APPROVED

# Palisades Charter High School

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

**Date and Time**
Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM

**Location**
Gilbert Hall
15777 Bowdoin Street
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

*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, Andrew Paris, Fati Adeli, Jane Davis, Maggie Nance, Martha Monahan, Minh Ha Ngo, Negeen Ben-Cohen (remote), Nicholas Albonico

**Trustees Absent**
Jessica Recinos, Lisa Cahill

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Call the Meeting to Order

Amir Ebtehadj called a meeting of the board of trustees of Palisades Charter High School to order on Tuesday Mar 17, 2026 at 5:05 PM.

### B. Record Attendance and Guests

### C. Public Comment

Negeen read public comments. There were three comments.

Anonymous - I think it is so important to reach out to teachers, students, and parents to get input about Pali high strengths and weaknesses.
Michael Friedman - In the AAC meetings we have been gathering information from all departments to explore the commonalities and differences between the department and courses offered at PALI and have compiled a report to highlight strengths and challenges along with recommendations made by committee members and AI. It does appear that we have an established procedure and infostructure that plans and includes yearly information that is analyzed by various stakeholders. The end of year report should be used as the needed content areas to address for PD and PLC meetings from the beginning of the year throughout the school year. Both the PLC notebooks and reviews along with the Board Report should be easily made available to all staff. The administrator over each department needs to take action and in cases issue a directive to teachers who are not following certain adopted policies within their PLC's. The consistency of each department must be acknowledged and managed. It was also found that having an administrator over a department teach at least one course in that department would serve very valuable to PALI as an institution as it would promote understanding, empathy, relatability, practicability, awareness, teamwork, make the administrator more confident and respected by other teachers by doing and not just saying.
Lisa Saxon - I'm concerned about a sweeping conclusion made in the Academic Accountability Committee's Analysis of Department Feedback attached to the Board materials packet. I understand that committee members received an AI-generated summary of department reports, and I'm concerned about some over-generalizations made in regard to the curricular program at Pali Academy, the school's credit-recovery program. The first bullet point on the committee's report states that "Rigor is lacking, and

students are not engaged in learning." I'm wondering how this conclusion was drawn, as the comment was not included in the department's report to the AA Committee. The English and Social Studies classes are taught by certificated teachers who work to align their curriculum with grade-level PLCs at the main school. Students typically are referred to Pali Academy only after they have fallen 60 credits behind the pace needed to earn a high school diploma, meaning they enter the program with a history of having earned failing grades. Consequently, the English and Social Studies teachers "meet students were they are," a practice that involves designing lessons that address content-area standards that a student may have missed in previous years. Pali Academy teachers work hard to ensure that course curriculum is both accessible and rigorous. Moreover, students are required to complete grade-level common assessments. For online credit-recovery classes, Pali Academy uses APEX, the same program used by Virtual Academy. This semester, Pali Academy teachers are adding assignments to the English (9A and 9B classes to ensure that students have ample opportunity to demonstrate proficiency of standards -- and, more importantly, that they have the skill set needed to transition back to the main campus. These locally created assessments are designed to increase student engagement and to provide scaffolding students need to successfully complete assignments in online classes. Pali Academy's Small Learning Community is successful largely because our small team consisting of a counselor, clerical support, teachers, and mental health service provides works together to address student needs. We communicate about students on a daily basis and share of single goal of helping each student reach his or her academic goals.

### D. Approve Minutes

Nicholas Albonico made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 02-24-26.
Andrew Paris seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## II. Organizational Reports

### A. Student Report

Owen Fischer delivered the Student Report, highlighting upcoming campus elections, scheduled St. Patrick's Day activities, and current student feedback.

### B. Parent Report

Negeen reported that parents are seeking a more efficient method for receiving school-directed information. The report also noted prevailing confusion regarding the school calendar and daily schedules.

### C. Community Report

Nothing at this time.

### D.

**Represented Classified Staff Report**

Nothing at this time.

**E. Unrepresented Classified Staff Report**

Monahan detailed steps being taken for the scheduled LAUSD visit and recommended to support the school play, Rent.

**F. Faculty Report**

Dr. Ngo reported that faculty members are currently completing required inventory forms and preparing for upcoming department pull-out sessions. Additionally, she highlighted an ongoing need for increased copy machine access and printing support for teachers on campus.

**G. Human Resources Director (HR) Report**

Martha: Stands as submitted.

**H. Director of Operations Report**

No new updates.

**I. Director of Information Technology Report**

Stands as submitted.

**J. Director of Development Report**

**K. Chief Business Officer (CBO) Report**

Marie: Revenue surplus is around $97,000.

**L. Executive Director/Principal (EDP) Report**

The report emphasized the importance of managing professional neutrality on campus while maintaining an environment where students feel empowered to express their opinions safely. It highlighted the need for continued student education regarding the utilization of the "STOPit" anonymous referral application, as well as raising awareness for available on-campus mental health resources. Additionally, it was noted that the recent school climate survey provided the administration with valuable insights and actionable data regarding the overall culture and climate at Palisades.

## III. Board Committees (Stakeholder Board Level Committees)

**A. Academic Accountability Committee Update**

Tenan-Snow: AAC report: she was not sure how Lisa Saxon could make a public comment about a report that has not been published yet. Randy discussed how the

committee prepared the report. The AAC's report is a working doc that can be changed as circumstances dictate. The members of the report thoroughly prepared the report. Saxon's claim that it was produced by AI is unfounded.

Described the process by which the report was created. Went through a PPT about findings. Described difficulties with collaborative classes.

Rivera: expressed concerns about attendance, class sizes, and how to deal with AI.

**B. Budget & Finance Committee Update**

Sara: voted to approve Christy White contract, trust issue needed to be resolved. Described the ins and outs of Pali's budget.

**C. Election Committee Update**

No update.

**D. Charter Committee Update**

No update.

## IV. Board Committees (Board Members Only)

**A. Board Members Only - Committee Updates**

Audit committee to meet soon. Survey committee met and discussed how to create a survey. Grade appeal committee will meet soon.

## V. LAUSD Testing Plans/Updates

**A. LAUSD Testing Plans/Updates (Spring Break)**

Pam: samples will be taken during Spring Break. Results will be shared when available,

## VI. Operations and Facilities Updates

**A. Operations and Facilities Updates**

It was reported that the Maggie Gilbert Aquatic Center (MGAC) is currently open for students and the swim team, with plans to extend access to the broader community in the near future. Electrical contractors are scheduled to repair the stadium's overhead lighting. Additionally, the Office of Health and Environmental Safety (OHES) is expected to grant full occupancy certification this coming Friday, which will allow the field to open to the community and host the lacrosse (LAX) game scheduled for Friday evening.

## VII. LAUSD Single Occupancy Agreement

**A.**

### LAUSD Single Occupancy Agreement

Updates were provided on the new agreement currently being negotiated to resolve recent alignment challenges. The District is actively reviewing the terms, and the school expects a more favorable outcome.

## VIII. Academic Excellence

### A. Update on Annual School and Board Goals

The administration noted that Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle takeaways will be shared with the Board at an upcoming meeting, and school-wide operational challenges will be taken into consideration moving forward. A primary focus of the discussion centered on class size discrepancies, highlighting a variance where some classes average 38 students while others average 21. The administration emphasized that balancing schedules to distribute enrollment more evenly is an incredibly complex process, and comprehensive strategies are being evaluated to address these distribution challenges.

The operations team compiled a comprehensive list of vendors and cross-referenced them with essential school services. To maintain a standard of receiving three competitive proposals, a minimum of five vendors per service area is required. The list will be consolidated, and the administration will notify the participating vendors of their inclusion on the JPA shortlist.

## IX. Athletics Updates

### A. Athletics Updates

The administration reported a highly successful postseason, with all city-playoff eligible teams successfully qualifying for the state tournament. Notable achievements include the Girls Basketball team finishing as the CIF State Division IV Runner-Up and the Boys Basketball team securing the City Division Championship. Additionally, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and the Cheerleading squad all advanced to the state playoffs, with Cheer earning a Regional Championship title. Spring sports are currently underway across campus. Concluding the report, it was announced that Athletic Director Rocky Montz was named the City Section Athletic Director of the Year.

## X. Finance

### A. Fiscal Year 2026 February Financials

### B. Christy White Contract

Marie brought forward the Christy White contract, stating that the agreement needs to be formally approved by the Board.

Amir Ebtehadj made a motion to Approve second year of contract.
Jane Davis seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lisa Cahill | Absent |
| Jane Davis | Aye |
| Andrew Paris | Aye |
| Jessica Recinos | Absent |
| Fati Adeli | Aye |
| Amir Ebtehadj | Aye |
| Minh Ha Ngo | Aye |
| Nicholas Albonico | Aye |
| Martha Monahan | Aye |
| Maggie Nance | Absent |
| Negeen Ben-Cohen | Aye |

### C. Irrevocable Trust - OPEB

Jane Davis made a motion to approve the Irrevocable Trust - OPEB agreement.
Martha Monahan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lisa Cahill | Absent |
| Nicholas Albonico | Aye |
| Minh Ha Ngo | Aye |
| Negeen Ben-Cohen | Aye |
| Fati Adeli | Aye |
| Amir Ebtehadj | Aye |
| Andrew Paris | Aye |
| Martha Monahan | Aye |
| Jessica Recinos | Absent |
| Maggie Nance | Absent |
| Jane Davis | Aye |

### D. FAST (Transportation Financial Aid)

Maggie Nance made a motion to approve the FAST.
Nicholas Albonico seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lisa Cahill | Absent |
| Jessica Recinos | Absent |
| Martha Monahan | Aye |
| Minh Ha Ngo | Aye |
| Negeen Ben-Cohen | Aye |

| Roll Call | |
|---|---|
| Nicholas Albonico | Aye |
| Fati Adeli | Aye |
| Jane Davis | Aye |
| Maggie Nance | Absent |
| Amir Ebtehadj | Aye |
| Andrew Paris | Aye |

## XI. Consent Agenda

### A. Finance Items: School Organized Conferences/Trips

Martha Monahan made a motion to approve School Organized Conferences/Trips.
Amir Ebtehadj seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

| Roll Call | |
|---|---|
| Nicholas Albonico | Aye |
| Fati Adeli | Aye |
| Jane Davis | Aye |
| Andrew Paris | Aye |
| Minh Ha Ngo | Aye |
| Maggie Nance | Abstain |
| Negeen Ben-Cohen | Absent |
| Amir Ebtehadj | Aye |
| Jessica Recinos | Absent |
| Lisa Cahill | Absent |
| Martha Monahan | Aye |

### B. Personnel Items

Maggie Nance made a motion to approve with amendment math to language.
Martha Monahan seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## XII. Local Assignment Option Resolution

### A. Local Assignment Option Resolution

Amir Ebtehadj made a motion to ratify the LAO.
Nicholas Albonico seconded the motion.
Ratifying the vote from August, approving teacher's who do not have ELA additions to their credentials if they came out of state or if they are teaching one class out of their subject area.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## XIII. New Business / Announcements

### A. Announcements / New Business

April 21 is our next regularly scheduled board meeting.

## XIV. Closed Session

### A. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release

The board entered closed session at 7:02

## XV. Open Session

### A. Return to Open Session

The board returned from closed session at 7:15pm and did not make any action in closed session.

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

## XVI. 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 7:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amir Ebtehadj