



A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Tuesday, April 21, 2009  
4:00 PM  
FACULTY CAFETERIA**

(Please note that any referred to Attachments are on file with the hard copy minutes in the Executive Director's office.)

**I. PRELIMINARY:**

A. CALL TO ORDER – Rene Rodman, 4:04PM

B. ROLL CALL – Rene Rodman

Members Present:

Amy Dresser Held

Darcy Stamler

Dave Suarez

John Callas

James Paleno

John Riley

Patrice Fisher

Rene Rodman

Steve Klima

Torino Johnson (arrived 4:10)

Victoria Francis

Ex-officio

Greg Wood

Ramin Badiyan (arrived 4:10)

Martin Griffin

C. INTRODUCTION OF NEW HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, JENNIFER AVANT EUSTICE.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 31, 2009. See final approved version at [www.palihigh.org](http://www.palihigh.org).

- John Callas moved that the Board approve the minutes from the March 31, 2009 Board Meeting. Patrice Fisher seconded the motion.

**BOARD ACTION:**

**9 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mrs. Rene Rodman, Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima.)**

**1- abstained (Dr. John Riley)**

**1- absent (Mr. Torino Johnson)**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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. Use of names of individuals should be avoided when referring to accusations or wrongdoing (names should be presented to the Executive Director for follow-up action). Speakers may choose to speak during the public comment segment and/or at the time an agenda item is presented.

- Ms. Clare Chu requested that the Board give strong consideration to a Physical Education exemption for her daughter who sustained severe back injuries in 2008.

### III. ACTION ITEMS:

#### A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREPARE AND REDUCE BUDGET FOR 2009-2010. (see attached)

- Amy Held reviewed the 2009-10 budget priorities and the need to reduce the budget by \$1.3 million due to expected reductions in funding. Budget and Finance Committee prioritized budget reductions in order to keep cuts away from the classroom as much as possible and to avoid staff layoffs.
- The Committee's recommendations to accomplish this include reducing facilities and technology expenditures, all areas of LAUSD consulting contracts, elimination of Buy-Back Days, and the purchasing of textbooks for subjects in adoption years only, among other areas targeted for cost savings.
- Ms. Held said that Education Programs Committee will be providing recommendations for the next fiscal year regarding what programs should be maintained and which should be eliminated.
- The Board will be reviewing the proposed budget in a June 9 Special Board Meeting.
- No action was taken.

#### B. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING CALENDAR THROUGH JUNE 2010. (see attached)

- Rene Rodman presented the proposed Regular Board Meeting Calendar through June 2010 which continues the Board's regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. She proposed limiting the reporting of Organizational Reports to an every other meeting schedule, and including reports only from the Executive Director, Principal, and Chief Business Officer on a monthly basis.
- Darcy Stamler moved that the Board approve the Regular Board Meeting Calendar Through June 2010.. John Callas seconded the motion.

##### **BOARD ACTION:**

**11 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mr. Torino Johnson , Mrs. Rene Rodman, Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima.)**

- Board discussion regarding the inclusion of Organizational Reports on the agenda every month revolved around concerns as to whether student and staff concerns would be able to be voiced with enough frequency given an abbreviated bi-monthly agenda.
- Ms. Rodman reiterated that concerns can always be placed on the Board agenda for Board discussion and/or Action.
- Patrice Fisher moved that the Board approve the consolidation of organizational reports to the Executive Director level, who would then report them out at the meetings with a truncated Organizational Reports agenda, and that all written Organizational Reports be included in Board members' packets distributed at each meeting. Darcy Stamler seconded the motion.

##### **BOARD ACTION:**

**5 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, , Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mrs. Rene Rodman, Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Mr. John Callas)**

**6 – no (Ms. Vicky Francis, Mr. James Paleno Mr. Torino Johnson, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima).**

- Rene Rodman suggested that the matter regarding the handling of Organizational Reports on the Agenda be considered at a later meeting.

#### C. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BOARD RETREAT SCHEDULING, AGENDA AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT. (see attached)

- Rene Rodman presented a suggested Board Retreat Agenda to be scheduled in May 2009.
- A Committee comprised of Rene Rodman, Darcy Stamler and John Riley will recommend updates/changes to PCHS by-laws to reflect the proposed new Charter document at the Retreat.
- A Committee comprised of Vicky Francis and Rene Rodman will propose some sample governance process policies at the Retreat.

#### D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SEND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE CALIFORNIA CHARTER

## SCHOOLS ADVOCACY DAY IN SACRAMENTO.

- The Board was asked to approve expenses, estimated at approximately \$200, for Amy Held to attend this May 13, 2009 event. The event is seen as especially important for a PCHS representative to attend as Pali's California Assembly representative, Julia Brownley, is advocating an Assembly bill that would prohibit employees from being Board members of Charter schools.
- John Callas moved that the Board approve expenses to send the Executive Director to the California Charter Schools Advocacy Day in Sacramento on May 13. Steve Klima seconded the motion.

### **BOARD ACTION:**

**10 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mr. Torino Johnson , Mrs. Rene Rodman, , Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima.)**

**1 – abstain (Ms. Amy Dresser Held)**

## E. BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR TWO TEACHERS

- Martin Griffin presented Libby Butler's request to extend her unpaid leave of absence for another year, through June 2010. She is continuing work on her Doctorate in Education. The request for the second teacher was tabled until a future meeting.
- James Paleno moved that the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Libby Butler for one year through June 2010. John Riley seconded the motion.

### **BOARD ACTION:**

**11 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mr. Torino Johnson , Mrs. Rene Rodman, , Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima, Ms. Amy Dresser Held)**

## F. APPROVAL OF STUDENT TEACHING AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE. (see attached)

- Martin Griffin presented the Student Teaching Agreement that is retroactive to July 1, 2008 in order for funds to be released to PCHS that are due for this.
- John Callas moved that the Board approve the contract with the Trustees of the California State University, whereby the University may assign students to the schools in the School District for practice teaching, for the 2008-09 school year, and provisionally for the 2009-10 school year, and authorize PCHS Board of Directors Secretary, Darcy Stamler, to sign the contract.

### **BOARD ACTION:**

**11 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mr. Torino Johnson , Mrs. Rene Rodman, , Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima, Ms. Amy Dresser Held)**

## G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXPENSE REPORTS (STANDING ITEM).

- John Callas moved that the Board approve expenses of \$7 presented by the Executive Director for parking related to the March California Charter Schools Association meeting. Darcy Stamler seconded the motion.

### **BOARD ACTION:**

**10 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mr. Torino Johnson , Mrs. Rene Rodman, , Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima.)**

**1 – abstain (Ms. Amy Dresser Held)**

## IV. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

### A. INITIAL SUNSHINING OF PROPOSALS FOR THE UTLA-PCHS CONTRACT

- i. UTLA Initial Proposal – see attached
  - ii. PCHS Initial Proposal – see attached
- Amy Held presented the initial proposals for the UTLA-TCHS contract from each of UTLA and PCHS. The Board will be apprised of ongoing contract negotiations.
- B. REPORT OUT FROM GRADE APPEALS COMMITTEE.
- James Paleno reported that the Committee heard two grade appeals cases on April 2 and did not overturn the grades given by the respective teachers in each case.
- C. UPDATE ON POOL PROJECT. (**see attached**)
- Amy Held reported that the contract with Sarlan Builders is complete for a guaranteed maximum price not to exceed \$3.85 million. There will be a check scheduled for mid-way through the project to review funds raised to date and project scope. Fundraising for the project continues.
- D. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19 AT 4:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY.

**V. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

This is a presentation of information concerning non-confidential matters which have occurred since the previous Board meeting.

- A. Student Report – **Ramin Badiyan**
- Student report centered on the Leadership Class’s attendance at a day long leadership event held at Granada Hills Charter HS.. Also ASB elections will be held in early May.
- B. Parent Report – **Julia O’Grady**
- Parent Advisory Committee –
  - PTSA –
  - BOOSTER CLUB –
  - No report
- C. Faculty/Staff Report – **James Paleno/Dave Suarez/Torino Johnson**
- No report
- D. Academic Principal’s Report – **Martin Griffin (see attached)**
- Report highlighted the successful April 16 WASC Mid-Term accreditation visit.. Pali will be notified next month regarding their recommendation for continuation of our accreditation.
- E. Executive Director’s Report – **Amy Held (see attached)**
- F. Chief Business Officer’s Report – **Greg Wood (see attached)**
- G. Operations – **Maisha Cole Perri (see attached)**
- H. Human Resources – **Jennifer Avant Eustice (see attached)**
- I. Standing Committee Reports: (see attached)
- Communications – **Monica Iannessa**
  - Education Program – **Melinda Meinen**
  - Finance and Budget – **Greg Wood**
  - Operations/Facilities/Technology Committee – **Maisha Cole Perri**
  - Policy – **Julia O’Grady**

*Board Chair to announce agenda items for closed session.*

**VI. CLOSED SESSION: 6:40PM**

The Board entered Closed Session at 6:40 PM.

A. STUDENT REQUEST FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION (STUDENT #090390F134)

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Title: Director of Instruction

Title: Director of Student Services

Title: Athletic Director

Title: Principal

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE

D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION b OF SECTION 54956.9

E. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR PCHS Negotiator: Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Executive Director

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION: PESPU, UTLA

VII. **PUBLIC SESSION: 9:15 PM**

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:15 PM

**IF REQUIRED, PUBLIC REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION** (includes the vote or abstention of every member present).

A. STUDENT REQUEST FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION (STUDENT #090390F134)

- John Callas moved that the Board approve the student request for physical education exemption (Student #090390F134). James Paleno seconded the motion.

**BOARD ACTION:**

**11 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mr. Torino Johnson , Mrs. Rene Rodman, , Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima.)**

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE

- John Callas moved that the Board not renew the contract for the Principal when it expires on June 30, 2009. Darcy Stamler seconded the motion.

**BOARD ACTION:**

**10 – yes (Ms. Darcy Stamler, Ms. Vicky Francis, Ms. Patrice Fisher, Mrs. Rene Rodman, , Mr. John Callas, Mr. James Paleno, Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Dr. John Riley Mr. Dave Suarez, Mr. Steve Klima.)**

**1- No (Mr. Torino Johnson)**

D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION b OF SECTION 54956.9

- Dave Suarez left the meeting at 8PM.
- No action was taken.

E. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR PCHS Negotiator: Ms. Amy Dresser Held, Executive Director

EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION: PESPU, UTLA

- Since they are members of a bargaining unit, Steve Klima and James Paleno left the meeting at 8:40PM.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT: 9:20PM**