

PCCD Unification Taskforce Meeting

NOTES

Thursday, May 14, 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)
- ✓ Jeff Sanceri (Peralta Federation of Teachers)
- ✓ Jennifer Shanoski (Peralta Federation of Teachers)
- ✓ Leslie Blackie (District Academic Senate)
- ✓ Tom Renbarger (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:

- Rosa Perez (Student) ONLINE

1 Welcome

Chancellor Gilkerson welcomed committee members and started the meeting at 12:03pm.

2 Public Comment

- Stefani de Vito said there is a trust problem and that people at Merritt have despair about the merger, and expressed concerns about language used in the survey sent to students
- Biannca Parazo expressed concerns over categorical funding and asked that we slow down on plans to merge
- Ray Corona said that many people have questions about the merge of Laney and Merritt, and that he did not support it
- Amy Garcia said people in the COSER program are not aware of the plans for the merge and are concerned
- Kaylynn Ulrich echoed those sentiments – people in COSER are unaware and concerned

3 Review Notes from April 9, 2026, meeting

April 9 Notes were accepted without changes.

4 PBC Shared Governance Update

A. Dual & Concurrent Enrollment

- Taskforce Implementation Draft plan reviewed [<https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/Dual%20%26%20Concurrent%20Draft%20Implementation%20Plan%2026-27.pdf>]
- Jennifer commented that “Advanced Placement” / AP classes are often confused with Dual Enrollment, but AP classes are a for profit racket and Dual Enrollment is a much better deal for students and parents
- Tammeil concurred and shared anecdote of Trustee Napoli-Abella Reiss’s recent visit to Piedmont board meeting where she was impressed by success of dual enrollment for transfer

B. Distance Education

- Draft plan at <https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/Distance%20Education%20Draft%20Implementation%20Plan%2026-27.pdf> was reviewed

C. Evening & Weekend Instruction

- Tammeil noted the draft plan is up on Board Docs at [https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/DTSMR25C6E70/\\$file/SSEMC%20Evening%20%26%20Weekend%20Recommendations%20Presentation%2005052026.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/peralta/Board.nsf/files/DTSMR25C6E70/$file/SSEMC%20Evening%20%26%20Weekend%20Recommendations%20Presentation%2005052026.pdf)

D. Tammeil thanked the committee and taskforces for their excellent work and expressed appreciation that the plans all aligned with student and stakeholder feedback; “there’s synergy for these plans”

5 DAS Shared Governance Update

Leslie shared that a Constitutional Convention is being planned to update faculty senate constitution. This convention is open to any and all faculty to participate and share suggestions for updated DAS constitution. The constitution will need to be approved by both PCCD Board of Trustees and California Community Colleges Academic Senate (CCCAS). The convention will be held on August 28th at the Laney College Best Center.

She also reported that there will be Flex Day sessions on Aug 20 preparing for the constitutional convention and sharing of info, working group sessions including info on curriculum and programs worked on by SSEMC.

6 Student Presentation on Priority Tier Recommendations

Bianca, Kristina, and Rosa led the group through the recommendations posted at

[https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/Suggestions%20for%20the%20Unification%20Taskforce%20%20\(Responses\)%20-%20Form%20Responses%201.pdf](https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/Suggestions%20for%20the%20Unification%20Taskforce%20%20(Responses)%20-%20Form%20Responses%201.pdf).

- Bianca explained they put their survey together in collaboration with Associated Students leaders
- They spoke with students
- Kristina got the survey posted in Canvas
- The survey got 268 responses
- Glad to have new input for Q&A [NOTE the Q&A at <https://www.peralta.edu/transformation/unification-plan-faq> was subsequently updated in early June]
- Many folks didn't know about the survey despite the student leaders' best efforts to get the word out
- Lots of concerns about misconception that a campus would be closing, which is not the case
- Tammeil said we have to continue to get word out about what we are planning and why we are doing it
- Rosa suggested leveraging Welcome Centers to make students more aware
- Jennifer recommended putting flyers up all over the campuses
- Bianca suggested additional module about Transformation / Unification in Canvas might help
- Tammeil thanked the students for their excellent work

7 Consolidated Listening Session Recommendations

Tammeil and Gary shared feedback from the listening sessions, consolidated into the "Pathways 2 Possibilities" document:

https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/Pathways2Possibilities_UnificationTaskforceReport_May2026.pdf

- Gary reminded the taskforce that 10 focus groups were held in Feb-March to hear from employees working closely with students on what they felt was working and what wasn't
 - Students navigate multiple points of entry
 - Communications and expectations vary widely
 - Systems vary from campus to campus
 - Access varies
- Tammeil noted other groups initiated their own districtwide retreats and meetings, including Street Scholars, Restoring Our Communities (ROC) where the Transformation Plan and unification was discussed.
- Leslie liked the plan
- Bianca liked the "pilot" idea, pilot grants wiggleroom to work things out
- Amy noted the considerations for counselors
- Jennifer suggested looking at articulation agreements, like challenge with Merritt & UC Davis
- Nancy pointed out we're already working through some challenges, like with common course numbering

- Tina noted the curriculum work by SSEMC is already highlighting work needed for articulation and course of record
- Tammeil noted this is a first pass for initial input and reactions, and that many elements may need to be negotiated in collective bargaining
- Jennifer suggested moving it forward following focus group with department chairs
- Leslie noted there needs to be discussion on how faculty is to balance instructional time with time outside the classroom
- Tammeil asked if this draft plan was worth pursuing
- Unanimous feedback: YES!
- Leslie said it brings home that the plan is more than just merging Laney & Merritt; it includes work needed at BCC and COA
- Richard suggested counselors should be knowledgeable about programs across the district, not just their specific campus
- Tammeil, speaking as a former counsellor, initial student experience is so important. Counselors were very willing to meet together to work on best-practices, in-person
- Tina suggested a “community of practice” with chairs to help skill-up. This could be good professional development opportunity
- Tom – how we organize district-wide chairs will impact senates & DAS
- Tammeil – let's vote. Shall we use Pathways2Possibilities as strategic plan?
- Ones all around, meaning taskforce unanimously endorsed

8 OCC College Branding Discussion

The branding survey feedback posted at

<https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/Oakland%20City%20College%20Branding%20Input%20Survey%20-%20Report%205-14-26.pdf> was reviewed.

9 District Name Change Discussion

Yang shared survey results posted at

<https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/District%20Name%20Change%20Survey%20Results%E2%80%94Classified%20Staff.pdf>

- Nancy shared that BCC Classified Senate would like more info on the costs for changing the district name
- Tammeil shared the proposal for Peregrin Community College District:
https://www.peralta.edu/hubfs/The%20Peregrine%20Falcon_DistrictNameProposal_May2026.pdf
- Tina appreciated grounding the name change with changes to the district structure
- Leslie likes geography based names, like East Bay CCD
- Nancy – most names are tied to county name, so maybe Alameda or North Alameda
- Richard suggested getting alumni input
- Tammeil – we'll continue discussion when Taskforce reconvenes in Sept

10 Next Steps

Tammeil said there will be a Board of Trustees update at an upcoming meeting, all are invited to attend.

11 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2pm.