



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

More Than 50 Years of Innovation and Excellence

PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Please note indication of Items related to 2016-17 PCHS School-wide Goals. The goals are included in the meeting materials.

Professional Development Day on February 8 (Goals 3 and 4)

Mental health consultants Kezia R. Miller and Nicole McMahon presented information to faculty and classified staff on **Trauma Informed Schools**. The presentation stemmed from recent studies, which show that traumatic experiences in childhood can impact concentration, memory, language, and organization abilities that students need to succeed in school. Learning about the impacts of trauma can help prevent misunderstandings about the reasons some children are experiencing difficulty with learning, behavior, and relationships. Participants learned about **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)** and ways to create a supportive learning environment for impacted students. At the end of the presentation, participants created a list of recommendations and next steps for PCHS.

School Temperature/Climate Survey Staff Results (Goal 4) – Certificated and classified staff completed a survey on the February 8 Professional Development day designed to assess the school's progress toward improving culture and climate. The results are gathered from 135 respondents are attached in the meeting materials, and demonstrate positive-growth in the key areas of communication, decision-making, and accountability.

Culture and Climate Facilitators (Goal 4) – PCHS is continuing work with culture and climate facilitators Alan Rasmussen, Richard Tauer, and Beverly Hempstead. The team was available at PCHS on multiple days to meet individually with any staff member who wanted to provide feedback on the school's progress toward climate improvement. The team continues to work with PCHS on the two-year plan developed to improve communication, decision-making, and accountability.

Communication Updates (Goals 1 and 4)

- Translation services/technology are available for all meetings.
- The newly revised Student/Parent Handbook is fully translated in Spanish.
- A new website is in the final editing stages. The site will launch in the next few weeks.
- Short, online parent surveys are being conducted to gather feedback about specific areas such as date and time preferences for meetings and development efforts.

Peer Mediation Program (Goals 3 and 4)

PCHS is partnering with the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center to form a peer mediation program **based in restorative justice**. The peer mediation process brings disputants together with peer mediators to talk about the conflict. The peer mediator is a third neutral person that listens to each party, asks questions, and helps the disputants come to a solution.



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The 25 PCHS peer mediators were selected based on teacher recommendation followed by interviews. The peer mediators and adult sponsors participated in a weekend training program. For more information, contact Heather DeWeese – Academic Counselor, Holly Korbonski - Teacher, Kim Theard – Academic Counselor, JoLeta Simmons – Deans Office.

School Attendance Review Board (SARB) discussion (Goals 3 and 4)

PCHS is exploring opportunities to create a School Attendance Review Board to address chronic absenteeism. A SARB is a multidisciplinary team composed of representatives from a broad array of youth and family service agencies. The goal is to create a SARB with expertise on the full spectrum of needs that youth and families encounter, together with a menu of resources that make a difference. Education Code 48290 requires that parents and/or student who continually fail to comply with the laws related to school attendance, and who do not respond to school based efforts to correct the problem be referred to a SARB. The focus of the SARB process is intended to be on intervention, reengagement and support.

Unity Month (Goals 1, 3 and 4) – PCHS will commemorate the first **Unity Month** throughout March. Student Leadership is developing a program, which includes lunchtime activities and informational presentations. Watch for more information about this exciting and inspiring student-led initiative.

Upcoming Events:

Long Term Strategic Planning – Wednesday, February 22

CTE Information Night – Tuesday, March 7

CTE Chamber Mixer – Monday, March 27

8th Grade Parent Information Night – Wednesday, March 29

Facilities Vision and Prop 51 Grant Application (Goal 5) – PCHS is working with facilities consultants to prepare an application for newly released facilities funds through Proposition 51. The proposed plans will be discussed at the Long Term Strategic Planning meeting on Wednesday, February 22 at 3:30pm in the library.

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation preparation – PCHS is beginning preparation for the six-year WASC accreditation process. The school earned a six-year clear with a mid-term visit following the 2011-12 study. Assistant Principal Monica Iannessa will coordinate the school-wide self-study. Focus groups with representation from all stakeholder groups will be convened to analyze areas of strength and opportunities for growth at PCHS. The process will culminate with a school review from a WASC visiting team in the spring of 2017.

EDP professional development and training during February

“Verbal Judo” Conflict Resolution Training with Admin Team

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) training through LACOE

Promoting Your School’s Career Tech Education (CTE) Program workshop through LACOE

Charter Operated Programs (COP) Option 3 Executive Council meeting through LAUSD