



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting May 17, 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.

LAUSD approves HVAC project for PCHS

The LAUSD Board of Education gave the final approval to provide heating, ventilation and air conditioning to Palisades Charter High School at the April 26, 2022 meeting. Here are some important details about this project:

- PCHS is the last school in the district to have air conditioning installed in classrooms.
- The project will remove and replace campus-wide existing heating-only air handlers or fan coil units and connect them to the central 4-pipe system. It will provide two new chillers to add cooling to the site, a new boiler for the gym, and split heat pump units for smaller spaces that do not currently have air conditioning.
- The project budget is approximately \$34,688,300.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024 and conclude in 2026.

Thank you to the LAUSD Board of Education, the LAUSD Operations and Facilities Team, and especially to LAUSD District 4 Board Member Nick Melvoin for supporting this project. Also Allison Holdorff Polhill, former PCHS Board member representing parents and previously with Nick Melvoin's Office was a major advocate to ensure this project was approved. In addition, Nick and Allison are champions for clean energy initiatives at Pali High and throughout LAUSD.

US News & World Report recognition

Pali High is proud to once again be included in the top ranked schools in the nation, state, and region by *U.S. News & World Report*. See the full report [here](#) and PCHS specific details [here](#).

The UCLA Chicano Research Center and the UCLA Brain Research Center have partnered with PCHS students for important academic opportunities.

UCLA students engaged with students in various courses and Latinx Student Union to present on how voter registration and voting can make an impact in their communities at the local, state, and federal level. Thank you goes to Myrna Cervantes and LSU for coordinating with UCLA and hosting these presentations.

Dr. Andrew Fuligni from UCLA Brain Research Institute collaborated with Julie Benke, AP Biology teacher, to engage students in graduate research during the summer on adolescent brain development. (Not as subjects, but as researchers!)



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Graduation 2022

The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2022 will be held on Thursday, June 9 at 5pm in the PCHS Stadium by the Sea. Graduation rehearsal is mandatory for all seniors participating in the ceremony.

Senior Events

- Disney Grad Night – Friday, May 13

175 seniors attended Disney Grad Night. We are very appreciative of Senior Class Sponsor Peyman Nazarian and Senior Class Administrator Dr. Chris Lee along with our other chaperones for attending the all-night event.

Upcoming Senior Events

- Senior Picnic Friday, May 27
- Prom Saturday, May 21 7pm-11pm
- Senior Awards Ceremony June 3 at 3:30pm in Mercer Hall

AP Testing

The PCHS College Center coordinated AP testing during the past two weeks (May 2-13). Make-up tests will begin next week. We are grateful to the amazing College Center team for their careful attention to detail to successfully provide students with a positive testing experience. Exams covered 30 subjects. PCHS ordered 2,209 tests for 1,070 students.

Annual Educational Partners Surveys - Annual feedback surveys coordinated by the PCHS Survey Committee, a committee of the PCHS Board of Trustees, are now available. Parents received the survey link via Infinite Campus. The staff link will be active on May 17. The results of the annual surveys will be presented and discussed in an upcoming Board of Trustees meeting. The ASB Leadership class conducts annual surveys for students. The student survey is scheduled to be released on May 16th and closes on May 23rd. There are two surveys, one for 9th graders and one for 10th-12th graders. The ASB Survey Committee is scheduled to present the results to the administrators during the May 31st Admin Meeting.

Collective Bargaining – UTLA-PCHS and PCHS continue meeting to define the terms of the next labor contract. Meetings will be ongoing during the spring semester. Meetings with the classified collective bargaining unit PESPU will be scheduled in the coming weeks. An important consideration for contract discussions is having the most current funding information to make accurate projections. Governor Newsom presented his revised 2022-23 budget plan on May 13. PCHS Management and UTLA-PCHS Leadership will participate in the **School Services of California May Revision Workshop**, a live webinar on Friday, May 20.

The May Revision is a statutorily required annually and is an opportunity for Governor Gavin Newsom to recast his January State Budget proposals and present new proposals in view of a revised revenue outlook, legislative budget hearings, and other feedback. The May Revision Workshop will incorporate the results of revised revenue estimates, revise the Local Control



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Funding Formula (LCFF) provisions for 2022-23 and the out-year estimates for LCFF funding for multiyear projections, provide the latest on funding and policy proposals outside the LCFF, and incorporate any changes to the accountability system (School Services of CA).

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 update is for the Diversity Goal:

Schoolwide Goal: Diversity

Long Term Aspirational Goal

PCHS will commit to equitable policies and practices to connect PCHS's diverse student population with necessary personalized resources and support, accommodations, and academic opportunities.

- PCHS is preparing for the new state mandate to provide an Ethnic Studies course. On October 8, California became the first state to require all students to complete a one-semester course in ethnic studies to graduate. Assembly Bill 101 takes effect starting with the class of 2029-30. High schools are required to offer Ethnic Studies courses starting in the 2025-26 academic year. PCHS is working with Dr. Ziza Delgado, Professor of Ethnic Studies at Fullerton College and Board Member for the California Community College Ethnic Studies Faculty Council, to begin designing curriculum.
- Hiring for the 2022-23 school year is under way. The PCHS Human Resources Department attended diversity career fairs to promote opportunities at PCHS.
- Courses in African American Literature, American History through an African American Perspective, and Chicano Studies will be offered in the coming school year.
- Part of our Campus Unification Department's mission is to provide a specific space that allows for students to exercise and practice agency, deepen their understanding of self and community, and engage in opportunities for self-advocacy, community accountability, anti-racism efforts and intersectionality awareness. PCHS has designed a **Campus Unification Student Advocacy Room (U109)**. This dedicated space allows



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minoritized racial and intersectionality affinity groups to meet and organize for their own initiatives. This space helps students feel welcomed, empowered and safe to advocate their opinions and concerns for the sake of clarity, understanding, acceptance, and their ultimate success as PCHS students.

- **PCHS Social Justice Living Wall of Representation** - A radical wall in our school's main hallway serves as a reminder to school leadership of the need for equitable practices, the presence of students of color in our community and our responsibility to them. This is a living wall that changes and grows with our community. It is supported and maintained by our affinity groups that meet together to provide support, gather data, and help to inform leadership on the needs that each of their groups have. This is all a part of an initiative for safety, radical care and achievement for our BIPOC students.