

Peralta Retirees Organization

\Meeting Minutes: August 31, 2022, via Zoom

Present: Jerry Herman, Debby Weintraub, Bruce Jacobs, Alex Pappas, Karen Anderson, Burt Dragin, Judy Cohen, Ann Elliott, Michael Mills.

Agenda item	Discussion	Follow up action
	Diana Polk will join meeting ; introduce and hear concerns. Board does not think it has fiduciary Responsibility to PRO (Retirees). Note: Linda Handy not running this year.	
Business	3 meeting notes available. Send all minutes out and get revisions by 9/10/22. Send Final to Bruce.	
	<p>Introductions to Diana: Alex Pappas; served as /chairman Fringe Benefits (1961-1993) Crating Lifetime benefits. Karen Anderson: Retired confidential from HR- Benefits Analyst. Confidentials included with Management</p> <p>Jerry Herman: Laney English Dept 1963. Now retired 20 years. First PRO President. Founded PRO to represent retirees. .</p> <p>Burt Dragin Journalism at Laney College; retired 3 years ago. Editor of PRO Newsletter. PRO doing a great job.</p> <p>Bruce Jacobs; On PRO Board since founding. President of PFT and chief negotiator District hired him as contractor; Federal contract training; PRO Website; Newsletter editor; Treasurer, Vice President, Medicare &amp; Medical expert.</p> <p>Judy Cohen; Financial Aid Supervisor; District FA Director; PRO recording secretary.</p> <p>Michael Mills; Union President, negotiator.</p> <p>Jerry &amp; Michael serve on Retirement Board. Familiar with OPEB Bond.</p> <p>Diana Polk; elected during pandemic; grew up in Berkeley; degree in Chicano studies; Ran for seat; strong connection to community colleges. Works in Berkeley Mayors Office. Familiar with community campaigns; familiar with Peralta management history.</p>	
Jerry	Vote for Status Quo. Retirees retain what we have (PPO) . seems will be battle. What has Diana heard about this issue?	
Diana	Understanding this was part of PFT bargaining. PRO is to be separate issue. We have to keep our contractual promises. Should not make changes to PRO benefits. Best to lobby each Trustee separately.	
M. Mills	Worked with Board Trustees for decades. Thanked Trustee Polk for her cohesive response. VC Tom Smith knew lifetime could not be funded; solved by creating \$150 million bond issue. Proceeds invested in order to pay for Retiree healthcare cost. The Bonds now pay for ALL retiree costs. District pays for	

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	retirees out of Bonds. Currently assets are \$200 million. Debt, stopgap, lawyers all being paid out of OPEB. If District is trying to save \$\$, Why? When OPEB pays for everything	
Alex	Union negotiator from 1961 for 30 years. Employees agreed to take lower pay raises in order to keep good medical benefits. Those hire before 2004 agreed.	
Diana	What is relationship between PRO and PFT?	
Debby	Still in contact. Friendly relationship with PFT, Interests are separated just now about the health costs. Pressure about health vs wages. Pro needs to be separate right now. Trustees need to be clear we are separate.	
Bruce	Widely held sentiment. Retirees do not want to give up Medicare for Medicare Advantage. He has many resources explaining problems. Opposed to privatization of Medicare. Inspector General study of Advantage shows reduced benefits; people leaving Advantage. No thought about Retirees living abroad and out of state. New system will not cover non-emergencies. How do we handle this? It has been indicated that District will find a way to cover, but NO thought-out Plan. Kaiser out of state Not compatible with SISC. District gave 9/27 deadline to PFT; will withdraw compensation. Asked Ron McKinley and Harizon to meet to discuss concrete plan. There are many retirees who are not capable of handling process to retain benefits under new policy.	
Alex	Buying separate policy for individual retirees is not possible. No market for it.	
Debby	Asking Diana to communicate with other Trustees. Trustees have no understanding, or just deferring PRO elsewhere. Board is fiduciary body. Would like Alliant to demonstrate how District will save \$\$ by moving retirees off current program. Staying with what we have in simplest solution. How will District make retirees whole? Doesn't happen. No savings from retirees; different for Actives. Many retirees have no idea about upcoming health care changes; District obligated to inform each prior to making decision.	
Bruce	We have people who have gone through Alliant SPD. Many reductions in benefits. It will be a nightmare for District to try and make retirees whole-many layers.	
Diana	Agrees. District must send out information-FAQs. PRO/retiree benefits not the same as PFT. She is close to Kevin Jenkins- will talk to Chancellor; will provide contact info to Trustees.	
Alex	Don't fix it if its not broken	
Mike	Very uncomfortable when District mentions PeopleSoft. Poor relationship with that system. Note: Alliant and Advantage are for profits. Medicare has a small percentage of fraud. Many denials under Advantage; Fraud	
Jerry	Whatever Diana has learned, please pass it on to colleagues. Issues are complicated and subtle.	
Diana	Will try to help. Realizes issues are separate from PFT	
Debby	Wants to send Key discussions to Diana. Tell Nicky & Kevin we met and these are key points. One	

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	trustee Jolina is gone. What happens if there is a 3-3 tie?	
Karen	What would be Board motivation for taking a stance? Why would Board care?	
Debby	There are some on Board who think District needs to keep promise. Problems to come not worth it. There will be problems with no savings.	
Jerry	How will Board take up our concerns? Board does not know about retiree basic issues. Can they vote for or against status quo?	
Mike	Board Zoom; Are comments from public site available. Deb must submit request to comment. Board not required to respond to public comment. Some people may want to speak at the next Board mtg.	
Jerry	Diana now understands there are two separate issues.	
Mike	If we have public comment, each presenter comments on an issue	
Debby	Asking Trustees about what savings will come to District. Hiring someone and reimbursing ; stick to current plan; Actives move to SISC	
Karen	Can we try to discuss with Harizon?	
s	There are a couple of people whose testimony, such as Odell, would carry more weight; Tom Brougham, Wise Allen	
Debby	Will email all those on Zoom calls to address Board during public comment. Those interested contact Bruce by Tuesday 9/6	
Ann	Sign up for Public Comment; create talking points; yield time	
Debby	Some have been meeting with Tom Sinclair; collecting documents; looking for retirees who have documents that clarify entitlement. Looking for SEIU contract or benefits contract; needed if we go forward legally. Sinclair; start preparing; Thinks District will say Advantage is same as Retirees have now. District strategy is to remove small benefits; complicated; hard to argue, who say it will work out. Met with Ron McKinley, VC Finance and Harizon. Hire someone or use PeopleSoft to manage benefits. Met with Alliant reps who say "Retiree First" will solve problems. Say "will keep whole". What about those who live out of state or country? Asked McKinley & Harizon to define term and how "Keep Whole" will work. Follow old SPD? NO Response.	
NEWSLETER		
Burt	October 15 <sup>th</sup> . Q&A New Board Candidates. Story with Jerry Rhodes; Yvonne Lewis- Roast by Jay Quesada; Tom Turman submitted a couple of pieces; Article about picnic. Q&A about meeting with Diana	
Debby	Updates about healthcare. It is a huge thing. Talk to those who are running and put in Newsletter. Do they know about Retiree issues? Louis Quinlan running; 4 Seats open. Linda's seat (area 3) ; Cindy's seat (Saline Gilmore, Terrel Gamble, Cindy Rice) Jolina's Seat: Seth Stewart, Sheck Kalias. Kevin's Seat? He is running for Oakland City	

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	Council.	
	Burt will send email for Q&A. Bruce a piece on the Bonds. Info on Retirement Board; State of the Board for the Trustees.	
Debby	Hopefully no resolutions by 9/27; talking points in Newsletter; Bruce: If Board votes on 9/27, Newsletter should not ignore that vote. Debby: Move Newsletter to end of October or November. Doubtful Union will reject; Make is a story. Have everything to Burt by end of September or week before. Debby returns 9/20. Cannot commit. Going forward good to have a timeline.	
Burt	Need copy by 9/21/22. Copy due 2 weeks for edit, design and production. He will send out email. Bruce: hold till end of month because of Board meeting decisions. Burt will have space for a story and be out by mid-October. Same for December.	
Debby	At some point will need Board Elections. Defer till general meeting and luncheon next spring. Newsletter urge people to renew membership.	
TREASURY REPORT		
Bruce	PRO \$11,400. Dues that came in covered expenses. Legal fund \$21,391 (still getting responses) \$5000 to Tom as retainer.	
Jerry	Do we have an invoice from Tom? How much time reading documents? Ask for invoice	

BENEFITS COMMITTEE	Meets 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month at Noon. Others welcome to attend. Debby, Bruce, Jerry attend via Zoom. Mike will join. Socorro will send out connections.	
	Next Meeting: December	

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Cohen