

GENERAL COMPLAINTS

Palisades Charter High School (“Charter School”) has adopted this General Complaint Policy to address concerns about the Charter School generally or regarding specific employees. For complaints regarding harassment or perceived violations of state or federal laws, please refer to the Charter School’s Policy Against Unlawful Harassment and/or the Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Procedures. For all other complaints, the General Complaint form and accompanying procedures will be appropriate.

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS

(Complaints by Employees against Employees)

This section of the policy is for use when a Charter School employee raises a complaint or concern about a co-worker.

If reasonably possible, internal complaints should be resolved at the lowest possible level, including attempts to discuss/resolve concerns with the immediate supervisor. However, in the event an informal resolution may not be achieved or is not appropriate, the following steps will be followed by the Executive Director/Principal or designee:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Director/Principal as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or if not appropriate; and
2. The complainant will reduce his or her complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts. The Executive Director/Principal or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation;
3. If the complaint is about the Executive Director/Principal, the complainant may file his or her complaint in a signed writing to the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Charter School, who will then confer with the Board and may conduct a fact-finding or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Board. If the Board Chair is an employee of PCHS, he or she shall tender the letter to a non-interested Board Officer or, in the event there is not a non-interested Board Officer, the Board Chair shall tender the letter to a non-interested Board member. The Chair, designee, or investigator will report his or her findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee’s satisfaction. However, the Charter School values each employee’s ability to express concerns and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequence to employment.

POLICY FOR COMPLAINTS GENERALLY

(General Complaints and Complaints by Third Parties against Employees)

This section of the policy is for use when either a complaint does not fall under other complaint procedures or a third party (non-employee) raises a complaint or concern about the Charter School generally, or a Charter School employee.

If complaints cannot be resolved informally, complainants may file a written complaint with the office of the Executive Director/Principal or Board Chair (only if the complaint concerns the Executive Director/Principal) as soon as possible after the events that give rise to the complainant's concerns. The written complaint should set forth in detail the factual basis for the complaint.

In processing the complaint, the Executive Director/Principal (or designee) shall abide by the following process:

1. The Executive Director/Principal or designee shall use his or her best efforts to ascertain the facts relating to the complaint. Where applicable, the Executive Director/Principal or designee shall talk with the parties identified in the complaint or persons with knowledge of the particulars of the complaint to ascertain said facts.
2. In the event that the Executive Director/Principal (or designee) finds that a complaint is valid, the Executive Director/Principal (or designee) may take appropriate action to resolve the problem. Where the complaint is against an employee of the Charter School, the Executive Director/Principal may take disciplinary action against the employee. As appropriate, the Executive Director/Principal (or designee) may also simply counsel/reprimand employees as to their conduct without initiating formal disciplinary measures.
3. The Executive Director/Principal's (or designee's) decision relating to the complaint shall be final unless it is appealed to the Board of Trustees of the Charter School. The decision of the Board of Trustees shall be final.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Confidentiality: All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.
2. Non-Retaliation: All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaints or participation in any complaint process.
3. Resolution: The Board (if a complaint is about the Executive Director/Principal) or the Executive Director/Principal or designee will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

COMPLAINT FORM

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: _____

List any witnesses that were present: _____

Where did the incident(s) occur?

Please describe the circumstances, events, or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

I hereby authorize the Charter School to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Complainant

Print Name

To be completed by Charter School:

Received by: _____ Date: _____