



Palisades Charter High School

More Than 50 Years of Innovation and Excellence



Board of Trustees

SPECIAL BOARD COMMUNITY MEETING

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 4, 2014

5:00 PM, Library

I. PRELIMINARY:

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 5:08 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: 5:00 PM - 5:08 PM

	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Mark Epstein	X		Jeanne Saiza	X	
Allison Holdorff Polhill	X		Kimberley Allen	X	
Monica Iannessa	X		Leslie Woolley	X	
Emilie Larew	X		Mystic Thompson	X	
Greg Nepomuceno	X		Michael Stryer	X	
James Pasto	X				

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

	Present	Absent
Ben Safvati	X	

PCHS MANAGEMENT/STAFF

	Present	Absent
Pamela Magee	X	
Greg Wood	X	

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (5:10 PM - 6:02 PM)

Non-agenda items: No individual presentation shall be for more than two (2) minutes and the total time for this purpose shall not exceed sixteen (16) minutes. Board members will not respond to presentations and no action can be taken. However, the Board may give direction to staff following a presentation. Speakers may choose to speak during the public comment segment and/or at the time an agenda item is presented.

Numerous speakers commented on the PCHS activities and how the sound level of specific activities and events impact the neighborhood.

Various neighborhood parents spoke in favor of the marching band. One neighborhood child who participates in the Westside Aquatics program at the PCHS pool described his fear after a male neighbor yelled at the swimmers and called some of them by name.

Palisades resident Brent Loncart praised PCHS as a nationally ranked high school, and commented that a small number of neighbors should not be able to represent the entire community. He disliked the idea of monies that the school worked hard to raise going to appease a small number of people who will not be satisfied. He asked that the larger Palisades community stand up and support PCHS.

Several speakers, including band parent Lisa Richardson, noted that individuals had interrupted band practice and questioned and intimidated PCHS students; they should faced with a restraining order. She wondered what kind of imaginary ideal of silence that some people wanted, and worried about the impact on this quality enrichment program.

Neighbor Stewart Muller relayed his displeasure at the change in Pacific Palisades over the years and said that PCHS should accommodate the Palisades instead of Palisades accommodating PCHS. Another neighbor, Janet Davis, felt that neighbors who complain about PCHS noise have been disrespected in public forums. She asked for compromise and an end to electronically broadcast events.

A letter from a band parent relayed that the Marching Band had greatly improved her son's discipline, responsibility, and sense of teamwork within the family. Another speaker advised that the Board's time not be wasted on this issue; set up a committee to deal with it.

Neighbor Andrea Bell stated that amplified sound from the Turkey Trot had intruded in her home Thanksgiving morning (Dave Riccardi's response is below) and that it was inconsiderate.

A band student noted that she did not live in the Palisades; the privilege of attending a high school in a safe community; and the enrichment value of the Marching Band.

Neighbor Sid Greenwald marveled at the band's hard work and how it forms a close-knit community of PCHS students. She doubted whether LAUSD would have made the 50 accommodations to a neighborhood. Palisades community leader Nicole Howard noted that PCHS is the first to volunteer space for fundraisers and other Palisades events; the first to donate food. She also noted a significant increase in Palisades parents sending their students to PCHS.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Director of Operations David Riccardi noted the list of 50 concessions that PCHS has made to its neighbors over the last two years. He stated that he turns down 80% of permit requests. PCHS turns down \$75,000-\$100,000 a year in potential revenue in order to be good neighbors. He noted that the school absorbs the costs of the charitable events it hosts. PCHS holds its permit holders to strict guidelines and revokes permits when unacceptable levels of noise occur. For example, this past Thanksgiving the organizers of the Turkey Trot were limited to announcing the race and the national anthem. They have told PCHS that they will not return due to the sound restrictions. PCHS continues to work on lessening sound including how to bounce sound directionally in the stadium. Riccardi stated that he continues to be available to dialogue with the community; his contact info is on the website.

Director of Aquatics Brooke King noted that 80% percent of PCHS pool users are Palisades residents and the pool serves a wide age range from infants to senior citizens. Her program Westside Aquatics is 75% Palisades residents. She shared modifications of the last year including banning whistles or megaphones, cutting light usage in half, cutting operation hours, and training lifeguards to police noise (unusual for a pool). There have been five repairs on the gate to decrease its closing sound.

IV. BOARD QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Board member Monica Iannessa communicated her concern that PCHS is accommodating too much; she questioned pulling an MS fundraiser because of neighbor complaints. Community members trespassing onto school property and intimidating staff and students is unacceptable. Board member Leslie Woolley noted that PCHS wants to be good neighbors but hoped that student activities are not being compromised.

Board Chair Allison Holdorff Polhill questioned how much administration time is spent on this issue. Mr. Riccardi stated that a portion of every workday is given to sound remediation. Dr. Pam Magee noted the lost potential revenue from the accommodations and that as an independent school PCHS has to work hard to raise critical funds. She spends a significant amount of time on neighborhood concerns, which takes away from administrative duties.

Board member Mark Epstein asked how many of the 50 accommodations originated from the neighbors? Mr. Riccardi estimated 25% and reiterated that he welcomes constructive ideas communicated in a positive way; mean spirited emails denigrating him, and Dr. Magee, are not productive.

Ms. Holdorff Polhill asked what had occurred at LAUSD, and Dr. Magee described how four neighbors attended LAUSD's charter renewal board meeting, publically disparaged PCHS, and interrupted Mr. Riccardi's presentation to the LAUSD board by yelling out "That's a lie!"

V. ADJOURNMENT (6:02 PM)

(Meeting Materials can be found on the Pali website under Governance, Board of Trustees, Agendas and Minutes, Material for Board Meetings)