



# PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*More Than 50 Years of Innovation and Excellence*

## **PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT OCTOBER 18, 2016**

**SCHOOL CLIMATE: On-going work with Culture and Climate Facilitators** – Educational Services consultants Richard Tauer and Beverly Hempstead were on hand for the October 11 “How Are We Doing” lunch-time meeting with Faculty Senate representatives, Emilie Larew, and Pam Magee. Work on a 2 year-plan continues with three areas of focus: 1) Communication 2) Decision-making processes and 3) Accountability. UTLA leadership participated in planning a strategy for gathering input for the school year calendar discussion which will be initiated in the October 18 faculty meeting. The Academic Accountability Committee plans to gather data about pros and cons of calendar proposals for stakeholder consideration and to advise the PCHS board’s decision making process.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Personalized Plans**

A variety of opportunities for personalized professional development related to schoolwide objectives are being offered this month. The Potential Project is delivering a six-session, after school course on “Mindfulness in the Workplace”. The Human Rights Education seminar presented in August will be offered again on October 18 with HRE experts Nancy Flowers and Pam Bruns facilitating. Professional Learning Community pull out meetings facilitated by the Academic Achievement Team are ongoing.

PCHS is working with Dr. Tyrone Howard who is scheduled to present on confronting racism in schools. *LA School Report* covered Dr. Howard in the October 12 edition (article included in materials).

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT: PIQE Graduation**

A group of 63 parents celebrated their completion of the six-session Parent Involvement in Quality Education (PIQE) program on Saturday, October 8. PIQE is a community based program designed to strengthen parent engagement, promote the parent-school partnership, create strong leaders, and create a college-going culture. This is the third year PCHS has partnered with the PIQE organization. The PCHS program is coordinated by Erika Najar with support from Dr. Crystal Adams, Dr. Chris Lee, Lisa Saxon, JoLeta Simmons, and Sandra Martin. The graduation ceremony featured special guest speaker Angelica Pereyra, student speakers from SHPE, and parent speakers Maximiliano Salvador, Antonio Rosales, Maisha Harris, and Elie Shadian.

### **CHARTER ADVOCACY: The Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC)**

The Los Angeles Advocacy Council (LAAC) is a recently formed 17-member steering committee made up of charter leaders representing the diversity of LA charters. The LAAC works to define the scope of CCSA’s advocacy priorities in Los Angeles. The founding members are:

**Our Mission:** PCHS will empower our diverse population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure educational excellence, civic responsibility, and personal growth



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- *Ana Ponce, CEO, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy*
- *Vanessa Jackson, ED, Collegiate Charter High School*
- *Erin Studer, ED, CHIME*
- *Mark Kleger-Heine, ED, Citizens of the World L.A.*
- *Oliver Sicat, CEO and President, Ednovate*
- *Ted Morris, Co-Founder, Endeavor College Prep*
- *Malka Borrego, CEO, Equitas Academy Charter Schools*
- *Irene Sumida, Director, Fenton Charter Public Schools*
- *Parker Hudnut, CEO, ICEF Public Schools*
- *Brian Bauer, ED, Granada Hills Charter HS*
- *Marcia Aaron, ED, KIPP LA*
- *Caprice Young, CEO, Magnolia Public Schools*
- *Pamela Magee, ED, Palisades Charter HS*
- *Jackie Elliot, President and CEO, PUC National*
- *Yvette King-Berg, ED, YPI Charter Schools.*

The LAAC is dedicated to advocating on issues that matter most to the staff, students, and families we serve. Policy working groups are focused on addressing facilities challenges, improving the authorizing environment, and building relationships throughout the charter community.

**LAUSD Charter Division Annual Compliance Visit** is scheduled for May 16 and 19, 2017. Charter Division representative Chris Humphrey will attend the May 16 PCHS Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Career Tech Education Planning Committee**

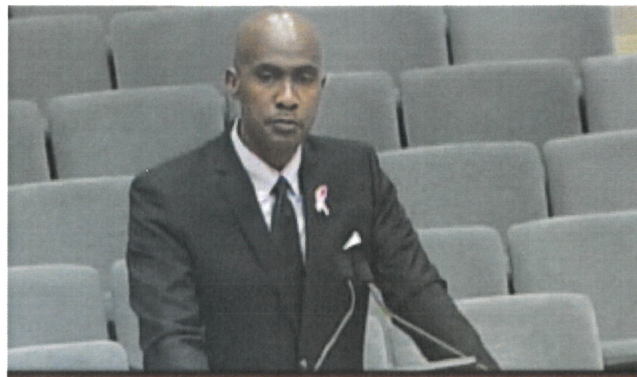
The CTE Planning Group is meeting regularly and creating an advisory board. The Pali team is participating in ongoing training provided by LACOE. The planning group is recruiting 7 and 11 industry partners to advise on career pathways. Contact Development Director Mike Rawson at [mrawson@palihigh.org](mailto:mrawson@palihigh.org).

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# LA SCHOOL REPORT

## LAUSD leaders need to confront racism in schools, UCLA educator says

Posted on **October 11, 2016 1:18 pm** by **Mike Szymanski**



UCLA's Tyrone Howard addresses board members on ways to avoid racism and stereotypes.

Racism and stereotypes continue to plague LA Unified, and it's up to leaders to change that, according to a UCLA professor who is holding seminars at some schools.

**Tyrone C. Howard**, associate dean for equity and inclusion at UCLA's graduate school of education and information studies, spoke to the **Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee** on Tuesday about how he is helping principals and teachers understand how to identify underlying racism and avoid enforcing stereotypes on their students. He said that initiating this difficult dialogue is among the steps needed to help persistently low-performing students, particularly African-American and poor children.

"Bias is real and discrimination is rampant," Howard told the committee, made up of four school board members, administrators and representatives of some of the major school unions. "People don't want to talk about race because it is not the politically correct thing to do. If we don't talk about race, then we ignore one aspect of who they are as young people."

He added, "Even teachers of color have biases against students of color. Lots of students feel like they have two strikes against them when they walk into a classroom because they are black or brown and poor and the teacher feels they can't succeed."

Every administrator and school board member will receive a copy of Howard's book **"Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America's Classrooms,"** and some schools will get personal training by Howard, said Chief Academic Officer Frances Gipson.



“We have a bold mission, and Tyrone Howard is an esteemed educator,” Gipson said, noting that some of his philosophies about understanding racial complexity “will intimidate some educators.”

Howard held a two-hour session last week with teachers at Cleveland High School in Reseda to discuss stereotypes and where those ideas come from in people’s lives. “It is going through a process of recognizing implicit bias and how we are all affected by it in one shape or form,” Howard said.

He suggested that requiring ethnic studies classes and emphasizing early literacy are also important steps to helping black and Latino students.



Frances Gipson

“We are one of the most racially diverse cities in the world, and we have the momentum and will and need to start having those conversations,” Howard said.

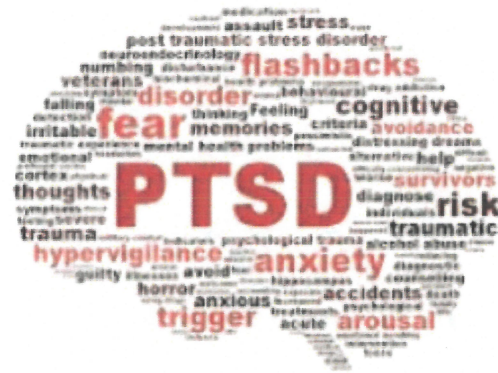
Howard, who grew up in poverty in Compton, said he would not have succeeded unless teachers put aside racial biases and saw his potential.

Howard said the district is moving in the right direction. He pointed out that 42 percent of students are now making a C or better in the A-G classes, twice what it was a decade ago. But he also noted African-American and Latino students make up more than 60 percent of California’s population but less than 25 percent of the UC system. And under-represented minority groups have not experienced substantial increases in college-going rates.

“We have to tell the narratives and promote things that are moving in the right direction on an ongoing basis,” he said. “We have to be frank and honest that African-American students lag seriously behind others and that it continues to happen. We also have to dismantle the belief that poor kids cannot succeed.”

School board President Steve Zimmer praised Howard for his books and as well as for his seminars at Cleveland High. Zimmer recalled a mentor explaining how a school with 98 percent Latino and African-American enrollment and with 90 percent minority teachers can still be considered a “white supremacist school,” and that changed his mindset about “deep and intentional deficit mindset and how pervasive it is.”

Zimmer asked for suggestions of what they could do, saying, “We don’t legislate hearts and minds, but we do set the direction.”



From Tyrone Howard’s presentation.

Howard said, “The issues about race are the big pink elephant in the room.” He said that educators need to understand the trauma that some students face outside the classroom.

“There is an impact of poverty, bullying, displacement, and many do not have the psychological support services they need,” Howard said. “Leadership is key here.” He said some principals don’t know how to deal with the issue with certain teachers.

Howard also said that support workers such as secretaries, nurses and janitors must all be on board to understand racism. “If we could cultivate that approach into the entire school culture there’s a lot of promise in the communities, but there are a lot who have written them off and that has to stop.”

Howard added, “The political craziness that’s going on doesn’t help. But I want to believe that most folks want to see what’s right for our children.”

Board member Richard Vladovic, who chairs the committee, said, “This has been really invigorating and good food for thought. We will move on it.”