



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Empowering Educational Excellence.

Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting May 14, 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](#)

Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation (WASC) Self-Study Results - 6 year clear with a midterm report!

PCHS received the highest terms available from WASC! PCHS will next integrate the WASC Action Plan into the Local Control Accountability Plan. The Action Plan focuses on Academic Achievement, School Climate, and Professional Development.

Long term goals and projects identified in the WASC Action Plan include

1. Implementation of Performance Matters summative assessment tool;
2. Curriculum integration including but not limited to lessons addressing climate, cultural responsiveness, and ethnic studies;
3. Professional development focus including development of an instructional schedule to support training, and
4. Development of a Wellness Center to support student mental health and well-being.

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

While the accreditation process was truly a schoolwide effort, the WASC Leadership Team is very deserving of recognition for their commitment and outstanding results. Thank you to Tyler Farrell, Monica Iannessa, Chris Lee, Evelyn Rivera, Sarah Rosenthal, and Lisa Saxon for coordinating this important process for Pali High.

CA Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

PCHS will administer the CHKS during Pali Period on Wednesday, May 15. Parents have been notified of the survey via ParentSquare. The CHKS is sponsored by the CA Department of Education, and WestEd, a public, non-profit educational institution, developed the survey for the CDE. This important survey will help promote better health and well-being among our youth, improve the school learning environment, and combat problems such as drug abuse and violence. The survey gathers information on developmental supports provided to youth; school connectedness and barriers to learning; school safety; health-related concerns such as physical activity and nutritional habits; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; risk of depression and suicide; and protected class identifiers such as sexual orientation and gender identity.

You may review the [In-School Core Survey High School Questionnaire 2023-2024](#).

A brief Associated Student Body Survey, including questions about PCHS campus culture and climate, will follow the CHKS. The results from both surveys will be compiled into a school-wide report that will analyze student needs and guide programming.

Important details to know about the CHKS:

- **It is Voluntary.** Students who agree to participate do not have to answer any questions they do not want to answer and may stop taking the survey at any time.
- **It is Anonymous.** No names are recorded or attached to the survey forms or data. The results will be made available for analysis only under strict confidentiality controls.
- **Potential Risks.** There are no known risks of physical harm, and the risks of psychological or social harm are very small. None have been reported in 25 years of survey administration. In rare instances, some discomfort might be experienced from the questions. The school's counseling services will be available to answer any personal questions that may materialize.

Similar surveys for staff and parents will also be provided at a later date.

Special Education Study with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT)

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) is a state agency that was established in 1992 as a service to assist California's local K-14 educational agencies in complying with fiscal accountability standards. FCMAT provides both management assistance and fiscal crisis prevention. Our school has entered into a management assistance agreement with FCMAT to review our special education program in the following areas:

- The implementation of student success teams, response to intervention and multitiered system of supports.
- The organizational structure and staffing of the special education program for our school.
- The staffing for paraeducators, special education teachers and related service providers.
- The identification rate for special education compared to the county and statewide averages.
- The school's continuum of special education and related services for students.
- The school's professional development/training program as it relates to special education.
- The costs of due process, mediations, and settlements for the past three years.
- The school's general fund contribution to special education.

FCMAT will be reviewing documents and data. Special education teachers, related service providers, and other school staff were selected for interviews. From the interviews, and our data and documents, FCMAT will develop findings and recommendations. We will receive a report of all of the FCMAT findings and recommendations and use them to inform our work moving forward.

A preliminary FCMAT recommendation is for PCHS to add an additional School Psychologist to address the expanding needs. For more details, see the Human Resources Report included in the meeting materials.

End of year wrap-up

Quiet Week - Monday, May 20 through Thursday, May 23

- No regular schoolwide morning announcements

- Reduced activities – No field trips or activities during the school day. Minimal hall passes and class slips allowed.
- Therapy dogs in the Deans’ Office and HR Office for stress reduction
- Self-care – Reminder to breathe! Set time aside for rest and uplifting activities.

No School Friday, May 24 and Monday, May 27 Memorial Day

Exam Week - Monday, June 3 - Wednesday, June 5 Minimum Day Schedule

Seniors Only:

- Graduation Small Group Meetings - Wednesday, May 22 during Pali Period
- Parent Graduation Webinar - Wednesday, May 22 at 6pm
- Senior Picnic - Thursday, May 23 from 11am-2pm
- Senior Awards - Wednesday, May 29 at 3:30pm in Mercer Hall
- Grad Nite - Friday, May 31
- Graduation - Thursday, June 6 in the Stadium by the Sea starting at 3pm

Student Unions Listening Sessions and Strategic Plan

Administrators and representatives from the Associated Student Body Leadership class attended listening sessions with each of the PCHS Student Unions to learn about their goals and recommendations for student organizations and campus climate. Common concerns and recommendations for next steps are included on the initial draft reviewed with the Equity Task Force and shared with the ASB Leadership Class. *The draft “PCHS Student Union Listening Sessions - Spring 2024” is included in the meeting materials.*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy (First Review May 15, 2024) – PCHS is in the processes of developing and vetting an AI Policy to be in place for the coming school year. Curriculum Council and other school groups are reviewing the initial document included in the meeting materials. The final policy with revisions will be brought to the Board of Trustees for a vote in June.

Topanga Updates – PCHS continues to collaborate with the Topanga Town Council to support families impacted by road closures. There is potential for free transportation for Paul Revere Charter Middle School and Palisades Charter High School students. Both schools recently surveyed parents to determine interest in this service and potential bus routes. There is encouraging news of road repairs possibly being completed earlier than previously indicated.

Attachments:

- PCHS Student Groups Listening Sessions
- AI Policy - First Review