

Top Three from the PFT Rep Council September 2026

1. Structure of Support for PFT Members

- Each of us is PFT and together we are strong! Access your [contract](#) so you know your rights. Your PFT Site Representatives are your first line of support when you have questions or need help. Having a strong network of tiered support allows us to ensure our 1605 Members receive accurate information in a timely manner.
- After your Site Rep, the next level of support is your respective PFT Vice Presidents, listed below. Please use non-PUSD email to contact your PFT Vice President.
 - Elementary VP: Stephanie Martin, smartin@powayteachers.org
 - Middle School VP: Greg Strachan, gstrachan@powayteachers.org
 - High School VP: Chris Jenkins, cjenkins@powayteachers.org
 - Special Education VP: Nicole Stowell, nstowell@powayteachers.org
- In some cases, your Vice President will refer you/your site rep directly to PFT staff. PFT staff provide direct representation of teachers in higher level cases. These could include serious allegations such as physical or sexual abuse or matters that could be considered a pattern of behavior by the district and could result in progressive discipline. These are meetings where District level administration is typically present. If a teacher has previously met with the principal on similar issues and believes it could be considered a pattern of behavior by administration, PFT staff involvement is needed.

2. Upcoming Election Endorsements

PFT Candidate Endorsements: PUSD School Board

- As PUSD School Board Members that have consistently voted in support of teachers, the EB voted unanimously to give friendly incumbent endorsements to Heather Plotzke (Area C) and Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliffe (Area D).
- Area B: PFT reached out to both candidates inviting them to take part in the endorsement process. Only one candidate responded, Kym Sosnowski. She was present for our candidate forum at our Rep Council meeting on 9/9.
- The Process: What does the PFT Executive Board consider before endorsing a new candidate?
 - In-person candidate interview (Kym was interviewed August 31)
 - Questionnaire completed by the candidate
 - Input from Site Reps at the candidate forum, held at Rep Council meeting, 9/9.

PFT Candidate Endorsements: Palomar College Governing Board

PUSD/Palomar Middle College provides a nexus between PUSD and Palomar, so the PFT Executive Board interviews and endorses candidates.

- Area 1 (Rancho Bernardo and 4S Ranch)

- PFT interviewed Judy Patascil in 2022 and endorsed her at that time. Her voting record continues to support the priorities of the Palomar Faculty Federation. Therefore, PFT issued a friendly endorsement for incumbent Judy Patascil.
- Area 5 (does not overlap with PUSD, but our schools feed into Palomar College and our dual enrollment contracts with Palomar are impacted by this governing board)
 - The PFT Executive Board interviewed Cory Anderson and Jennifer Jeffries, with Jennifer Jeffries earning PFT's endorsement.
 - NOTE: Candidates for Palomar Governing Board do not take part in the Representative Council candidate forum, as that is reserved for PUSD Board candidates who have taken part in the PFT endorsement process

3. Prop 3 & Need for a General Obligation (GO) Bond Measure

- Prop 3: PFT COPE Secretary, Jay Steiger, spoke about Prop 3, which will be on the ballot in November. Prop 3, formerly known as Prop 55 (The Millionaire's Tax), is not a new tax. It has been in effect since 2015 and is scheduled to sunset in 2030, unless it passes in November. It will generate \$10 billion in annual revenue to fund critical programs for schools and healthcare.
 - For PUSD, passage will sustain over \$6 million in revenue.
- General Obligation Bond: PFT COPE Secretary, Jay Steiger, and Eric Dill, Associate Superintendent of Business Support Services, each spoke about the current situation with PUSD facilities and the need for a GO Bond Measure in 2028
 - Only way to improve infrastructure and make needed critical repairs and improvements.
 - PUSD facilities are in poor condition (HVAC issues, moisture concerns, aging facilities, etc)
 - There is no magic pot of money for facilities.
 - Districts have reserves for emergencies but they can only do so much.
 - Most of the education money from the state goes to regular operating costs. Some keeps the lights on, water running, etc., but...
 - Most is for teachers and staff. There is little to none left over for big construction costs (which run in the tens to hundreds of millions).
 - You can't do a gofundme for facilities.
 - Major construction is done through capital improvement bonds. This is also how hospitals, fire protection, and water districts do major improvements. The state will sometimes provide matching money for qualified projects, but the bond has to come first.
 - Even for those who live in our district but do not have students attending our schools, a bond benefits future generations of youth and helps both students and our current education workers have a safe and productive place in which to learn and work.
 - School quality is a HUGE driver of property value. Strong schools = strong communities. This is not just in a neighborhood, there are ripple effects

across subregions (ie what happens in Rancho Bernardo has an impact on 4S Ranch).

- In 2020, a bond had 50.35% yes votes. So getting to the required 55% is attainable.
- Messaging will be key and our help will be needed when the time comes.

Two documents are attached for your reference:

1. **Reporting Unsafe Conditions: Process for Teachers (Use this document as a reference if you need to report unsafe working conditions).**
2. **Cheat Sheet on Leaves**

Action item: Check your Pay Warrants!

- Be sure to confirm you are being paid correctly. Find your annual compensation by identifying your step (years of experience) and column (education level) on the salary schedule. Salary schedules can be found at powayteachers.org. Questions about your step and column can be directed to your HR Tech.
- If you are underpaid, contact your HR Tech so you get your full salary. It's also important to note that any overpayment must be repaid to PUSD per the law, so ensuring you are being paid correctly is essential. If you find yourself in an overpaid situation, you have the right to a reasonable repayment plan.

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Thank you,
Julie B. Garcia
PFT Secretary

