APPROVED

Palisades Charter High School

Minutes

Special Board Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday March 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Location
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
https://go.palihigh.org/SpecialBoTLive

Phone one-tap:
+16694449171,,85091435950# US
+16699009128,,85091435950# US (San Jose)

Join via audio:
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 564 217 2000 US
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
Webinar ID: 850 9143 5950
International numbers available: https://palihigh-org.zoom.us/u/kb8txfxeiT

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY:
Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board of Palisades Charter High School may request assistance by contacting the Main Office at (310) 230-6623 at least 24 hours in advance.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Supporting documentation is available at the Main Office of the School, located at 15777 Bowdoin Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, (Tel: 310- 230-6623) and may also be accessible on the PCHS website at http://palihigh.org/boardrecords.aspx.

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE PROVIDED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY:
Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice. All items may be heard in a different order than listed on the agenda.

Trustees Present
Amir Ebtehadj (remote), Andrew Paris (remote), Jessica Recinos (remote), Maggie Nance (remote), Martha Monahan (remote), Minh Ha Ngo (remote), Nicholas Albonico (remote), Roger Crystal (remote), Sara Margiotta (remote)

Trustees Absent
Kiumars Arzani, Kristina Irwin

Ex Officio Members Present
Dr. Pam Magee (remote)

Guests Present
Charlie Speiser (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Sara Margiotta called a meeting of the board of trustees of Palisades Charter High School to order on Thursday Mar 13, 2025 at 5:05 PM.

B. Record Attendance and Guests

C. Public Comment

Natalie Deeds: Expressed concerns about the contractor timeline. Ms. Deeds noted that even under ideal circumstances, the project wouldn't be completed until May 9th, coinciding with AP test week. She stated that moving students back to campus during this critical academic period, followed by two partial weeks with holidays and then finals, was not feasible. Ms. Deeds suggested that the funds could be better used to directly support students.

LAUSD Boardmember Nick Melvoin: Shared his appreciation for the trustees, Dr. Magee, and the staff's efforts during this challenging time. He reported visiting Pali with Army Corps of Engineers leadership to observe recovery progress. Mr. Melvoin emphasized that getting students back to in-person instruction remains the highest priority and pledged his support for any bridge funding needed. He noted that numerous civic leaders, foundations, and organizations have raised significant funds and are eager to provide financial support to Pali. He assured the board that LAUSD will continue working collaboratively regarding insurance proceeds and leasing arrangements. Mr. Melvoin encouraged the board to act with urgency while offering his continued assistance to help meet the community's needs.

GOOGLE FORM PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Deeds: "I don’t think it’s worth it to spend the money to open the high school at a temporary location. It’s been 2 months since the fire, and the administration hasn’t even finalized a site to move to, let alone renovated it. The other schools that were impacted by the fires have already reopened in their temporary sites, and the delay that our school has faced speaks very strongly against the competency of the administration and school board. However, at this point, the kids have spring break, state testing and AP testing coming up, so the amount of time they have left in the classroom is minimal. Spending thousands of dollars for a few days of in- person learning doesn’t make financial sense. It would be better to stay online and use the money for something else."

Anonymous: "Our family is very excited that the contract for Pali's temporary campus is nearly signed. We still have not heard anything about the upcoming AP exams, particularly the dates and locations for them. Our children have asked their AP teachers for this information and were told by the teachers that there is still no information regarding AP Exams. Officially, the date of the first exams is May 5th, which is less than 8 weeks away. Students need to know the status ASAP so they can plan accordingly."

D. Announce items for closed session, if any.

The board entered closed session at 5:13pm with guests Kelly Farrell and James Kelly of Gensler.

II. Open Session

A. Return to Open Session

The board returned from closed session at 6:37pm.

B. Report Out on Action Taken In Closed Session, If Any.

EDP Magee thanked the community for their patience and shared positive developments regarding a temporary facility. She explained that they had identified a location capable of accommodating all 2,500 students and staff, with priorities focused on safety and supporting mental health through in-person togetherness. Dr. Magee acknowledged crucial support from the City of Santa Monica and Gensler Architects, whose global resources enabled expedited planning. She noted that while returning to the original campus by August remains the goal, the temporary location would provide continuity if needed. Additional details would be presented at the upcoming town hall meeting tomorrow over Zoom.

III. Interim Learning Location Presentation

A. Interim Learning Location Presentation

Kelly Farrell, co-managing director of Gensler's Los Angeles office, presented plans for the temporary facility at the former Sears building located at 302 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90401. She outlined that the space would utilize three floors of the four-story building for instruction, providing 32 classrooms on the first floor, 21 classrooms on the second floor, and 22 classrooms on the third floor. Ms. Farrell shared that a mock-up of temporary classrooms had been constructed in just three days to test the concept, and displayed floor plans showing the layout of the facility, which includes an atrium that will provide natural light throughout the space. She noted their goal was mid-April occupancy, with architects on site working closely with contractors multiple times daily to expedite the design, permitting, and construction process. Ms. Farrell emphasized that many industry professionals were committed to supporting the school's return to in-person learning.

IV. Approvals

A. Relocation Plan

The Chair addressed the need to approve the overall relocation plan, including the financial information previously reported by the Budget and Finance Committee. She referenced LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin's financial commitment mentioned during public comment and noted ongoing fundraising efforts through the Director of Development.

The Chair emphasized that the Budget and Finance Committee considered the temporary relocation to be financially viable, with adequate resources to implement the plan efficiently.
Maggie Nance made a motion to approve the Relocation Plan and the funding analysis submitted by the Budget and Finance Committee.
Amir Ebtehadj seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kristina Irwin	Absent
Minh Ha Ngo	Aye
Amir Ebtehadj	Aye
Kiumars Arzani	Absent
Martha Monahan	Aye
Roger Crystal	Aye
Maggie Nance	Aye
Jessica Recinos	Aye
Andrew Paris	Aye
Sara Margiotta	Aye
Nicholas Albonico	Aye

B. Lease (302 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90401)

Director of Operations Rafael Negroe outlined the lease agreement for 302 Colorado Avenue in Santa Monica as a six-month term with three optional two-month renewals, requiring 45-day notice. He noted this flexibility would accommodate uncertainties regarding the Fall 2025 campus return timeline. Mr. Negroe confirmed legal counsel had reviewed and approved the lease. EDP Magee added that the building owners had been exceptionally supportive and accommodating of the school's needs for returning to in-person learning.
Roger Crystal made a motion to approve the lease (302 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90401).
Martha Monahan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kiumars Arzani	Absent
Minh Ha Ngo	Aye
Martha Monahan	Aye
Kristina Irwin	Absent
Sara Margiotta	Aye
Nicholas Albonico	Aye
Jessica Recinos	Aye
Amir Ebtehadj	Aye
Andrew Paris	Aye
Roger Crystal	Aye
Maggie Nance	Aye

C. Gensler Contract

Mr. Negroe confirmed that Gensler had submitted their fee proposal, which had been incorporated into the overall project budget.
Roger Crystal made a motion to approve the Gensler Contract and Fees.
Martha Monahan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Martha Monahan	Aye
Maggie Nance	Aye
Kristina Irwin	Absent
Minh Ha Ngo	Aye
Amir Ebtehadj	Aye
Sara Margiotta	Aye
Jessica Recinos	Aye
Nicholas Albonico	Aye
Andrew Paris	Aye
Roger Crystal	Aye

D. Request for Modifications

Mr. Negroe explained that the request for modifications involved legal filing documents with the City of Santa Monica to allow certain exceptions regarding code and permitting requirements for establishing a school in the building. He noted that each filing would cost $1,400, with a maximum of three to four filings needed. Mr. Negroe confirmed they were prepared to submit these filings, acknowledging the city's helpful and supportive approach throughout the process.
Maggie Nance made a motion to approve the Request for Modifications.
Andrew Paris seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Andrew Paris	Aye
Roger Crystal	Aye
Minh Ha Ngo	Aye
Maggie Nance	Aye
Martha Monahan	Aye
Sara Margiotta	Aye
Kristina Irwin	Absent
Amir Ebtehadj	Aye
Nicholas Albonico	Aye
Jessica Recinos	Aye

E. CW Driver Contract

Mr. Negroe reported that the CW Driver contract proposal had been included in the agenda documents and reviewed. He stated they were prepared to accept three exhibits that accompanied the contract: the timeline, terms, and budget.
Amir Ebtehadj made a motion to approve the CW Driver Contract.
Martha Monahan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Jessica Recinos	Aye
Nicholas Albonico	Aye
Martha Monahan	Aye
Maggie Nance	Aye
Andrew Paris	Aye
Roger Crystal	Aye
Kiumars Arzani	Absent
Kristina Irwin	Absent
Sara Margiotta	Aye
Minh Ha Ngo	Aye

F. Willscot Contract

Mr. Negroe described the Willscot contract for modular classrooms to be installed in the Sears parking lot. He confirmed the contract offered flexibility to adjust the number of units as needed, with corresponding cost adjustments. Mr. Negroe anticipated requiring fewer units than originally estimated, reducing lease, installation, and removal costs, and noted the contract included month-to-month terms after an initial period.
Minh Ha Ngo made a motion to approve the Willscot Contract.
Sara Margiotta seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Kiumars Arzani	Absent
Roger Crystal	Aye
Kristina Irwin	Absent
Andrew Paris	Aye
Amir Ebtehadj	Aye
Jessica Recinos	Aye
Maggie Nance	Aye
Minh Ha Ngo	Aye
Martha Monahan	Aye
Sara Margiotta	Aye
Nicholas Albonico	Aye

V. New Business / Announcements

A. Announcements / New Business

CBO Joe Lin will provide an update on insurance carrier response to the temporary relocation project proposal at the March 18 regular Board meeting.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amir Ebtehadj