



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Educational Excellence.

ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE (AAC) MEETING

Date and Time: Thursday March 31, 2022 at 3:30pm

Location: via Zoom

I. Preliminary

- A. CALL TO ORDER: by Minh Ha Ngo at 3:33pm. Recording started.
 - B. ROLL CALL: Paul Mittelbach, Steve Klima, Randy Tenan-Snow, Minh Ha Ngo, Amy Onyendu, Malika Mirkasymova, David Pickard, Amelia Sims, Talia Davood, Monica Batts King (arrived late for a vote)
 - C. ABSENT: Brenda Clarke, Michael Friedman, Jewlz Fahn
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 2/24/2022
Amendments: None
Steve K. moved to approve the minutes, David P. seconded the motion.
Roll call for a vote: Randy TS - yes, Steve K. - yes, Paul M.- yes, Amy O. - yes, Minh Ha N. - yes, Malika M. - yes, David P. - yes. Amelia S. - yes, Talia D. - abstained as she was not present at that meeting
THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

II. Public Comment - 16 min allocated

No requests to speak later in the meeting.

No other public comments.

III. Discussion and Action Items

A. Pali Academy (PA) Presentation

Kimberly Theard, the PA Coordinator, made a presentation. The entire presentation is available on the school website under the *Governance* section at https://palihigh.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?dir=2022_Academic_Accountability_Committee_Meeting%20/2022_03_31&uREC_ID=410903&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=753489&pageldx=1

PA is a small community, currently of 65 students. Its goal is to help students to recover academic credit and graduate. An average student is 45-60 credits behind. Graduation rate of 90%. 64% of PA students are considered economically disadvantaged, compared to 23% at Pali High. 11 students have IEPs. These students benefit from a smaller class environment.

PA students have access to the main campus for VAPA and World Language classes. A group of them are on track to return to the main campus in the Fall. Three students take Community College classes. A lot of them work.

PA utilizes different forms of teaching: traditional, online & blended, depending on the subject. They have a waitlist, prioritizing admission is hard due to limited capacity. Summer school was the best way to recruit new students. Currently there are no openings for teacher positions.

David P. asked how PA decided that a student is ready to go back to the main campus. Kim T. explained that first of all, credit should be back in a safe zone. Second, they have a meeting with parents to address potential attendance issues. Usually, it's the students who initiate the process of return. Talia D. inquired about the structure of class. Kim T. described a traditional class where activities change every 20-25 minutes. The goal is not to have homework at home.

Minh Ha N. suggested asking the BOT for more space for PA (an additional bungalow?). David P. praised the team and Kim's leadership. He has insider's knowledge as a former Pali Academy teacher and is aware that Kim is loved by students.

B. Meeting Protocol (not on the agenda)

Randy TS explained that the next AAC meeting will be offered as a hybrid with the Zoom option available. AAC members have to let her know ahead of time if they will be joining remotely, provide the address of their location and post a meeting agenda on the door.

C. Bell Schedules Discussion

Talia D. shared student survey results and covered main points. (See addendum #1) Students agree that they would like academic support during school hours, but were opposed to a longer day. They were concerned about transportation. Minh Ha N. suggested that students didn't understand the details behind these questions and reminded that delayed start of the school day next academic year is mandated by the new law.

Randy TS. discussed the questionnaire in class but that effort was voluntary and not all teachers spent time on that.

Steve K. shared teacher survey results. (See the entire document at https://palihigh.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?dir=2022_Academic_Accountability_Committee_Meeting%20/2022_03_31&uREC_ID=410903&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=753489&pageIdx=1)

The most popular ideas were intervention and study hall. They prefer block schedule with fewer passing periods.

Minh Ha N. thanked administration for allocating time for the surveys and discussion. Nicole Newble, a school counselor, asked for breakdown of questionnaire results by grade. Talia D. didn't have the data. She speculated that even upper classmen were against Freshmen seminars.

Minh Ha N. gave an overview of all proposed schedules that were send to the AAC:

- Embedded support schedule similar to David P's schedule where last 20 min of each class are devoted to supporting the students.
- Asynchronous all periods meet - once a week an asynchronous day - a "catch up" day - with all periods where you will have no new material presented. This day needs a new name-perhaps "Intervention Day"
- Designated structural support - one intervention period in each day.

Minh Ha N. suggested that the Bell Schedule committee with David P. and administration meet again and discuss these proposals. She would like to narrow it down to 2 or 3 ideas we can share with the school.

D. Update on AP Courses Enrollment Cap

Minh Ha N. informed the committee and she has not been able to get any data from the Counseling Office and Mental Health department and asked Amy O. for help. Mr. Burr is working with the counseling office on a new AP contract. There is a suggestion to use a "W" to indicate a student withdrew from class without effect on the GPA.

Talia D. mentioned that ASB was working on an idea for presentation - AP Reality - to give a realistic view of what is involved. It may be implemented next year. Minh Ha N. reflected on the faculty's desire to explore other ways to prepare students to the "reality" of AP classes.

Paul M. mentioned that culture at the school needs to be improved. Students needs to hear from different sources about APs and then make appropriate decisions.

Minh Ha N. explained that she meets with her current students who intend to take AP classes in math, inquires on the number of other APs these students plan to take and makes sure they understand the amount of work it will require. It becomes an informed discussion. It is unclear if most teachers go through a similar process.

Malika M. addressed AP cap discussion that took place at the last meeting. She was concerned that students who came to speak on this subject were misinformed on many aspects of the debate and, unfortunately, didn't hear or understand information provided by Dr. Ngo. (A student applying to college is compared only to her/his peers from the same school and not across other schools, which means no student will suffer from a cap). Malika M. also explained that she was aware of a similar process at Harvard Westlake school and has researched it in detail. It was initiated by a teachers council because students were sleep deprived and couldn't function. Once the policy was adopted the school went into a 4 year transition. Only students who started HW high school this year will have an AP cap. And she pointed out that it is not possible to argue that Harvard Westlake students will not be able to get into highly selective universities because of that policy. Malika's goal was not to go as far as addressing mental health issues, but to address the basics - lack of sleep and exhaustion. Pali has a highly

competitive segment of the student body, but the attitudes and behavior affect others. There's a tremendous amount of peer pressure that she is aware of. Students who came to speak at the last meeting are obviously high achieving, that's why they were there, but they don't know how it affects others.

Minh Ha N. responded that there are many faculty members who are concerned about students' wellbeing. That's why they are engaged in this debate. She reminded that we would need to look at the data before we move forward.

IV. 2022-2023 School Calendar

Steve K. explained that the Pali calendar is usually coordinated with the LAUSD calendar. (Please see Addendum #2) LAUSD is considering making winter break 2 weeks long, not 3 as it is now. Steve K. reminded the committee that this is the last year of a 3 year calendar. Minh Ha N. suggested AAC makes a recommendation to the BOT to approve the calendar for subsequent years once again. The committee members agreed without holding a formal vote.

V. Other

Agenda items must be submitted to mngo@palihigh.org by April 7, 2022 @ 2pm via EMAIL.

Next Academic Accountability Committee meeting: April 28, 2022 at 3:30-5pm. Scheduled Presentations on Credit Recovery and CTE.

ADDENDUM #1

Student Survey Results Overview Bell Schedule

Number of responses: 1,317

How data was collected: school wide activity for survey completion during class

Extremely important

Keep nutrition and lunch times the same

Keep passing periods the same

Consider impact on student athletes and missed instructional time Keep block period and number of passing periods low

Give students some free period in their schedule-look out tutoring

Important

Asynchronous Time (This name is not to be confused with Asynchronous Friday during Remote Instruction). Teachers are engaged (not actively teaching new material time). Perhaps "Intervention Friday" "Learning Lab Friday"

Intervention/Study Hall time

Add flex time period/advisory- shorten class by ten minutes (academic support/life skills)
Offer more academic classes during 7th period

Divided on embedded support

Not important/ interested

Flex time-club meeting non academic-especially if it impacts length of school day

But liked the more academic ones

Freshman seminar that is mandatory for all 9th graders

If they have an advisory-they do not want it to be strictly academic (ex. Life skills as well)
Mandating freshmen take 7 classes

Immediately Consider-for next year

Intervention Study hall-academic/life skills Asynchronous time

Maintain academic class time, keep block periods low Cut academic class time for advisory period/flex period Keep nutrition and lunch the same

Consider impact on student athletes

Keep number of block periods low

Give students one free period

More academic classes 7th period

Embedded support

Do not consider

Mandating Freshman Seminar

Mandating Freshman take a 7th period course

Any intervention that would further lengthen the school day

Parallels with teachers*

Non academic flex time (ex. Club meeting time)-shouldn't be considered Want to keep lunch, nutrition, passing periods the same

No mandate for freshman to take 7th period

ADDENDUM #2

2022-23 School Year Important Dates

August 15:	First day for teachers (Professional Development)
August 16:	Professional Development
August 17:	First day for students ALL CLASSES MEET DAY
Sept. 2:	Admissions Day
Sept. 5:	Labor Day (Holiday)
Sept. 26:	Rosh Hashanah (Unassigned Day)
Oct. 5:	Yom Kippur (Unassigned Day)
Nov. 11:	Veteran's Day
Nov. 21-25:	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 12:	All Classes Meet Day
Dec. 13-15:	Finals
Dec. 15:	Last day of first semester
Dec. 16:	Last day for teachers (Pupil Free Day)
Jan. 9:	First day of second semester (teachers only/prof. development)
Jan. 10:	First day of second semester for students ALL CLASSES MEET DAY
Jan. 16:	MLK Day (Holiday)
Feb. 20:	President's Day (Holiday)
March 31:	Cesar Chavez Day (Unassigned Day)
April 3-7:	Spring Break
May 29:	Memorial Day
June 5-7:	Finals (Last day for students)

June 8:

Last day for teachers (Pupil Free Day)

ADDENDUM #4

AAC 2/24/22 meeting chat transcript

15:34:55 From Paul Mittelbach : Sorry, I have a loaner laptop from the tech office, and I had trouble signing in!

15:43:35 From Minh Ha Ngo : Are all of the classes using Acellus?

15:53:42 From Minh Ha Ngo : Is there a waiting list?

15:54:56 From Paul Mittelbach : Great presentation! 😊 I may have missed this--what's the current enrollment?

15:56:23 From Nicole Newble : When will you start accepting students for next school year?

15:59:32 From Nicole Newble : Sorry, I was not aware I could not speak. I will call Ms. Theard tomorrow

16:01:00 From Nicole Newble : I'm driving. I can't see if other hands are raised. Thanks

16:09:29 From Paul Mittelbach : No objection from me.

16:11:29 From Stephen Klima :
https://drive.google.com/file/d/13ZvIQP3K9_XLZF114yE3Avg0wIFO81P1/view?usp=sharing

16:13:33 From Monica Iannessa : Is it on a Thursday?

16:14:58 From Monica Iannessa : Are you going to add more PD before school starts ?

16:21:06 From Monica Iannessa : What is the gpa repercussion of a W = withdrawal grade?

16:21:16 From Malika Mirkasymova : v how will the W work?

16:24:23 From Malika Mirkasymova : i have a comment

16:25:24 From Nicole Newble : I thought it was determined in the last AA meeting there would not be an AP cap. Did something transpire since that meeting or did I misunderstand something from the last meeting

16:25:56 From Amy Onyendu to Minh Ha Ngo(Direct Message) : I may lose service but will hop back on!

16:26:36 From Nicole Newble : Ok thx

16:34:22 From Randy Tenan-Snow : Strong number of responses!

16:36:33 From Nicole Newble to Minh Ha Ngo(Direct Message) : Thanks for letting me in again. I'm driving, bad reception

16:37:12 From Malika Mirkasymova : Talia - can you please send me this document?

16:41:31 From Stephen Klima :
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1muwohgOtdRvi48X9HZ0zTYpsRyAeusyW2bqN1ZJ-hZo/edit?usp=sharing>

16:44:26 From Andrea King : On the student survey data. Did show the range of teachers participated in the discussion?

16:48:06 From Monica Iannessa : You are welcome.

16:48:18 From Randy Tenan-Snow to Minh Ha Ngo(Direct Message) : I have to leave to the women's panel in 4 minutes. I am willing to attend Board if you would like minutes shared this next month.

16:48:34 From Minh Ha Ngo to Randy Tenan-Snow(Direct Message) : Thank you. I'll let you know.

16:49:39 From Stephen Klima : Life skills, study skills, AP prep, etc

16:49:57 From Paul Mittelbach : What Minh Ha said—a freshman seminar would be a place where some of the intervention could be embedded.

16:58:29 From Monica Iannessa : Good summary. I don't know if people mentioned that zero can be offered just not counted for instructional minutes. Rotation makes it difficult for walk on marching band and other VAPA coaches.

16:59:53 From Paul Mittelbach : It's an interesting point Minh Ha made about the "guinea-pig" class...But I've thought about the rotating schedule option over the years and I have concerns that it just messes too much with families—pick-up, etc.

17:00:13 From Monica Iannessa : Pd time/PLC time during the week for teachers would be terrific to have.

17:02:48 From Monica Iannessa : Happy birthday, David!

17:02:54 From David Pickard : Thank you!

17:02:55 From Monica Iannessa : Thank you!

17:02:58 From Stephen Klima : Thank you!

17:02:58 From Paul Mittelbach : Thank you! Great meeting!