



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Educational Excellence.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL

COVER SHEET FOR AGENDA ITEMS

February 9, 2021

TOPIC/ AGENDA ITEM:

IV. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

B. Graduation Credit Task Force

PERSONNEL INVOLVED:

Board of Trustees, Graduation Requirement Task Force, Executive Director/Principal, Director/Assistant Principal of Academic Planning and Guidance Services

ISSUES INVOLVED/FISCAL IMPLICATIONS (IF ANY):

The propose of this action is to propose a reduction in the number of credits required for graduation from 230 to 210 for this year's class only. Demographic information indicates most of the credit deficient seniors are also the most vulnerable students. Additionally, PCHS would NOT be waiving any course requirements, only credit requirements. Students would still be expected to take the required courses needed to graduate, which many are taking through our credit recovery program.

There are currently 76 seniors who have 195 or fewer credits- roughly 11% of the senior class. 230 credits are currently needed to graduate. The average number of credits these students have is 183 for PCHS students and 181 for Pali Academy students. Students in general take six classes a semester for 30 credits. These students would need to take an average of roughly nine classes this semester to reach 230 credits to graduate by June. These are mostly SED and/or 504/IEP students. These are often Pali's most vulnerable students and Black and Latinx students.

IMPACT ON SCHOOL MISSION, VISION OR GOALS, (IF ANY):

PCHS has a duty to support students in successfully completing graduation requirements throughout the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, during which the most vulnerable students are disproportionately impacted. Failure to address student needs will result in a lower graduation rate which impacts charter compliance, state dashboards, accreditation, and public perception.



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OPTIONS OR SOLUTIONS:

The Board can consider adjusting graduation requirements from 230 to 210 for the class of 2021 or consider reducing by an alternative number of credits.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Graduation Requirement Task Force and Executive Director/Principal recommend for the 12th grade class of 2021, adjust the PCHS High School graduation requirements to 210 credits by reducing required Elective credits from 75 to 55.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

“To adjust the PCHS High School Graduation Requirements for the 12th grade class of 2021 to 210 credits by reducing required elective credits from 75 to 55.”

Pam Magee
Executive Director/Principal