



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL REPORT AUGUST 28, 2018

Summer wrap up - PCHS is back in session after a busy summer. Campus programs and activities included

- Summer School for credit recovery
- Extended School Year program for students with special needs
- Dolphin Leadership Academy
- Link Crew Training
- Camps
- Facilities maintenance and prep for New Year
- Permit events and filming

Back to School Professional Development

This year's staff training emphasized equity and academic excellence for all. Faculty and staff participated in a variety of thematically related workshops:

- Staff Summer Reading Symposium - "Equity Pedagogy: An Essential Component of Multicultural Education" by Cherry McGee and James Banks (*included in meeting materials*)
- Creating Bias Free Classrooms/Compassion Plays Program
- Administration check-in and accountability discussion
- HERO safety training
- Introduction of the PALI Pledge - Positivity Aspiration Learning Integrity

Parent Education

PCHS offered a six-week course during July and August provided by **FACTOR (Families Acting Towards Results)** formerly known as PIQE. The program is coordinated by Pali Spanish teacher Erica Najjar. For more information about future parent education opportunities visit academyforparents.org.

Back to School Parent and Community Meetings

- LAUSD District 4 Board Member Nick Melvoin with staffer Allison Holdorff Polhill
- Booster Club Annual Fundraising Kick-off
- PTSA "Meet the Admin Team"

Upcoming Meetings

Long Term Strategic Planning (monthly meetings) - Wednesday, August 29
Back to School Night - Thursday, September 6
New Parent Breakfast - Saturday, September 8



We Choose ALL Forum (*Summary recommendations included in materials*)

Representatives of UNITE-LA, In the Public Interest, the Advancement Project, the Learning Policy Institute, and UCLA IDEA created a coalition with the goal of informing public debate about dramatic changes in Los Angeles education. The group called themselves the “We Choose All” coalition, in recognition of the shared interest in supporting the educational system that provides high quality education to all Los Angeles students. In spring 2016, the LAUSD School Board passed a resolution calling for *We Choose All* to convene researchers to inform the board about the issues associated with the rapid growth of charter schools as well as the conditions necessary to create a system that promotes high quality education for all students. The coalition has worked closely over the past year and a half with a group of researchers who have developed papers and briefs on the theme of “We Choose All” and commissioned a new study exploring the beliefs of Los Angeles charter school operators, philanthropists, labor officials and civic and community leaders. (From the Research and Policy Brief 2018.1 SERIES - *We Choose ALL: Building a System of Excellent Public Education*).

PCHS Director/Assistant Principal for Academic Achievement and I were invited to attend an expert panel presentation of the coalition’s recommendations and participate in a round table stakeholder discussion of the recommendations.

2018 Superintendent’s Annual Administrators’ Meeting: “Great Leaders Create Great Schools” held at Hollywood High School

Superintendent Austin Beutner presented an inspiring address to district and school leaders acknowledging the challenges LAUSD faces and encouraging courageous innovation to meet the diverse needs of all students. Master of Ceremony Jim Hill, LA Clippers Head Coach Glen “Doc” Rivers, and LAUSD Board President Monica Garcia also contributed to a very motivating call to action.

PCHS Administration and Management Retreat

School leaders participated a half-day planning meeting in Playa Vista to discuss ways to support the school vision and goals as related to the WASC Action Plan for Equity. Managers analyzed articles provided to the school staff for discussion in Back to School professional development sessions and shared their commitments for the coming year for the departments they lead.

Admin Team Accountability Action Plan (*Included in materials*)

Accountability and commitment to excellence continue to be an ongoing focus for PCHS. The Administration Team developed an Accountability Action Plan to provide guidance and prioritization for the new school year. In keeping with the plan, each administrator will provide monthly summaries of department progress and participate in relevant, timely presentations for the PCHS Board of Trustees.



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Department Updates:

Student Support Services

The Special Education Department is working with interim support provided by a team from DirectEd while Assistant Principal/Director of Student Support Services Mary Bush is on medical leave. New developments to support students include the re-organization of paraprofessionals to provide more interaction with students and the addition of a dedicated room for tests/assessments.

Attendance Office

- Sending daily (period-by-period) E-mail reminders to teachers to take attendance
- New teacher verification of error in attendance
- Working to bring ID scanner to Pali to process students quicker

Academic Achievement Office

Math

- Math paraprofessional training. We now have four!
- Successful Math retreat- Math department goals developed for grading and standards.
- Math training at Stanford coming up in September.
- PLCs have been recast and they are organizing for future meetings.

Visual and Performing Arts

- Summer Photo class offered
- Summer Band camp
- Department met to understand budget cuts. There is another meeting scheduled to determine how to share the cost of the cuts equitably.
- Department met with Mike Rawson for fundraising/grant opportunities.
- Met about how to deal with building security and a new use for M building bathroom (staff only now) due to incidents that set off fire alarms.
- Film classroom has had a refresh using outside funding.

Professional Development and AA Team

- Ed Tech Coordinator is working with the Tech Department to consolidate staff usernames and passwords.
- Ed Tech Coordinator is assigning IC, Wi-Fi, and Schoology accounts to new students.
- Ed Tech Coordinator and staff are helping students who forgot their usernames and passwords.
- Ed Tech Coordinator is working with tech department to distribute chrome books to students
- Ed Tech Coordinator and Tech Coach ran a workshop for teachers on teacher accounts and tools for Checking for Understanding.
- Tech Coach has been training on Schoology and helping with the Schoology issues and synching.



- Instructional Coach is meeting new teachers in their classrooms and signing up for a Cognitive Coaching training.
- Instructional Coach is mentoring a student teacher in her classroom.
- PLC Coach is planning PLC, New Teacher, and SLC meetings (with Instructional Coach).
- Data Coordinator has been supporting counseling office on IC and counseling issues.
- Data Coordinator has trained new teachers on the use of Infinite Campus.
- Monica Iannessa, the AA team, the administration, and the Equity Team planned the August 13 workshops under the theme of Equity in the Classroom.

EL Support

- ELs continue to be placed in ELD class.
- Potential ELs are being tested one on one with the ELPAC.
- EL Program is using ELPAC's Scoring Tool to identify possible ELs.
- Parent meetings are being held in the EL Program Office.
- Parent Letters are being sent regarding EL placement.
- Data analysis and clearing of data on Home Language Survey in IC and CALPADS.
- EL Coordinator is assisting one-on-one EL students with assignments.
- After initial testing is completed, support will continue to assist in the ELD classes.

Counseling and Guidance

- Academic Counselors are busy addressing scheduling requests and answering questions of students/families.
- Monday August 27, 2018 is the final day to submit a form to request a schedule change
- New Classes include:

- Peer Mediation/Restorative Justice
- Science of Mindfulness
- Work Experience-Office Technician
- West LA Classes to be offered at PCHS- Psychology and American Sign Language. Students receive college credit and American Sign Language can meet UC/Cal State language requirements.

Activities, Athletics and Discipline

- Restorative Justice Room is now open. Positive Behavior Intervention and Support focus.
- Teen Court is back in session.
- Grade level assemblies begin next week.
- Football won first game and travels to Sylmar on Friday, August 24.
- A new wrestling coach was hired.
- Volleyball season is underway.