



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

**PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

Safety Updates

PCHS is working with students and staff to process the most recent tragic school shooting in Florida and other acts of violence in schools. Students are writing letters of support to Stoneman Douglas High School. Students are also providing voter registration information and contacting elected officials urging them to take steps to prevent violent attacks on schools. ASB Leadership and the Justice League are coordinating a school-wide event to raise awareness of school safety and to show solidarity with schools that have experienced tragic losses of life.

The School Safety Team is reviewing safety protocols with the school community. PCHS has been providing training and drills to address intruder scenarios following the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) model for the past four years and continues to refine procedures and protocols. Steps have been taken to better secure classroom and office doors. We are currently contracted with School Dude Crisis Management to provide an app with emergency plans and notifications. PCHS has a full-time school police officer and has increased security staff coverage. Prior to this event, the Safety Team and Administration strongly recommended additional fencing and security gates. PCHS has scheduled a professional campus-wide security analysis and will bring the recommendations to the Board for approval.

Mental health and emotional supports are available for both for students and staff. Faculty are encouraged to refer students who may be demonstrating signs of stress, anxiety, grief, hostility, and other emotions to counselors who then connect students to the mental health counselors. Research shows that proactively addressing socio-emotional needs can help prevent the development of hostile, violent actions. Students trained in peer mediation and conflict resolution strategies help fellow students peacefully resolve interpersonal issues. The PCHS Discipline Office is incorporating restorative justice strategies to help students find productive, educational solutions. On the horizon is the development of a therapeutic classroom setting where students who are consistently experiencing difficulties keeping them from being successful in the traditional educational environment can continue to be served at PCHS.

Math Success Task Force

PCHS convened a diverse group of teachers, parents, students, and administrators in January to review student progress in math and to develop an action plan to be implemented in the 2018-19 school year. A goal of the school's WASC accreditation self-study is to close the achievement gap that persists in multiple subject areas, with math being the initial focus. The task force is analyzing student data, input from surveys, as well as policies, systems and practices. Initial steps include coordinating meetings with Paul Revere Charter Middle School and the high



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school math department leadership. PRCMS math department chairs and administrators are meeting in March. Middle school teachers will be visiting PCHS math classes in April. The Task Force will meet monthly to ensure the action plan is completed in time for recommendations to be included in the annual budget development.

Goal 4: PCHS will continue to foster a positive school climate by maintaining a trust among students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and Board members by educating all stakeholders about the needs and concerns of other stakeholder groups, demonstrating respect for all types of diversity, and increasing cohesion, connectedness, and compassion at all levels.

- *Provide professional development for all employees regarding listening to and understanding student challenges/experiences, responding with compassion and respect*
- *Continue lessons/teaching for students regarding respect/compassion for others (fellow students & other stakeholders)*
- *Provide training for parents regarding school systems, ways to be involved*
- *Schedule meetings at alternate times to accommodate a variety of parent schedules*
- *Provide transportation to assist parents with attending evening and Saturday meetings*
- *Educate all stakeholders on the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and the impetus for creating it, emphasizing responsibilities along with rights*
- *Continue training with culture and climate facilitators as specified in the two-year plan*
- *Administer stakeholder surveys to assess progress. Work to increase participation in surveys to get a more accurate idea of true level of specific concerns and progress*
- *Promote campus-wide wellness pursuant to the PCHS Wellness Policy*
- *Inclusion of social emotional learning ideas in curriculum*
- *Provide easy access to information for parents about how to assist struggling students and who to contact with concerns*
- *Information sheet for parents regarding who they can contact to speak with someone who can communicate in their native language – Specify language spoken, name, and contact info*
- *Launch a mentor program for student and parents*
- *Analyze/address declining diversity*
- *Transportation access, scholarships, etc.*
- *Review admission process (charter preferences)*