



# PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*Empowering Educational Excellence.*

## **Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting April 16, 2024**

*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.*

**Schoolwide goals addressed in this month's report:** [Academic Achievement](#), [Communication](#), [Diversity](#), [Student Socioemotional Well-being](#), and [Health](#)

### **Topanga Canyon Travel Concerns**

In a letter to PCHS from the Topanga Town Council, it was explained that students, parents and staff are severely impacted by recent landslides and road closures affecting the Pacific Coast Highway ("PCH") and Topanga Canyon Boulevard ("TCB" or "Highway 27"). "Commuters through Topanga and Malibu are spending on average 3-4 hours per day to and from Palisades High. Despite their best efforts, families and student drivers are struggling to deliver students to school on time due to the severe, challenging, and unpredictable nature of traffic patterns caused by these natural disasters." The issues are further complicated by the uncertainty of the duration of the road closures.

PCHS representatives participated in two meetings with spokespersons from the Topanga Town Council and community. Proposed supports and solutions include and are not limited to the following:

- 1) Relaxing the PCHS Attendance Policy for impacted students.
- 2) Exploring transportation support possibly in conjunction with PRCMS.
- 3) Providing a hybrid learning option with a PCHS teacher based closer to the impacted areas one or more days weekly.

LAUSD is also engaged in efforts to assist impacted families. Solution focused discussions are active and ongoing.

### **Student Unions/Strategic Planning Process Update**

Student Union listening sessions are near completion. The next step will be to draft a Student Union Strategic Plan with the input of student leaders from each student union and the PCHS Equity Task Force. An initial commitment is for the Associated Student Body (ASB/ Leadership group to add Student Unions to the organizations included in the ASB constitution and provide structure, support and resources for the unions. Meetings to formalize the Strategic Plan for the coming school year are ongoing.

**PCHS Testing Week for CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments** launched Monday, April 8. PCHS students demonstrated their academic progress on NWEA and CAASPP assessments. The implementation of the schoolwide 1:1 laptop program significantly reduced the testing

window and minimized disruption to daily instruction. Faculty, students, and staff are to be commended for working together to make this a positive and productive assessment environment. Results will be posted later in the school year.

**Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) Visit Sunday, March 17- Wednesday, March 20**

PCHS hosted the seven member WASC Visiting Team for a three-day observation process. The purpose of the visit was to validate the school's self-study report and provide constructive feedback for the school's Action Plan.

ACS WASC accreditation is a process schools use to monitor student learning and set school improvement goals. ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing cycle of quality. Schools assess their program and the impact on student learning with respect to the ACS WASC criteria and other accreditation factors.

Approximately every six years depending on the school's previous rating, accredited schools conduct a self-study and host a self-study visit. The self-study process culminates in the refinement of a schoolwide action plan. Throughout the accreditation cycle, schools are expected to address the schoolwide action plan and demonstrate evidence of acceptable student achievement and school improvement. Appropriate reports and reviews throughout the six-year cycle of accreditation support this process.

<https://www.acswasc.org/acs-wasc-school-process-overview/>

A significant component of this WASC accreditation process is the culminating Action Plan which guides the school's development for the duration of the accreditation period. The PCHS WASC Action Plan is designed to align with the PCHS Schoolwide Goals and Local Control Accountability Plan, a multi-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities.

Following the visit, the Visiting Committee shared the following drafts of documents:

WASC Self-Study Visiting Committee Report (included in meeting materials)

WASC Visiting Committee Presentation (included in meeting materials)

View the PCHS Final WASC Report [HERE](#) and Action Plan [HERE](#).

PCHS will learn the term of accreditation later this year.