



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting March 15, 2022

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.

Climate Summit Earth Day on April 22, 2022

Palisades Charter High School continues to demonstrate our commitment to addressing environmental issues and the climate crisis through educational opportunities across campus. The first ever PCHS Earth Day Climate Summit will engage students and teachers in all subject areas. The Human Rights Watch Student Task Force is providing a library of resources and materials. Special thanks to Angelica Pereyra, Myrna Cervantes, Steve Engelmann, Monica Iannessa, Jordan Todd, and Pam Bruns for coordinating this important event.

The following information is from *The Human Rights Watch Student Task Force Taking Responsibility for the Future* newsletter.

<https://www.hrwstf.org/wordpress/climate-summit-day-april-22-2022-palisades-charter-high-school/>

Why a Climate Summit Day?

Palisades Charter HS teachers and administrators have worked with the STF Team to conduct several human rights education professional development days over the years. We are pleased to support Pali's Climate Summit Day as part of the Pali STF chapter's work in our [Human Rights and the Climate Crisis Campaign](#).

Many students identify the climate crisis as the defining issue of our time, and since fall 2019, STF members at Pali have been advocating for 100% clean, renewable energy. Pali STFers participated in LAUSD's adoption of the 100% Clean Energy Resolution on December 3, 2019, which inspired numerous on-campus education efforts to raise awareness of the need for renewable energy. They also presented the first student-led climate resolution to the Pali Board of Trustees, which passed unanimously on May 18, 2020. The resolution created the Pali Clean Energy Task Force, operating in three sub-committees focused on transitioning to 100% renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate education.

Pali has a Board vetted and approved solar energy proposal currently waiting in LAUSD's system while other projects are prioritized. The Climate Education Sub-Committee developed this April 22 (Earth Day) Climate Summit Day to ensure the Pali community is aware and educated about these efforts to transition Pali to 100% renewable energy. It is vital that the entire Palisades Charter High School community is empowered with the knowledge to continue



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advocating for solar. Our home planet cannot wait for a convenient time. We must act now, as a unified school, to radically reduce our carbon footprint and become a beacon of hope for the Palisades community and beyond.

In-Person Campus Tours

PCHS has resumed in-person prospective family tours. The Pali Ambassadors in coordination with Amy Onyendu, Assistant Principal for Admissions and Attendance; Karen Ellis, College Center Director, and Pam Magee welcome visitors to the campus to learn more about the PCHS experience.

Tours are scheduled for March 17, 24, and 30, and will continue into April and May based on interest.

To register for a tour, go to the PCHS website:

https://www.palihigh.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=411328&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=971768

Interested parents can also call the Main Office at (310) 230-6623 to reserve a spot for upcoming tours.

Long Term Strategic Planning Meetings

Long Term Strategic Planning (LTSP) meetings are coordinated monthly by the Executive Director/Principal and function as advisory meetings for the schoolwide decision-making process. All educational partners are welcome to participate.

The PCHS Board of Trustees develops annual schoolwide goals with the Executive Director/Principal and administrative leadership team. The goals incorporate stakeholder input and elements of the PCHS Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Action Plan. The goals are revisited regularly in Board and LTSP meetings. LTSP sub-committees prioritize action items, review progress, make recommendations, and develop budget proposals both for short and long range planning. The LTSP Committee is composed of five groups representing the sections of strategic planning: Academic Achievement and Innovation, Facilities, Family and Community, Fundraising/Development, and Technology.

The March LTSP meeting will focus on soliciting stakeholder feedback for the 2022-2023 Budget Development process. Topics of discussion will include (1) LCAP goals, (2) budget development calendar, and (3) spending priorities and recommendations.

Meetings are currently held on Zoom on the **last Wednesday of the month at 3:30pm.**

Everyone is invited to join the **March 30th meeting:**

<https://palihigh-org.zoom.us/j/86088271255?pwd=UHK3T0ZGTCtzWjcra2czcmdyQUJnUT09>

Summer School Information:

Dates: June 21-July 21, 2022

When: Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12:30pm



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Details:

- Open to current PCHS students
- For credit recovery and/or credit deficiency
 - Some students may be required to take classes during Summer School for credit recovery
- English, Math (Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2), Social Science, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Global Science) Health, and some Elective courses
- Sign-ups will occur after Spring Break
 - Families should look for details on the Counseling Page after Spring Break

PCHS Summer Orientation Dates

Seniors – Thursday, August 4

Juniors – Friday, August 5

Sophomores – Monday, August 8

Freshmen – Tuesday, August 9

Makeup Day -Wednesday, August 10

Addressing student concerns/Steps taken to resolve student restroom lines:

Students have expressed concerns about long restroom lines during lunch and nutrition due to restrooms being closed for repairs or for other reasons. To resolve these issues, the following steps have been put in place:

- Adult supervisors are posted at restrooms during nutrition and lunch to keep lines moving and reduce opportunities for vandalism.
- A list of open restroom locations is posted on the school website and Schoology.
- Four additional, executive restrooms are available for students.

PCHS will continue to monitor the restrooms to ensure students are able to access the facilities quickly during nutrition and lunch.

Schoolwide Goals Update

The PCHS Board of Trustees, Executive Director/Principal, Directors/Assistant Principals and students representing ASB Leadership, Ambassadors, Justice Union, BSU, LSU and more met in Mercer Hall on Saturday, August 18 to discuss schoolwide goals for the 2021-22 school year and beyond. The group reviewed the previous schoolwide goals, critical benchmarks identified in the WASC Accreditation Action Plan for Equity, the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) surveys, and the annual LAUSD Charter School Division Compliance Audit.

The current schoolwide goals build on previous goals and address academic achievement, budget/fiscal, communication, diversity, and student socioemotional well-being.

Progress toward one or more of the goals will be reported monthly to the Board of Trustees and stakeholders. This month's focus is on the Fiscal/Budget Goal:



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Fiscal/Budget

Long Term Aspirational Goal

PCHS will identify and adopt cost-effective priorities to achieve 21st-century student-focused education. PCHS will do this with complete transparency and accountability while maintaining a balanced budget and cash reserve levels of 5%+ and providing monthly and annual reporting measurements.

Action Items:

- Align on clear budget priorities for 2021-24 and seek board adoption by March 2022.
- Maintain a minimum 5% unrestricted cash reserve and monitor on a monthly basis.
- Execute adopted budget with efficiency and strict adherence to fiscal policies and procedures - monitor on a monthly basis.
- Address Lifetime Health Benefit (OPEB liability) by investing current assets (immediately), pre-funding the benefit at the recommended level (monthly), and/or identifying a solution to address the long-term liability by Jan 2022.
- By June 2022, develop a funding plan to support technology equity and access (Ed Tech Plan).
- Achieve all goals set forth in the Strategic Development Plan (PCHS Fund, planned giving, alumni network, endowment, grants, and capital campaigns).
- Identify ways to increase the effectiveness of budget/financial communications.

2022-23 Registration

Applications for the 2022-2023 school year opened Tuesday, October 12, 2021, and closed Monday, February 28, 2022. All prospective families must have submitted an application. The applications are collected then sorted by preference order. Based on the PCHS charter and a policy adopted by the Palisades Charter High School Board of Trustees, admission is granted to students in the following preference order:

1. Residents of the former attendance area of Palisades High School.
2. Siblings of pupils admitted or attending the charter school
3. Children of PCHS staff not to exceed 5% of the school's enrollment
4. Students who **have culminated** from Paul Revere Charter Middle School
5. Those who qualify for free or reduced-price meals
6. Applicants who reside within LAUSD's attendance boundaries
7. Applicants that reside within the state of California, but not within LAUSD boundaries.

For more information about the PCHS Registration Process, contact Amy Onyendu, Assistant Principal/Director of Admissions and Attendance.

2022-23 School Start Time and Proposed Bell Schedule Changes



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SB 328 known as the later school start bill goes into effect July 1, 2022. **All California public districts are required to start high schools no earlier than 8:30am and middle schools no earlier than 8:00am.**

The Academic Accountability Committee has been discussing potential bell schedules and has requested proposals to review. Bell schedules are a negotiable item. After vetting proposals and gathering feedback from our educational partners, PCHS will collaborate with UTLA-PCHS to determine the most appropriate schedule for the coming school year and future school years. The final recommendation will be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The March 8 Faculty Meeting focused on discussing potential changes to the bell schedule. Reasons to consider adjustments to the current bell schedule include:

- 1) Addressing the new later start time is mandatory.
- 2) Shortened student attention spans and increased technology integration have made the longer school block period obsolete.
- 3) The current bell schedule has little embedded time for PLCs, SLCs, professional development, or IEP/SST meetings.
- 4) Students need more time to learn how to be students, strengthen soft skills, and develop socio-emotionally.
- 5) Geographic locales have expanded and travel time for both staff and students have to be considered.

Schedule proposals will be considered in two phases:

Phase 1 – Fall 2022

Phase 2 – Long range planning for 2 years and beyond.

LAUSD Charter School Division Annual Compliance Review

Virtual Visit on April 5 and in-person site visit on April 8 - The virtual visit will consist of a Zoom meeting with the school's leadership team to discuss/debrief (a) the school's responses to the oversight focus questions; (b) the results of our "virtual binder" document review; and, (c) the review of the school's special education program and Welligent reports. The in-person site visit will include a physical visit to conduct classroom observations followed by a discussion/debrief of the classroom observations and to complete a health and safety inspection. Additionally, the assigned Fiscal Oversight Administrator will separately schedule the fiscal segregation of duties review.