



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting April 19, 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.

Annual Educational Partners Surveys - Annual feedback surveys coordinated by the PCHS Survey Committee, a Board of Trustees committee, are currently in development for parents and faculty to be distributed by email by May 2022. The ASB Leadership class conducts annual surveys for students. The results of the annual surveys will be presented and discussed in upcoming Board of Trustees meetings.

Collective Bargaining - UTLA PCHS and PCHS continue to meet to define the terms of the next labor contract. Meetings will be ongoing during the spring. Meetings with the classified collective bargaining unit PESPU will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Master Schedule Planning and Hiring - Department Chairs met individually with Assistant Principal Dr. Chris Lee and Human Resources consultants to begin master schedule planning with a focus on determining course enrollment/demand and hiring/position control. Special thanks to the Counseling Department for gathering course requests from students that make this critical planning process possible.

Department Chair meeting – The most recent draft of a schoolwide grading policy was discussed at the April Department Chair meeting. The objective of these discussions is to reach consensus on a policy to be implemented during the 2022-23 school year. Department Chair feedback has been incorporated into the draft, which will next be discussed in individual department meetings. The rationale for this agreement included in the opening of the proposal explains the need for an updated policy:

“The COVID pandemic has exacerbated already existing inequitable outcomes for our students. In the aftermath of severe learning gaps, PCHS is examining how its grading policies do, or do not, support the school’s mission. Many of these inequities are manifested in the grading practices used to perpetuate systems of sorting rather than providing meaningful feedback and communication that afford students the opportunity to build upon their strengths while growing as scholars. The Grade Policy MOU objective is to establish recommendations and guidelines for more equitable grading practices that will establish coherence in our schoolwide policy. The professional development and schoolwide focus have challenged educator mindset about report cards and grades and aligned with the current research (Marzano, Guskey, Feldman, etc.) The guidance [in the policy] represents the collaborative work of PCHS staff and its administration, UTLA, and other educational partners.”



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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. We are also proud to have the support of our LAUSD Board District 4 representative Nick Melvoin, who will be attending our 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 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.

Long Term Strategic Planning Meetings

Long Term Strategic Planning (LTSP) meetings are coordinated monthly by the Executive



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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 April 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 **April 27th meeting:**

<https://palihigh-org.zoom.us/j/84818531192?pwd=OS9EOWN4WIIyUDZpelBCL1ZyTVdDUT09>

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:

Schoolwide Goal: Student Socioemotional Well-Being

Long Term Aspirational Goal

PCHS will continue to cultivate and explore opportunities for social-emotional wellness, development of life skills, and stress management both inside and outside the classroom.

- **Student Assemblies and Parent Webinar**



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Jonathan Cristall, a City of Los Angeles prosecutor and the author of the award-winning book, *What They Don't Teach Teens*, conducted workshops for 9th and 10th grade students and all parents. The topics of the workshops were “Digital Pitfalls and Best Practices” (9th grade) and “Healthy Intimate Relationships and Connections.” Young people coming of age today face new risks, expectations, and laws that did not exist when their parents were teens. The workshops were designed to sensitize and clarify the many complicated, delicate situations that students face and empower them to make good choices. The March 31st evening webinar for parents provided information about both topics. PCHS plans to provide the training for 11th and 12th graders at a later date.

- **Faculty Professional Development (Faculty Meeting April 25, 2022)**

Topic: Accommodations - What's Your Mindset?

Objective & Purpose:

- 1) Build a better understanding for supporting all students through active listening, collaborating, teaching and learning
- 2) Gather information about faculty knowledge and level of support needed for classroom accommodations and testing accommodations.

Ms. Joasia Garza, LAUSD Specialist from the Charter Operated Programs Tier I team joined PCHS Director of Student Support Services Tammie Wilson in leading the workshop.

Other Action Items for the Student Emotional Well-Being Goal:

- Incorporating weekly announcements. [Ongoing](#)
- Providing learning opportunities through the curriculum to support SEL within PODS, seminars, and mentor programs. [Ongoing](#)
- PCHS leadership and clubs will communicate opportunities for SEL across social media platforms and classroom announcements. [Ongoing](#)
- Offer classes focusing on life skills, healthy relationships, and positive mental health strategies that count toward graduation credit. [In development](#)
- Review the Wellness Policy semiannually and promote strategies to foster healthy lifestyles. [TBD](#)

LAUSD Charter School Division Annual Compliance Review

Virtual Visit on April 5 and in-person site visit on April 8 - The virtual visit consisted of a Zoom meeting with the school's leadership team to discuss/debrief (a) the school's responses to the guiding 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 included a physical visit to conduct classroom observations followed by a discussion/debrief of the classroom observations and a health and safety inspection. Additionally, the fiscal segregation of duties review will take place on April 25.