

Laney...-DAS-...Report

September 18th—October 1st

Hi All,

The third DAS meeting of the year addressed the dreaded “need for more collaboration” and attempted to deal with the aftermath of VC of IT Jason Cole’s escorted exit out of Peralta (3 months short of earning his Peralta Gilded Watch!) and the ONEPeralta mess.**

If you have questions, would like me to expand on anything, or would like me to try to take up something with DAS just let me know.

9/18 DAS Meeting

The 9/18 meeting was a classic DAS meeting of a lot of discussion that featured no tangible results: an obligatory “need for more collaboration,” a declared intention to come to DAS meetings prepared, and a decision to invite the Chancellor to come to our Oct. 2 meeting to join the fun. The meeting was 2 hours and 15 minutes because 2 hours just can’t contain that level of action!

About half of the meeting was spent discussing the Starfish/Early Alert trial and culminated in a general consensus that there “needed to be more collaboration.” I am very confident that this will not be the last you read about Starfish/Early Alert and the “need for more collaboration.”

The other half of the meeting was discussing the wording and intent of one or two (or one...or two...) DAS resolutions regarding ONEPeralta and the “need for more collaboration” as well as the need to complete the implementation this year to ensure we get the ONEPeralta to rule them all...

If the above seems a bit flippant, but wordy because getting to 2 full pages off of these meetings ain’t easy!, it’s because this wasn’t a meaningful or effective meeting to the extent that it became a topic of discussion regarding the need for DAS members to do their homework and come to class <cough>DAS<cough> prepared. It was agreed that this was desirable. Our DAS declared intention.

Finally, DAS newcomer Dan Lawson of House Merritt demonstrated the pluck for which Peralta mathematicians are famed and suggested we invite the Chancellor to the hallowed table of DAS to lay out the IT plans we’re presumably going to be expected to follow. It will no doubt be a highly informative meeting and spark meaningful collaboration that will lead to an effective implementation of ONEPeralta at a reasonable price by the end of this academic year.

* Note: Only Peralta upper administration who make it 24 months are eligible for the Peralta Gilded Watch. Like Peralta upper administration it doesn’t work for more than a year except on an interim basis, is right about twice a day, and eventually you look around and realize its gone. But it is shiny and it does cost Peralta about 200K!

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Unfinished business remains officially approving DAS 2018-2019 goals. The proposed goals are the same as presented previously and it turns out that I was wordy enough I don't need to repeat the goals to make it to 2 full pages so feel free to check the previous ...-DAS-...Reports for our still not approved DAS goals for this year. If we make it through October I'm hoping it they become "common law goals."

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 2nd from 2:30-4:30 and, as mentioned above, will feature a special guest star!

A few thoughts

1. Financial Services is now presupposing that the spring hiring "freeze" is not going to thaw and that the c. \$4 million in savings will form the basis for what surplus the District is planning to run to add to our low reserves as we scramble to deal with a future that no longer "holds us harmless" for our phony FTES base.
2. That's interesting because there was no strategy or plan to the freeze beyond the general panic that Peralta was potentially going to have a rather large deficit this year and there hasn't yet been any discussion regarding what would constitute an actual plan for reducing expenditures without negatively impacting students <cough>#cutthedistrict<cough>.
3. An example of why it might be worthwhile to discuss this is that while there's a \$4 million hiring freeze, Laney's bearing about \$1.5 million of this, the District is spending an additional \$1 million this year on Alameda County Sheriff's Office employees to ensure that we have better 11pm-7am property coverage—including a decoy police car (shhh)! So for \$4.5 million this year we get 17 people (1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 6 sheriffs, and 9 sheriff technicians) on an expensive rental from ACSO. Keep in mind that, for example, Laney's ENTIRE General Fund budget for part-time faculty is \$3.5 million (or \$1 million less than what we're spending on 17 cops or cop-affiliates)...quite a deal...
4. There are plenty of other examples I could have used here, but given that campus security and safety has been a major issue of late it seemed worth emphasizing that Peralta is certainly SPENDING on campus security and safety (there's also \$500,000 going to ABC Security Services this year so, safety-aides not included, we're at \$5 million) if not necessarily experiencing campus security and safety and I'd suggest that maybe there's a lesson there that we could learn if we wanted to look at Peralta...or Oakland...or...anywhere?
5. So what I'm suggesting this week is that it would be worthwhile to consider what our priorities are in this District (or city...or...) and whether our priorities are being reflected in where, and on what, we are spending our money because it seems difficult to reconcile the avowed mission and goals of our community college district with our current budgeting and spending...

Blake