



PALISADES

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT AUGUST 22, 2017

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.

PCHS Campus Unification Plan

PCHS is safe and constructive environment for students to learn who they want to be. We are fully committed to cultivating an uplifting environment where students are inspired to pursue their personal aspirations. We do not tolerate hate or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status. Our goal is for all students to feel safe, valued, and respected.

A goal for our school is the development and implementation of a cohesive plan to bring all members of the school community together regardless of gender, ethnicity, soci-economic status, position, and background. Feedback from multiple groups including the Culture and Climate Committee, end of year all staff meeting, and survey responses have noted the need for a systemic, ongoing plan that embeds community building strategies into the fiber of all elements of PCHS. To ensure that PCHS meets this important objective, we will pilot a position specifically dedicated to formalizing and implementing the community unification plan. SMART goals will be established to measure school progress. A provisional summer position was established to initiate the preliminary steps of the unification plan. A full-time position will be piloted to ensure we adhere to our unification goals. The position will be funded through fundraising and grants.

To learn more about the PCHS Campus Unification program, click [here](#).

Opening of the School Year Events

PCHS opened the new school year by greeting students as they arrived to campus. Cheerleaders, football players, Link Crew mentors, and faculty and staff dressed in spirit wear accompanied by the marching band greeted students as they entered. Leadership students coordinated an energetic lunchtime rally. New LAUSD board member Nick Melvoin representing District 4 visited PCHS classrooms and shared his vision of a district that supports multiple school models to provide parents with a variety of educational choices. More than 200 trained Link Crew Leaders met with their 9th grade “buddies” to participate in team building activities during 9th grade orientation. 9th graders received a personal phone call from their Link Crew leader before coming to campus.

Back to School Professional Development

Teachers and staff participated in two days of training to prepare for the 2017-18 school year. Some of the topics covered included Adaptive Schools training, Office for Civil Rights legal



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training with Lisa Corr from YMC, safety presentations, and WASC preparation. Teachers developed annual SMART goals and completed mandated training pertaining to Mandated Reporter Requirements, Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure, Bullying: Recognition and Response. Participants experienced the "Hello!" program to learn more about each other as well as to practice a community building strategy for classrooms.

PCHS Summer Activities

- Extended School Year Program
- Summer School for credit recovery
- Dolphin Leadership Academy
- Band Camp
- Athletic Camps and Practice
- Adaptive Schools training for administrators, AA Team, and staff (4 days)
- Museum of Tolerance professional development
- Diversity Film Festival
- PLC mini-grants for curriculum development and planning
- Facilities upgrades and campus beautification
- Link Crew training
- Registration and 9th grade Orientation
- And much, much, more!

Academic Achievement Team Update

- New members of the Academic Achievement team under the direction of Monica Iannessa include Giovanni Stewart as Unity Director; Sarah Rosenthal and Maggie Nance as instructional coaches; an expanded Ed Tech Coach role for John Vieira with Alex Van Name and Steve Burr. Sarah Crompton, Minh Ha Ngo, Myrna Cervantes, and Dave Suarez are in roles of coordinators as well.
- AA team members designed the afternoon session of the new teachers meeting. The new teachers were given Infinite Campus and Schoology training.
- Ramona Bostic supports the AA Team and has been ordering materials for programs and coordinators such as Freshman welcome materials, "hello" curriculum material and study skills materials.
- Dave Suarez has met with the study skills teachers and has placed appropriate students in study skills courses with counseling.
- Myrna Cervantes, EL coordinator, has been working with counseling to properly place EL students in classes and RFEP in sheltered courses.
- Dr. Minh Ha Ngo is working with new teachers and solving schoolwide problems involving Infinite Campus as our new database manager David Moo settles into his position.
- SLC coach Sarah Crompton and Monica Iannessa are working on PLC notebooks. PLC pull out scheduling, and SLC new groups.



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- Kudos goes to Vidi Torres for jumping in as SLC coordinator and helping to balance SLCs and plan the pod PLC training.

New college courses

West LA College will be offering American Sign Language (ASL) and Psychology this fall at Pali starting 8/28 a **registration meeting will be held on 8/22 at lunch in J109**. ASL 1 counts as a full year of Foreign Language. Both courses give college credit.

Los Angeles Advocacy Council update

The LAAC represents charter schools throughout Los Angeles as well as partnering with northern California charter schools. The 17-member council recently met with LAUSD Board President Ref Rodriguez to discuss the new vision for charter schools authorized by LAUSD. Areas raised as areas for growth included annual oversight visits, potential for collaboration versus a “gotcha” mentality, and facilities challenges for both co-located schools as well as independent charters located on district property.