



Press Release

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Modesto Junior College & Columbia College

No. 18-09

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Board OKs Emergency Resolution Related to Planned Strike

MODESTO, CA – The Yosemite Community College District Board of Trustees passed an emergency resolution Monday to ensure it complies with state law regarding employee compensation during a strike.

The California Constitution and state Supreme Court precedent recognize that paying employees while they are on strike constitutes “a gift of public funds.” Monday’s resolution specifies that members of the Yosemite Faculty Association – who have announced their intention to strike at Modesto Junior College (MJC) and Columbia College on November 27-28 – will not receive any compensation while they are on the picket line or are absent for anything other than an approved medical reason.

The vote was 4-1, with Trustees Tom Hallinan, Lynn Martin, Anne DeMartini and Abe Rojas in favor. Trustee Darin Gharat opposed the resolution, Trustee Leslie Beggs abstained and Trustee Don Viss was absent.

Faculty members who report to work as scheduled will not be affected.

For those students whose instructors report to work, classes will continue on those days in Modesto and Columbia. All classes are expected to resume Thursday.

MJC and Columbia students should check their college’s websites (<https://www.mjc.edu/> or <https://www.gocolumbia.edu/>) as well as emails from their instructors for updated class information, or call (209) 575-6789 at MJC or (209) 588-5100 at Columbia College during regular business hours.

The District and YFA have been negotiating a new contract for three years. In April, an impasse was declared. In September, the two sides met with a state mediator in an effort to reach a settlement. On November 16, the YFA announced the dates of the strike would be November 27-28, justifying it as a response to an unfair labor practice charge the District strongly denies.

The District Board and Administration remain committed to providing an excellent and accessible education to the nearly 25,000 students at Modesto Junior College and Columbia College.

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