

**Resolution Demanding Visible Participation and Accessibility During Meetings
from District Leadership
1.25.22**

Whereas classes, meetings and student services at the Peralta Community College District have been mostly online since March 2020, with an overwhelming reliance on the internet video conferencing platform Zoom;

Whereas our Interim Chancellor Jannett Jackson currently resides in San Marcos, Texas, and is leading our district remotely since April 2021, with [a contract](#) that has been [extended until December 2023](#);

Whereas the chancellor's employment contract specifies that she "...shall advocate on behalf of always maintaining local governance of the District" and that the "Interim Chancellor shall be reimbursed for, or the District shall directly pay, the cost of all actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Interim Chancellor in the performance of her duties as deemed necessary by the Board and in accordance with applicable Board policies";

Whereas Chancellor Jackson often publicly cites "bad weather" in San Marcos, Texas as the reasoning behind her inability to turn her camera on for video conferencing while conducting district business, addressing multiple constituencies and leading meetings;

Whereas there are not only multiple internet providers but different connectivity options available in the town of San Marcos, Texas;

Whereas the [June 2019 Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team report](#) (FCMAT) cited that PCCD "...has suffered from years of ineffective and inconsistent guidance, nonadherence to policies and procedures, and difficulties in receiving consistent information and communication", underscoring the need for visibility of our Interim Chancellor and district leaders;

Whereas the chancellor has frequently cited the concept of "Ubuntu" and being "willing to go the extra mile for each other" at our district;

Whereas research determines video is essential for relationship building in the online classroom and diminishes perceptions of an absentee instructor ([Underdown & Martin, 2016](#)), which should be modeled through example by district administration and the Board of Trustees;

Whereas many faculty and classified professionals who have been serving students on Zoom and on campus don't have the luxury of conducting business using audio only and look to the district administration and the Board of Trustees to model the leadership our district needs;

Whereas the [Telephone, Computer, Network and Electronic Mail Use Guidelines](#) for the Peralta Community College District state that "In support of Peralta Community College (PCCD)'s educational mission, Information Technology (IT) provides computing facilities, networking and information technology resources for the use of students, employees and board members";

Whereas members of the community with hearing loss face accessibility barriers during audio-based meetings that seldomly include American Sign Language interpreters or captions, in violation of [Board Policy 2310](#), which says public meetings at the district will "be accessible to persons with disabilities";

Be it resolved that the district immediately bear the cost of upgrading the internet connection at the chancellor's residence in Texas so that she can keep her camera on during video conferencing while she conducts district business;

Be it resolved that in the spirit of mutual respect, professionalism and dedication to our district that not only the chancellor keep her camera on but the Board of Trustees, taxpayer-elected representatives for our district, keep their cameras on during meetings, with the district bearing the cost of upgrading their internet quality if connectivity issues prevent them from turning on their cameras;

Be it further resolved that the district will follow accessibility guidelines for public meetings by providing interpreters and captions for video conference feeds.