



# PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

## PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT MAY 21, 2019

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

**Schoolwide Goal Update: PCHS will commit to equitable policies and practices to ensure PCHS's diverse student population has access to academic opportunities.**

**Professional Learning Committee supports** include scheduling teachers to **observe colleagues** who have student-centered lessons and **developing common PLC lesson designs**.

Teachers-observing-teachers is a new piece for PLC development and follows a "Lesson Study" model. (We have video-recorded (geometry) teachers, and PLC Coordinator has documented student interactions \*for Induction candidates), but we have not done the PLC reflection that would make this a powerful tool for improvement).

### Math:

- *Geometry* PLC has worked together to create a common lesson on a topic for which their students have struggled. They each did the common lesson, reflected on its implementation, and made recommendations for remediation and improvement for next year. Fall semester, they worked on a "Triangles" lesson; this semester, they are working on a "Trigonometry" lesson.
- Similarly, *Algebra 1's* goal was to explore multiple representations for linear functions, and *Algebra 2's* goal is to have a common Performance Task per unit (and discuss and reflect on that unit).

### Science:

With the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards, the science department's goal is to have students be proficient in Claim Evidence Reasoning (CER) statements.

- *Environmental Engineering* asks students to write CER statements with each unit, which are graded using a common rubric.
- *Biology* is tailoring their CER rubric to a common lab (from each semester), norming the grading of the lab, and having robust discussion regarding expectations and student achievement as a result.

### English:

English 9, English 10, and English 11 each have a common Persuasive Essay and a common Literary Analysis Essay.

- *English 9* has been implementing common PearDeck lessons and common Schoology formative assessments to support students as they work toward the common assessment essays.
- *English 11* is collectively revamping and updating their entire curriculum in order to better serve student needs.



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## Pods:

Each Pod's overarching goal is to integrate their curriculum and provide timely intervention for their 9th grade students.

- Pod highlights include the year-long projects in *Media Pod* (Design Thinking) and *Entrepreneurship Pod* (Business Plan & Trade Show).
- Media Pod, specifically, is implementing common Graphic Organizers, to scaffold the long-term project.
- The other pods continue to have common projects and essays, including the Pod-specific Sociology Document-Based Question (DBQ) Essay, which are graded on a common rubric.

## Social Science:

The Social Science department's goal is to have at least one common DBQ Essay in each PLC each semester.

- *Sociology* is a new PLC, and they are emphasizing common use of BAR (Background Argument Roadmap), a DBQ Essay, Oral Presentations, and Research.
- 10th grade *World History* teachers are working to create one common rubric that they can use for all of their common essays.
- By the time that our students reach 11th grade/*US History*, they are expected to have mastery of BAR, and the common DBQ rubric builds on the skills gathered in the previous years.

## World Languages:

The World Language department has blended Honors and College-Prep curriculum within the same class period, and, therefore, differentiation is the overall department goal. The department has spent a lot of time vertically aligning Key Questions, Objectives, and Culture for each PLC (particularly Spanish 1, 2, & 3 and Spanish for Natives 1 & 2).

- Spanish 1 has implemented common vocabulary lists for each unit (including extended vocabulary for Honors students) and common writing prompts.

PLCs not mentioned are working hard on things such as using Schoology features in each classroom (Tech Ed), common standards, skills and grading (PE), common student reflection prompts and opportunities for project revision (VAPA-Visual).

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Advanced Placement tests were administered May 6-17.

Number of tests taken - 2175

Number of subject tests administered - 21

LAUSD Charter School Division Annual Compliance Visit – May 8 and 9

The recent visit with the **LAUSD Charter School Division team** was a positive **first step in Pali's charter renewal process**. The audit covered all aspects of the school program including finances, governance, operations, and instruction. Much of our conversation analyzed Pali's instructional practices and student progress. The visiting team interviewed teachers and students. They visited 23 classrooms including Pali Academy. The visiting team commended Pali's strategic planning and frequent reference to guiding plans produced through stakeholder self-study such as the WASC Action Plan for Equity, Schoolwide Equity Study, Math Success Task Force Action Plan, and LCAP.



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Some of the **highlights noted by the visiting team** included:

- Student engagement – Observers noted that students in each classroom they visited were engaged in the lesson.
- Lesson objectives were clear in observed classrooms and students understood the purpose of the lesson.
- Safety supplies were readily available in classrooms and in the school safety bins.
- School governance procedures and policies follow best practices including training, adherence to the Brown Act, posting agendas and minutes for the Board and Board committees, and audio recordings of monthly meetings.

The **Math Department** was the most visited group during classroom observations. The charter division noted:

- They were impressed by the station work.
- They appreciated student discussions in groups.
- They were interested in math investigations and applications.
- They were able to identify teachers using a growth mindset.

Areas noted for growth that PCHS is already working to address are

- Developing a data system for frequently analyzing and addressing individual student progress.
- Making significant progress toward closing the achievement gap.

The LAUSD CSD team will be back on campus later in May to complete the evidence binder review.

Scores from the annual audit will be sent in **six-weeks**. Scores range from 4 to 1 (4 being the highest).

Last year, Pali earned a score of 4 in three of four areas with a 3 in finance.

LAUSD held a **Charter Renewal Orientation meeting on May 14**. PCHS administrators Tami Christopher and Monica Iannessa attended with me. We learned about the specifications for the charter renewal process and recommended timelines.

**Contract negotiation meetings** continue with PCHS collective bargaining groups. PCHS management and PCHS UTLA met on May 16 and 20 with additional upcoming meetings. PESPU discussions will resume June 7.