

**Palisades Charter High School
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting of August 24, 2004**

Called to order 7:15 p.m.

In attendance:	Libby Butler	Minh Ha Ngo
	Gay Chambers	Ruth Simeon
	Jonathan Fielding	Jim Suhr
	Tina Lee	Jack Sutton

Minutes:

Minutes of July 19, 2004 regular meeting approved, as amended.

Public Speakers and Student Concerns:

Agenor Gutierrez – complaint regarding expulsion of his sons Agenor and Enoc, allegedly for possession of alcohol.

Executive Director's Report:

Senior staff attended Charter Schools Committee meeting.
Both charter renewal and re-accreditation processes will take place within upcoming school year, need to implement ad hoc committees with participation of faculty members involved in previous charter and accreditation applications.

Principal's Report:

Technology update – implementation going well, training to occur on September 2nd on site, ½ of Dell computers have been delivered; first priority is attendance and emergency email notification system ...

Facilities Report – maintenance and BB Bond improvements status ... noted especially apparent failure of wall in room next to the gym, non-compliance of handicap parking signage, paving of rear driveway.

Communications – trying to get phone lines for each classroom.

New Teacher Orientation – 18 new teachers starting this fall ...

PCHS Faculty Handbook – need to consolidate existing handbook, charter petition, student handbook, and parent-student info packet ... ensure consistency of policies, review with attorneys as necessary.

CA Exit Exam – unofficial results 89% pass for language arts, 83% for math. California Virtual Academy offering this fall an online math intervention course, Merle Price volunteered to get in touch with CVA to research.

Special Education Coordinator – still looking for candidates for this position; also need registered nurse candidates with school nurse credential and one-on-one aide with health care assistant training.

Charter document – need to look more closely at wording on enrollment to define a “home attendance area” ... not the entire 115 zip code residential areas, rather preference for 12 traditional sending schools. LAUSD does not have consistent information on operational cap. School is over-enrolled this fall, primarily due to local students who are continuing to walk in. Merle points out that Revere enrollment pattern does not conform to attendance requirements in our charter. Opportunity to communicate more clearly in advance our intent to adhere to policies on enrollment in the charter.

Staff Development – August 31, September 1, September 2 ...“Dolphin ticket” positive incentive program, looking for support from local business community ... numerous remaining faculty position openings.

Drugs & Alcohol Intervention – recommending a program for intervention as step prior to student expulsion; need to review policies for substance abuse intervention.

Parent-Student Contract – complex legal issues, especially regarding enforcement ... goal is to maximize involvement, but very cautionary regarding constitutional protections. Contract needs to be viewed as encouragement rather than literally a contract ... widely used, important tools, but clear concerns including from LAUSD that contract would be used to winnow out lower academic-performing students or non-participating parents.

Professional Learning Communities Workshop:

Rick DuFore presentation in Riverside; how do we get all students to learn at their optimal level, provide equal access to curriculum, measure results, and establish interventions/extensions. In addition to explicit goal statement support by the Board, full implementation may require new scanners, new staff to input evaluation scores immediately, and most importantly creating time for faculty members to create the learning communities. No opt-out for faculty, though tight vs. loose implementation alternatives exist. Adherence to standards must be based on content standards and proficiency, so that faculty participation is tied to shared commitment to holding students to statewide standards through process of periodic assessments. Motion to approve general Board support to Principal for Professional Learning Communities program, with specific language to be drafted and returned to Board at next meeting; approved unanimously.

Technology Plan Implementation:

Working on rollout for September 8th of servers, desktop computers in each classroom, and PowerSchool software ... grading & attendance on new system to be mandatory by 2nd semester.

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel and Legal Issues, no action taken; action taken to support ExEd and the other independent charter schools in lobbying efforts with LAUSD up to \$75,000.

Standing Committees:

Plan is to have committee reports in advance of Board meeting going forward.

Need to review policies by next meeting regarding proper functioning of standing committees, open nominations, full participation of all interest groups, etc.

Finance & Budget Report – will have complete 2003-04 financial statement for approval at October Board meeting, have engaged auditors.

Interim Appointment of Secretary: Minh Ha Ngo approved as Interim Secretary.

New Business:

Major difficulty filling teacher positions - would addition of portable classrooms cause LAUSD to raise our capacity? Asked executive staff to respond with range of immediate and long-term measures to address classroom space constraints.

Next Meeting Dates

September 21, 2004 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 11:35 p.m.