



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PETALUMA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CALL TO ORDER

President Hempel called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM in the lobby conference room at 1425 N. McDowell Blvd.

PRESENT

Elece Hempel
Fran Adams, RN, BSN
Josephine S. Thornton, M.A.
Joseph Stern
Becky Monday

ALSO PRESENT

Ramona Faith, CEO, PHCD
Erin Howseman, Board Clerk, PHCD
Andrew Koblick, Controller, PHCD

CALL FOR CONFLICT

President Hempel called for conflict. There was none.

MISSION AND VISION

Director Stern read the mission and vision of the Petaluma Health Care District.

The mission of the Petaluma Health Care District is to improve the health and well-being of our community through leadership, advocacy, support, partnerships and education.

Petaluma Health Care District envisions: A healthier community; a thriving hospital; local access to comprehensive health and wellness services for all.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Director Adams to approve the March 3, 2017 agenda which was seconded by Director Stern. This motion was passed by a vote of 5 ayes (Directors: Hempel, Monday, Thornton, Adams, Stern) and 0 noes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Goerlich, Med-Surge nurse at PVH, and SNP representative, commented that he and other nurses present had submitted a petition a year ago which was signed by over 90 nurses to decertify CNA as the union representing nurses at PVH. Mr. Goerlich stated that despite such a large number of nurses who do not back the union, CNA wanted to continue negotiations with St. Joseph Health. SNP next sent out a notice of no confidence with 105 signatures, and nurses wrote to the National Labor Relations Board expressing frustration at being denied the right to vote.

Mr. Goerlich read from a prepared statement that nurses are insisting the vote for union representation take place prior to any contract negotiations with a new operator. Mr. Goerlich thanked the board for its work in identifying the next operator of the hospital, and for past support of nurses at PVH. The full statement is included at the end of these minutes.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Adams thanked the nurses for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COMMITMENT TO PATIENT CARE AND MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING A COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Public Comments

Ian Selden, labor representative with CNA, thanked the board for agreeing to discuss its commitment to patient care issues regardless of the operator. Mr. Selden commented that CNA research discovered that there were significant layoffs when Paladin Healthcare purchased Community Hospital of Huntington Park in 2010. Mr. Selden also noted other instances of labor relations disputes and allegations of noncompliance with healthcare protocols by state and federal agencies. CNA has submitted recommendations to the board to ensure a safe and successful transition.

Jude O’Nym, RN at PVH, expressed thanks to CNA for being present to voice the nurse’s concerns. Ms. O’Nym commented that Paladin’s guarantee to protect jobs for six months is not sufficient to ease concerns about job security.

Kathy Dennis, nurse at Mercy General Hospital, and CNA representative, commented that nurse’s concerns are important to a successful transition. Ms. Dennis spoke about areas of concern:

- Paladin’s definitions of core services. At the time of the merger of SJH and Providence, the Attorney General laid out standards of safe patient care, and those standards should apply to Paladin Healthcare in the operation of PVH. CNA therefore asks for a 5 year commitment to the AG’s list of core services.
- CNA also asks for a 5 year commitment to the current level of charity care.
- Ms. Dennis commented on the importance of patient advocacy by nurses, which is made possible by a strong union.
- Ms. Dennis expressed concern about the protection of current employee’s jobs.

Ms. Dennis’s complete statement is included at the end of these minutes.

Board Comments

Director Adams commented that in regards to the six month guarantee of jobs for current employees, Paladin Healthcare has said they have no intention of laying off employees at PVH. The board had asked

Paladin for that time frame because they hoped it would relieve fears about job security, not create more uncertainty.

Director Adams commented that PVH is in good standing financially and has high quality scores, unlike some of the other hospitals that Paladin Healthcare has purchased or leased, which had poor scores and were failing financially; therefore those hospitals should not be compared to PVH.

President Hempel commented that the board appreciated those who attended the meeting, and spoke out and asked questions, because it helps to inform the board's decision making process.

FORGING A NEW PATH FOR PETALUMA VALLEY HOSPITAL – OPERATOR TRANSITION

Ms. Faith gave an update on the operator transition, reporting that Paladin will be visiting Petaluma the week of March 13 to meet with staff, the local management team, and one-on-one meetings with physician groups. Paladin also visited February 27, when their leadership team met with physicians. Ms. Faith reported that she is moving forward on a communications plan, and has consulted with ACHD on strategies regarding the process for the ballot measure, including providing education to the community and explaining why Paladin was the board's choice.

Ms. Faith reported that a community leader recommended the board create a Community Engagement Committee which would include key community members as well as physicians and staff to share why this is a good move for PVH. The next step will be negotiations on the transition between St. Joseph Health and Paladin starting next week. Ms. Faith reported that she visited Avanti hospitals in southern California on March 1st and 2nd, and was impressed with team members, doctors and board members, who all seemed very engaged and committed to patient care.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

President Hempel adjourned the meeting into closed session pursuant to:

- **Government Code §54956.8 closed session; real property transaction; meeting with negotiator – 400 North McDowell Blvd.; Bouey & Black, LLP.**

President Hempel adjourned the meeting into open session with nothing to report out of closed session.

ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION

ADJOURN

President Hempel adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Submitted by Fran Adams, Board Secretary

Recorded by Erin Howseman, Board Clerk