



A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tuesday, January 26th, 2010

5:00 PM

LIBRARY

I. PRELIMINARY:

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

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.

III. ACTION ITEMS:

A. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADDITION OF PREAMBLE TO CHARTER RENEWAL PETITION – (Preamble speaks to PCHS' history and relationship to its feeder schools and LAUSD as part of the Palisades complex of charter schools; see handout.)

Board Chair to announce agenda items for closed session.

VI. CLOSED SESSION:

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Title: Director of Academic Planning and Guidance Services

Title: Human Resources Director

VII. PUBLIC SESSION:

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Agenda Information Sheet for the Board Meeting (date)

Date: 1/26/10

Topic: Charter Petition Preamble regarding relationship to schools in the Palisades Complex.

Presenter: Amy Held

Recommendation: Approve

Costs:

Background:

The whole Palisades complex of schools (5 elementary, 1 middle and 1 high school) converted to affiliated/dependent charters in the early 90s. In 2003 PCHS converted to an independent charter but we maintain close ties with the rest of the complex and draw approximately 90% of our student body from our feeder middle school, Paul Revere MS. All of the complex schools are including this preamble (slightly adapted for each site) to codify our relationship with each other. We were approached to do the same and have also been alerted that this may be significant in the effort to ensure we are able to retain our traveling programs at PCHS. We are in active negotiations right now with LAUSD because they are proposing to reduce or eliminate PCHS' traveling program which would impact nearly 40% of the student body and have a dramatic effect on the school. This preamble helps to clarify our relationship with the rest of the complex and support our case for equal treatment in terms of funding the traveling program transportation.

Prior discussions and/or action:

Alternatives:

Pros & Cons:

Relevance to PCHS' mission:

PCHS' diversity is celebrated in the mission of our school (to educate all our DIVERSE students to develop their skills and talents to make a positive contribution in our global society). The elimination of our relationship with the rest of the complex and the transportation for our traveling programs would dramatically alter the demographics of PCHS.

Stakeholder input:

Additional Information:

Number of accompanying materials:

PALISADES CHARTER COMPLEX PREAMBLE

It is the expressed purpose of the Palisades Complex of schools to work together to plan and sustain comprehensive educational goals and the complex-wide articulation that was originally established by our multi-campus, K-12 Charter. This will allow the eight schools that comprise the complex to fully utilize our resources and to present a more effective and seamless K-12 educational experience for the broad base of students we serve in our community and in the over 100 zip codes from which we draw. Since the initial adoption of the K-12 Charter, Palisades Charter High School has converted to an independent charter. PCHS will continue to support and articulate with the Palisades Complex feeder schools. The eight campuses within the Palisades Complex will continue to coordinate their mutual concerns and efforts through the Palisades Coordinating Council. The issues of mutual concern include, but are not limited to:

- Complex wide scheduling including: Back-to-School Night, Open House, complex-wide performance-based events and professional development activities.
- Professional development to maintain an aligned standards-based curriculum and instruction program from Kindergarten through Twelfth grade.
- Securing future resources and reaching out to community service groups, potential school groups, and establish partnerships.
- Continuing to identify and implement grants for the mutual benefit of all Complex schools.

Working collaboratively with LAUSD on applicable issues, the Palisades Complex schools will continue to serve the communities and families identified during our initial charter implementation. Qualified enrollment shall come from:

- The traditional attendance areas of Canyon, Kenter Canyon, Marquez, Palisades Elementary, Topanga, Paul Revere Middle School, and Palisades Charter High School (including Temescal Academy).
- Traveling students from the established sending schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District, with transportation, provided by the District. The District will work collaboratively with the complex on any proposed changes to the sending schools.

It is the intent of the Complex to encourage all students entering the Complex at any level to continue enrollment through twelfth grade graduation (subject to individual school's admissions policies). Upon graduation, all students will have access to any post-secondary experience of their choice.

The historic and continuing success of the Palisades Complex programs over the last fifteen years has been based on the ability of faculty and parents across our school communities to work together to create an environment in which all children can learn. We will continue to challenge ourselves to further improve and enhance the educational opportunity for all our children.

Palisades Charter Complex Preamble

It is the expressed desire of the Palisades Complex of schools to work together to plan and sustain comprehensive educational goals and the complex-wide articulation that was originally established by our multi-campus, K-12 Charter. This will allow the eight schools that comprise the complex to fully utilize our resources and to present a more effective and seamless K-12 educational experience for the broad base of students we serve in our community and in the over 100 zip codes from which we draw. Since the initial adoption of our charter, Palisades High School has become an independent charter school. We will continue to support and articulate with the eight other schools.

Coordination and articulation will take place through the Palisades Coordinating Council and will include such areas as:

- Complex-wide scheduling, including specific events such as Back to School Night, Open House, performance-based programs, and professional development activities.
- Coordinating professional development to maintain an aligned standards-based curriculum and instructional program from Kindergarten through twelfth grade.
- Securing future resources by reaching out to community service groups and potential sponsors, and establishing other partnerships.
- Continuing to identify and implement grants for the mutual benefit of all Complex schools.
- Communicating with the District on issues of funding, services, and instructional support.

As demonstrated since the inception of its charter, the more ownership our school community has, the more challenged we become to develop successful programs that reflect the leadership, skill and talent of our stakeholders and meet the unique needs of our diverse student body. Recognizing this truth and seeking to build on its previous success, with this Charter Renewal, the Palisades Complex of schools wishes to define the notion of the *Affiliated Charter School* as one that combines the expertise and efficiencies of the large Los Angeles Unified School District with the accountability and responsiveness of the local school community.

We seek opportunities to collaborate with the District or, when appropriate, to innovate independently to educate our students based upon their demonstrated needs and aligned with the California State Content Standards. In particular, we seek independence in choosing curriculum/assessments, selecting and retaining staff, and in financial management. As *Affiliated Charters* and to provide the resources necessary to prepare our students for the demands of the 21st century, we seek the flexibility of receiving our available state and local funds as a block grant and using them according to the needs of our students and under the oversight of our Charter Councils, which represent the interests of all our stakeholders. These are the parameters that allow us to define the true nature of an *Affiliated Charter School* as one that can in fact optimize the District/school relationship to everyone's mutual advantage.

The Palisades Complex schools will continue to serve the communities and families identified during initial years of charter implementation. Our qualified enrollment shall come from:

- Each of the member schools' traditional attendance areas.
- Established sending schools within the District, as long as the District provides transportation. Prior to making any changes or additions to these sending schools based on changes in student enrollment, the District will work collaboratively with Palisades Complex schools in the identification process.
- As space permits, students selected through the enrollment process established among the Complex schools.

Finally, the intent of the Complex is to encourage all students entering at any level to continue enrollment through 12th grade graduation, upon which all students will be prepared for the post-secondary experience of their choice.

The historic and continuing success of the Palisades Complex programs over the past fifteen years has been based upon the ability of faculty and parents across our school communities to work together to create an environment in which all students can learn. We will continue to challenge ourselves to further improve and enhance the educational opportunity for all our children.