

**PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting of January 18, 2005**

I. PRELIMINARY

OPEN SESSION

A. 7:10 pm Welcome and Roll Call Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Board Chair

Members Present:

Ruth Simeon	Edward Kim
Dr. Jonathan Fielding	Jim Suhr
Jack Sutton	Harriet Leva
Gay Chambers	Libby Butler
Minh Ha Ngo	Tina Lee
Bud Kling	

B. Approval of Minutes from

- Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2004.

C. Setting of time limits for Agenda items

D. Instructions for Presentations to The Board by Public speakers

1. Speakers must register in advance
2. A maximum of 8 speakers may speak up to 2 minutes each
3. No names of individuals may be mentioned relating to accusations of problems or wrongdoings (Names should be presented in written form to the Executive Director for follow-up action).
4. Speakers may choose to speak during the public speakers segment or at the time an agenda item is presented, but the same individual may speak only once during the meeting.

E. Speakers

Howard Gould- 9th grade program

-Mr Gould presented an update regarding English and Science for 9th grade program.

-*English:* Humanitas has not been taught since sometime during last year. Humanitas has not been expanded to the whole school as had been promised and Mr. Gould is unsure of what has replaced it. Duck Duck Goose and the Honors programs have not been implemented as proposed. The high performing students are only reading two books per semester and the honors students are not being challenged with adequate teacher participation as promised. Enrichment has not occurred and articulation with the feeder schools has not been adequate.

-*Science:* Only 30 students are receiving enriched science material.

-*Suggestion:* To separate the higher achieving students and the lower achieving students into specific programs and leave a middle-achieving group for normal instruction.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Executive Director's Report- INFORMATION

Dr. Jack Sutton

Re: Charter Renewal-

- We have two weeks until we have to submit signatures in support of charter renewal (by 1/31/05).
- Clarification of the definition of "permanent teacher" will be sent by LAUSD's charter office.
- Dr. Sutton gave a summary of the progressive history of Pali's charter status and governance structure.
- Faculty raised questions of whether or not Pali remains a 5013c or not.
- Information meetings about charter renewal were held for teachers and parents on 1/12/05 and 1/13/05 respectively. Thirty teachers and forty parents attended.

B. Principal's Report – INFORMATION

Dr. Gloria Martinez

- Dr. Martinez presented a brief overview of the letter sent out to teachers last Friday, January 14, 2005 including updates on Focus on Learning, PowerSchool Training to improve communication between home and school, the Helix Charter High School Conference, the Academic Watch Program, and the Pali Parent Newsletter to be sent out February 2nd.
- A special Certificate of Recognition was sent to us from Assembly member, Fran Pavley, of the 41st District, for our Mock Trial team and teachers.

ACTION → Dr. Sutton and Dr. Martinez will create a certificate program for academic successes such as the Mock Trial accomplishment.

III. Standing Committee reports and Ratification of Standing Committee action items

1. Assessment and Accountability –

- Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, January 19, 2005.
- The Board requests progress report on the SLCs and the 9th grade program.

2. Communications

- There was no December meeting and no report due to the holiday break.

3. Educational Programs –

Next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2005.

4. Finance and Budget-

- There was no December meeting and no report due to the holiday break.

5. Human Resources-

- Next meeting is scheduled for February 14th

6. Operations and Facilities

- There was no December meeting and no report due to the holiday break.

7. Policy –

- There was no December meeting and no report due to the holiday break.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mesa trip was approved. One abstention.
2. Security position approval:
 - Long Beach has been contacted; salary structure and job description comparisons are currently on their way.
 - The information will be discussed in the Human Resources Committee and forwarded to the next Board Meeting in February.

Charter Renewal Process – Dr. Jack Sutton *(I'm not sure which parts of this discussion are necessary to include . . .)*

UPDATE:

- There is a UTLA meeting scheduled for next week at the same time as the Faculty Senate Meeting.
- Advantages of maintaining charter status as opposed to returning to LAUSD include
 - Ratio of \$65 (LAUSD): \$277 (Pali High) per student
 - Board of 11 for 2600 students
 - LAUSD will suffer from the governor's budget cuts.
- The charter amendment process exists and has been utilized by Pali.
- 75 % of the faculty must support any amendment.
- As a 501c3, teachers and all employees have insurance. As an unincorporated public entity, nobody has insurance.
- Most important step now is that the Charter is renewed.
- Request was made from the Charter Renewal office for an exact date for charter renewal application signatures.
- Dr. Sutton requested approval from the Board to survey teachers for numbers of how many students are in favor and how many oppose the charter.
- There are some teachers who want to submit a charter renewal document that allows teachers to comprise 50% of the Board and are not in favor of a charter with other governance structures.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

- Existing Board structure with balance between various stakeholders reflects the range of relevant interest groups and the issue of the legal organizational structure is a digression of the mission of the school (i.e. class size instruction) in order to maximize every student's success. – *Mr. Suhr*
- We should send out a communication to the faculty stating that we weaken the chances of getting the charter if we remain in limbo re: the governance structure. – *Dr. Sutton*
- Issue: the initial level of support in January is important: including support from all key parent segments, students, community organizations and faculty. – *Dr. Fielding*
- Considering the complexity of the number of issues being voiced simultaneously (labor negotiations and governance structure), it's possible that many of the teachers who will not sign in

support of a charter as a 501c3 are afraid without a contract. Perhaps the teacher members of the Board should draft a letter of support of this governance structure? – *Ms. Butler*

- Should we conduct a survey for those in favor of the charter, as it is, the charter with possible revised governance structure, or those who do not want the charter at all? - *Ms. Simeon*

FINAL COMMENTS:

- *Goal:* How can we best accomplish fostering support for the charter renewal in the next 12 days since the vote is essential on the 31st?

- Charter Renewal Committee, department chairs and other respected faculty, should be convened immediately to form the push towards renewal approval – *Ms Ngo.*

- *Dr. Martinez* agrees that a teacher-originated letter supporting a 501c3 structure should be drafted and distributed.

- We should ensure that we include students, parents and community organization in rallying around charter renewal.

- Students can be given a proposal to be approved.

- The focus needs to be maintained on achieving charter renewal.

Motion→ To formalize the Board’s commitment to reapply for charter renewal as a 501c3 with the flexibility from the Board to revisit the amendment process for the governance structure. To take a stand as a Board to enlist teacher support for the Charter.

Seconded. Unanimously approved.

Motion→ Authorize executive director to take necessary measures to pursue charter renewal.

Expense Report Approval: Greg Wood

- Certified all expenses and asked for Board Approval.

Motion → Report approved. One abstention.

V. CLOSED SESSION: 8:35

- Personnel issues
- Student disciplinary issues
- Labor negotiations issues (teachers have recused themselves from this section of the meeting)

VI. OPEN SESSION:

- Report out from Closed Session

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: February 8, 2005 7pm in the library

(note change from 3rd week to 2nd)