent processes across district create a burden
- No centralized hub of info
- SEP system is broken
- Communication gaps
- Articulation inconsistencies, lack of knowledge of other schools' programs, not nuanced info on GE area classes.
- See themselves as campus specific
- End up spending valuable time doing tech support and onboarding instead of counseling
- Onboarding person could take over lots of work
- Standardizing of notes would be good
- Common theme across all groups: community is lacking, people don't know each other or integrate with each other. Having a face to face meeting was good!

#### Learning Resources

- Group was high energy
- Operational issue – hiring tutors, fiscal year issues
- Data inconsistencies across them
- Ideas for improving communication with students, grid of what is offered where
- Expanding student led programming

#### Library

- Shared catalog, doing data informed decisions
- Space is important to the college
- Reviewed gaps and challenges
- Need to consider shared databases as a way of saving time, funds, efforts

- Can we centralize the back-end processing of purchasing?
- Chat systems are all different, as is the information given out

### **Mental Health**

- Coordinators do lots of cross campus communication now
- “Template” for making more district-wide coordination includes having structures
- Not enough district support in making meetings happen, hiring a district-wide coordinator is needed
- Website translation services are not as good as they used to be
- Want to teach more training

### **Cross-Session Design Themes**

- Added a new number 7

Question from Kristina H: Is there a way to use local companies to assist with tech issues? Having a tech person in the library is useful. Maybe a hub for tech support is good.

Chromebooks: Are very slow.

Librarians had a discussion on this. Key question is – how much of this is the district's responsibility? Are the COVID hold overs how we are doing things still a good idea?

Richard: Laney reclassified a person to do tech support; there is a position for that.

### **B. Taskforce Member Priority Tier Recommendations**

Tiering our opinions

Looking at emerging opportunities and rank

- 1=do now
- 2= year or so to do
- 3= longer to do

Jennifer: We can do anything, but we can't do everything. Let's look at the biggest themes and pick the most important things to do first. Come up with big initiatives with the top priorities in order.

Gary: Overarching themes are key.

Making a grid matrix. If we have themes, please send the top categories in.

TG: overarching theme in the district are we need to integrate and share consistently.

Gary: The work that needs to be done isn't owned by this Taskforce. How can we delegate, and direct people to do work.

Tina: Role of this Taskforce is making recommendations. Buckets that bubble up, some of the work is happening, SEP strategy session for example. ConnEx ed came up several times, but we are not using it to the full extent we could.

TG: One theme, why don't we have good videos? Why don't we onboard our employees on how to use all our tech tools? Who knows how to use ConnEx Ed?

We don't have early alert systems anymore. Tina said we have a tool in ConnEx Ed that could be used. Starfish failed.

Jennifer: we don't need software for an Early Alert. It could be simply an email to the faculty asking for who needs assistance. Or maybe in Canvas? Don't want to learn a new tool.

TG: considering Early Alert options would be good.

## **7. District Name Change Discussion**

Jeff shared his document and discussed that we should consider changing the name of the district from being named a colonizer.

Eva – like the idea of asking Native American leaders for a recommendation.

Jeff – many stakeholders should be consulted. Since 2020, have thought we should expand the conversations.

Jennifer – “Peoples” district. We are for the people of our community, honors the Black Panthers, keeps the P.

Yang – is it too much to do all at once? Students might not understand.

Amy – likes the change now, as part of the fundamental rebuilding.

Jennifer – costs, already rebranding let's do it now.

Jeff – draw some attention to us is good.

Tina – harness the intentionality and do it!

David – make a big deal about this, it is a sea change.

Richard – yes, let's do it. “Peoples” is good, seems socialist and the politics of the area. Let's get rid of Peralta.

TG – includes the entire district, and gets beyond just Laney and Merritt

David – combine with the OCC mascot and branding?

Next step: everyone goes out and gets input from their constituency group, talk to at least five people. Come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

## 8. Districtwide Scheduling Brainstorm

Eva – we care about this, have taken some steps at some time. Discipline English, Math, and Business collective conversations at doing it.

TG: at Laney Faculty Senate meeting – people said “we need someone to enforce” these agreements. Need to develop a structure.

Leslie: We did a STEM meeting, looking at pre-reqs, to make sure the classes don't overlap. Chemistry has tired. Have not been as successful across the district. Labs are harder to schedule.

Do we want more?

Leslie: we could improve, benefits to students

How to do it?

Leslie: Place to start – where there are only a few sections

Jennifer: Push/Pull fine line between faculty being forced or not. Always a college or two who decide not to do it. Need to have a grown up in the room to force it, as long as the grown up is knowledgeable. Need to have a feedback loop, and need to have real feedback. Maybe we should do a pilot?

TG: Asking people to do things differently, need to be intentional about the structure. What is the administrative structure? How do we think about deans, department chairs, etc. Recommendation to come back with a structure to respond to.

Tina: Duplicate classes – need to have chairs in the space to discuss the L and M duplicates. Just having faculty in a room doesn't work, we tried variations, math for example. Need some kind of a co-facilitation.

Richard: Needs to be a workgroup and then an agreement that we will move forward with what we agree on. 10 years, always the same conversation. Needs to be level of accountability. That group needs to have a commitment to it. We keep having the same conversation for 10 years.

TG: yesterday in focus group we discussed a one class not being taught, as an example.

Yang: What happens if 1 or 2 colleges refuse to do it – what is the consequence? Victim is student,

Jennifer: Faculty get laid off at the last moment

TG: 2 year schedules, let's commit to it. Need to continue communicating on student experience and why these actions have implications.

Jennifer: let's make 3 year schedules and publicize them. This is our job, we need to work smarter. Chairs should do all the work in the fall on the program review, include scheduling in the fall. Allows for multi-year contracts for PT. Makes lives better and creates long-term expectations. Program review can be used as soon as this fall.

Richard: Accountability brings clear expectations. Maybe we need to discuss what are the work priorities for this position for this next year, then hold people accountable.

## **9. Next Steps**

Next meeting is May 14, 2026, at noon as the District boardroom.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.