



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Faculty Report Board of Trustees Meeting April 19, 2022

Concerns

- Returning from Spring Break, we are in the final push to the end of the school year. With AP testing, end-of-the-semester assessments, and team and individual sports playoffs, it's a busy and intense time for both students and teachers.
- The California Science Test (CAST) was difficult to administer because of lack of planning. Students were invited to use their own technology, and the resulting difficulties encountered consumed too many hours of students' and teachers' time, resulting in lost instructional minutes – and frustration. The debacle could have been avoided with better preparation and communication. Teachers were troubleshooting on the fly, and there was no organized forum in which teachers could share successful work-arounds. The suggestion is that the upcoming state-mandated English and Math tests be given on class sets of prepared chromebooks and that proctors receive better training and clear, step-by-step written instructions.
- The U-building bungalows are deteriorating. Floors are sagging, and windows are leaking. The Board and Administration must identify a permanent solution to provide safe classroom space.
- The faculty would like more discretion used in the scheduling of activity periods. There is a feeling that instructional time is being taken cavalierly. The fact that we have been informed does not mean that the lost time is inconsequential.
- Faculty morale remains low, and many teachers are wary of the upcoming negotiations. The wide-spread attitude is that teaching is increasingly difficult as educators are being pulled in many different directions and being asked to meet the increasingly complex demands of administration, parents, and students.

Points of Pride

- Representatives from Fuerza Unida attended the recent College Board Preparé Conference and identified numerous strategies to support and to empower Latino students and their parents. Fuerza Unida has organized several field trips, cultural events, and educational seminars for students. The program also will be awarding scholarships of \$500 to four deserving graduating Latino seniors who exemplify the goals and spirit of the diverse PCHS Latino community.
- Pali will stage an Earth Day Climate Summit on April 22. Students in every class will engage in a 40-minute learning activity. Journalism students will attend a press conference with LAUSD Board vice president Nick Melvoin, who will be on campus for the Earth Day Climate Summit.
- The VAPA department's recent Showcase event featured an impressive display of student work.