



# PALISADES

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

### **Faculty Report Board of Trustees Meeting December 14, 2021**

#### **Concerns**

- Faculty has no faith in the administration's ability to handle an emergency situation, based on what happened on Dec. 6 and the fact we have not had emergency drills -- other than a shelter in place activity in October. Clear communication from administration is essential. Sending teachers an email is insufficient. Many teachers did not have time to check their email in advance of the school day. Moreover, the administration should be tasked with coming up with a plan to efficiently check out students, so that students and their parents are not waiting in line for more than an hour.
- On Monday, the gates around our campus that were erected to keep the community safe served as a barrier to students safely and quickly exiting campus. Students and staff need to know where the emergency exits are located and push gates need to remain unlocked.
- Faculty is concerned about the lack of communication regarding the pending increased enrollment in Virtual Academy. When will teachers find out about new assignments and possible schedule changes? Who is making these decisions? When will teachers be notified? How will staff be trained on Virtual Academy protocols and software?
- Faculty is concerned about the hiring process regarding the HR director and whether there is a potential inherent conflict of interest regarding having the HR director report to the EDP. Is this a job that we might outsource?
- Faculty is concerned about unintended consequences regarding the NC grading policy in effect for the fall semester. Some students were vocally open about disengaging from the curriculum to take an NC instead of a C or a D. In other cases, students have been dropped from classes after the permanent schedule day.
- Students with fevers are showing up in our classes. Might we be able to reinstitute the temperature checks? Students are saying they have no symptoms upon arrival and then need to be sent to the health office.
- LAUSD coaches received increases in stipends. PCHS stipends need to be adjusted as well.
- Teachers in charge of extra-curricular activities note that they have concerns about the stress students are feeling to complete work in their academic classes.
- Teachers and staff would like access to the weight and cardio rooms. Teachers need an outlet for their high stress levels during this pandemic.

#### **Points of Pride**

- The school staff as a whole has been focused on meeting the socio-emotional needs of students while at the same time addressing our primary job, which is to educate students.



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- Great thanks to our Mental Health team, which has worked tirelessly to support students and to introduce them to the coping skills that will enable these young adults to be successful in a school environment.
- Some English teachers elected to form a Grading for Equity PLC last summer and they are piloting standards-based grading practices. They will share their findings with the faculty during a PD in January. A second cohort began reading *Grading for Equity* (Joe Feldman) in November and is exploring ways to implement principles of the book into their practices.
- The band program is continuing to grow and thrive. The marching band recently finished a successful competitive season, finishing in a tie for second place at the Regional Championships.