



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting September 21, 2021

An important component of a successful educational organization is its consistent commitment to its mission. A decade ago, faculty, staff, and students came together to develop the PCHS guiding mission statement. This year, as PCHS celebrates its 60th anniversary, we recommit to our school's core mission.

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.

Annual Goal Setting Meeting – The PCHS Board of Trustees, Executive Director/Principal, Directors/Assistant Principals and students representing ASB Leadership, Ambassadors, Justice Union, BSU, LSU and more met this past Saturday, June 18 in Mercer Hall to discuss schoolwide goals for the coming school year and beyond. This report was submitted prior to the meeting. More details will be reported out in the September 21 meeting.

September Student Involvement Focus

Student Involvement panel – Last Saturday, September 11, a student panel coordinated and sponsored by the Pali Fund and Booster Club shared information about ways students can become involved on campus. These campus leaders participate in a wide variety of courses, programs, sports, and clubs. To learn more about the many ways students are actively engaged in the school community at Pali High, watch the presentation.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cba_nm0zIpWynZ1tpSYBp3cQTWvA49Jw/view?usp=sharing

The highly anticipated **ASB Club Days** will be held **September 21 and 22** during lunch in the Quad: September 21 Interest-based clubs/September 22 Service-based clubs.

Fuerza Unida coordinated by Myrna Cervantes along with the *madrinas* and *padrinas* held Welcome Assemblies for Pali's Latinx students on September 14 & 15. Information covered in the meetings included organizational skills, course information, A-G information, GPA calculations, College Center, scholarships, letters of recommendation, and more. **Victor Cervantes** Assistant Director at the University of Illinois visited the Pali campus on Friday, September 17 to provide a series of workshops for our *Fuerza* Latinx students.

The Village Nation coordinated by Dr. Crystal Adams with the support of the program elders is planning Welcome Assemblies for African American students later this month. Saturday parent meetings will be coming soon, so watch for the dates. TVN works hand in hand with the Black Student Union sponsored by Kinema Ivra. Upcoming plans include Second Chance assemblies to support students who have NC grades from last school year.



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Campus Unification Student Advocacy Room - U109

Healthy human development as well as a healthy democracy and anti-racism efforts require young people to have access to spaces where they can exercise and practice agency, deepen their understanding of self, engage in opportunities to self-advocate and learn about ways to combat racism. PCHS believes schools can and should play a role in addressing these human and social needs, and yet we recognize that most schools are not well equipped to do this work well.

By building equitable pathways that allow students to exercise and practice agency, deepen their understanding of self and community, and engage in opportunities for self-advocacy, community accountability, and anti-racism, we will see improvements in school culture, student engagement, motivation, and academic outcomes. Pali's Campus Unification Student Advocacy Room is designed to be a part of this work.

What kind of events can we look forward to in this room? Restorative Justice, Peer Mediation, Justice Union, Buzz Feed, club meetings, study groups, organizing, training, socials, awareness meetings, Take 10 and much, much more. Campus Unification Director Gio Stewart coordinates the events in this special space.

Listening to Student Voices/Student Engagement Opportunities

Student Concerns Meetings – ASB Leadership hosts regularly scheduled lunch meetings for the student body to share any concerns with the administration. Dr. Lee attended last week's meeting with me to discuss graffiti and vandalism that are impacting student restroom access. The length of lunch lines was also raised as a concern, which will be addressed. It was wonderful to hear students speak about their positive experiences with teachers who have adapted their classroom routines to help students adjust to longer block periods and other transitions after a year of quarantine.

Buzz Feed – Campus Unification Director Gio Stewart and I are resuming Buzz Feed meetings which were put on hold during quarantine. Students are randomly selected to participate in a council-style meeting to share their insights about student life at PCHS. The twice monthly meetings have provided invaluable insight into student needs, areas for growth, and successes at Pali High.

Ethnic Studies Book Club meets every Wed @ Lunch in Pali's new Campus Unification Student Advocacy Room U109

This semester we are reading "**Minor Feelings**" by **Kathy Park Hong** and focusing on the **Asian American experience**. Ethnic Studies Book Club seeks to offer an ethnic perspective as opposed to traditional Euro-American literature. Our goal is to educate, value and build cultural awareness and empathy. Anyone in our Pali community is welcome to join (students, staff, parents). A zoom link for parents will be sent out the Tuesday before every meeting. The group meets next on September 22.



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Student Activism

Student activism takes many forms at Pali High. A recent development worthy of note is the formation of the student initiated and student led PCHS Clean Energy Task Force.

PCHS Clean Energy Task Force

This task force brought a Clean Energy Resolution to the PCHS Board of Trustees, which was passed in June 2021. The group met throughout the summer and since the school year started with the focus of bringing clean energy to PCHS, the Palisades, and beyond. The group has also formed a partnership with the local group Resilient Palisades. The task force has been actively engaged with LAUSD Board District 4 and the LAUSD facilities departments. Through these meetings, the task force learned about Solar Photovoltaic System pilot projects at seven school sites. PCHS has been offered the opportunity to be part of a similar project through an independent program. Details of this clean renewable energy feasibility study and project will be brought to the PCHS Board of Trustees for review and approval.

The Clean Energy Task Force is focused on energy efficiency and sustainability as well as climate change education with sub-committees developing action steps for this school year including the establishment of baseline data and creation of a dashboard to track energy efficiency. Exciting plans for teacher and student involvement in surveys and teach-ins are also in the works.

Save the Date - Upcoming Meetings:

- **Long Term Strategic Planning (LTSP)**

The next LTSP Committee Meeting is **Wednesday, September 23, 2021 at 3:30pm.**

Participation is greatly needed and appreciated. Meetings are open to all.

- **FPPC Conflicts of Interest and Government Code 1090 webinar** for the PCHS Board of Trustees – September 28 @7-8pm. Zoom link will be posted with the agenda.
- **Virtual Back to School Night** - Thursday, September 29