

**PARADISE CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**6473 Clark Road
Paradise, California 95969
May 20, 2025
5:00 P.M**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO
THE BOARD BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS**

The Paradise Charter Middle School welcomes your participation at the School's Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Trustees is to conduct the affairs of the School in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our School. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. Agendas are available to all audience members.
2. "Request to Speak" forms are available to all audience members who wish to speak on any agenda items or under the general category of "Oral Communications." "Oral Communications" is set aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes and the total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.
3. You may also complete a "Request to Speak" form to address the Board on Agenda items. With regard to such agenda items, you may specify that agenda item on your "Request to Speak" form and you will be given an opportunity to speak for up to five (5) minutes when the Board discusses the item.
4. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to state their name and address from the podium and adhere to the time limits set forth.
5. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session of the board distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members, shall be available for public inspection at 6473 Clark Road, Paradise, California.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Paradise Charter Middle School may furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to qualified individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require appropriate alternative modifications of the agenda in order to participate in Board meetings are invited to contact the Executive Director's office.

1.0 Call to Order Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

1.1 Flag Salute

1.2 Roll Call

Sarah Kevwitch Chair/ 8th Grade Parent Representative
Robert Robertson, Co-Chair / Community Representative
Denise Farrell, Staff Representative
Shelly Bettencourt / 7th Grade Parent Representative
Holly Fisher, 6th Grade Parent Representative
Chris Palmer, Principal/Superintendent - President
Jennifer Duran, Secretary to the Board
Jenna Springer, Chief Financial Officer

Attendance

Present

Present

Late - Arrived at 6:10pm

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

2.0 Changes/Deletions to Current Meeting Agenda

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Minutes: Nothing to report

3.0 Public Comments on Items not on the Current Meeting Agenda

Minutes: Nothing to report

4.0 Reports and Presentations

4.1 Student Council Report - Minutes: Chris Palmer reported on behalf of Chloe

Patton. The final dance of the school year was held last week. It was a huge success. They

had a DJ this time and everyone loved it. The Student Council is busy planning a fun filled Fun Day, one of the minimum days next week. Filled with waterslides, obstacle courses, and a bbq.

4.2 PAC Report - Minutes: Chris Palmer reported on behalf of the PAC. The family bbq that was hosted by the PAC last week had a large turn out. Many new families also attended. The PAC hosted a couple of fundraisers for the evening to help with the costs of field trips. They were able to raise around \$1000.00 that night.

4.3 Teacher Report - Raina McConnell

Minutes: Raina McConnell reported on behalf of the teachers. Mrs. Behlke shared that having a student teacher this past semester was a great experience. Ms. Zangara provided valuable support in the classroom and played a key role in creating an outstanding yearbook. Mr. Miller recently wrapped up the track season. The students performed exceptionally well, once again demonstrating that PCMS is "Small but Mighty." Year-end student surveys were distributed over the past few weeks. Mrs. Behlke is currently meeting with each teacher to review the results. Overall, the feedback from students was positive, with many affirming the strength of their teachers and classroom experiences. Ms. McConnell took a moment to share her perspective as a first-year teacher. She expressed appreciation for the strong support she received—not only from Chris as the administrator but also from her fellow teachers. She was pleased to witness the PCMS culture in action every day. Finally, the staff expressed their gratitude to the Board for their support throughout the year and shared their excitement about continuing their work together in the coming school year.

4.4 Enrollment Update - Jennifer Duran

Minutes: Current 42 6th graders, 51 7th graders, 51 8th graders. Current enrollment for next year 2025-2026. 52 6th graders, with 2 on the waitlist. 52 7th graders with 3 on the waitlist. 52 8th graders with 4 on the waitlist.

4.5 Principal's Report - Chris Palmer

Minutes: Chris Palmer reported that the 8th grade field trip to San Francisco was a huge success. The 7th grade field trip is coming up soon, and students are looking forward to a fun day at SunSplash. Parents have been notified if their 6th or 7th grader will be receiving an award at the upcoming awards ceremony. Students will be recognized for Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, and four students will receive the Annual Staff Award. Preparations are well underway for 8th grade Graduation, which is scheduled for next week. As the school year draws to a close, Chris took a moment to acknowledge Yvette Kolstad's incredible 27 years of dedication to PCMS. She will be retiring next week and was recently honored at the Masonic Lodge for her years of service to PCMS and the community of Paradise. State testing is nearly complete. Chris also expressed his gratitude to the Board for their support over the past two years during his time as Principal/Superintendent. He shared that he will deeply miss the Board Members, staff, and families of PCMS as he transitions back into the classroom next year at another school.

5.0 Approval of Minutes: [March 11, 2025](#)

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 11, 2025 Minutes was made by Robert Robertson. The motion was seconded by Shelly Bettencourt. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0 with one absent.

6.0 Consent Agenda

6.1 Contracts

- a. 2025-2026 MOU with Butte County Office of Education for OT and APE services
- b. 2025-2026 Agreements with Butte County Office of Education for Data

Services:

1. [Aeries Database and Management](#)
2. [Student Data Privacy Agreement](#)
- c. [2025-2026 CORE Butte and PCMS MOU for Administrative Services](#)
- d. [24-25 Paradise Stronger PCMS MOU Amendment](#)
- e. [25-26 Paradise Unified School District Food Service Agreement](#)
- f. Horton McNulty & Saeteurn,
 1. [Letter of Engagement](#)
 2. [Work Agreement](#)
- 6.2 [Revised Expanded Learning Opportunities Program \(ELOP\) Plan](#)
- 6.3 [Paradise Unified School District School Bond Charter Allocation Proposal](#)
- 6.4 [Paradise Charter Middle School Board Bylaws](#)

Minutes: Item 6.1 a. was pulled from the other items for further discussion and review of the contract. A motion was made to approve the remaining items 6.1 b-f. and items 6.2-6.4 was made by Robert Robertson. The motion was seconded by Holly Fisher. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0 with one absent. After a short discussion a motion was made by Robert Robertson to approve item 6.1 a. The 2025-2026 MOU with Butte County Office of Education for OT and APE services. The motion was seconded by Shelly Bettencourt. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0 with one absent.

7.0 PUBLIC HEARING:

- 7.1 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), Annual Update 2024-2025 LCAP, and 2025-2026 Budget Overview for Parents

Minutes: Sarah Kevwitch opened the public hearing at 5:09pm. The 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Annual Update 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 Budget Overview for Parents was presented by Chris Palmer. There were no comments made by the public during the hearing. The Public Hearing closed at 5:41pm

8.0 Discussion/Action Items

- 8.1 [Recommendation for Principal/Superintendent Appointment](#)

Minutes: Robert Robertson made the recommendation of Travis Prendergast for Principal/Superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year on behalf of the hiring ad hoc subcommittee. A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Travis Prendergast for Principal/Superintendent for the 2025-2026 school year by Shelly Bettencourt. The motion was seconded by Robert Robertson. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0, with one absent.

- 8.2 Board Communication Protocol

Minutes: After a short discussion the board would like to bring the Board Communication Protocol back to the next regular meeting scheduled for June 12, 2025 for further discussion.

- 8.3 [Adoption of Resolution Urging Action on SB 1315 Reporting Burdens for Small School Districts](#)

Minutes: Mary Cox provided background information on SB 1315, which addresses reporting burdens for small school districts. After a short discussion a motion was made by Shelly Bettencourt to adopt the resolution urging action on SB 1315. The Motion was seconded by Sarah Kevwitch. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 4-0 with one absent.

- 8.4 [Adoption of Resolution Opposing Assembly Bill 84 \(Muratsuchi\)](#)

Minutes: Mary Cox provided background information on Assembly Bill 84. After a Short discussion a motion was made by Robert Robertson to adopt the resolution opposing Assembly Bill 84. The motion was seconded by Holly Fisher with a vote of

4-0 with one absent.

9.0 Closed Session

9.1 Public Employee- Appointment/Employment (Government Code 54957)

a. Principal/Superintendent

9.2 Public Employment Performance Evaluation: (Government Code 54957)

a. Title Principal/Superintendent

9.3 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

a. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: one potential case

Minutes: A closed session was called at 6:10pm with the arrival of Denise Farrell. The Board took action in closed session to approve the Principal/Superintendent's contract with an annual compensation of \$106,927.00. No action was taken on items 9.2 or 9.3. The closed session adjourned at 7:49 p.m., and open session reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

10.0 Future Agenda Items

Minutes: The Board wanted to review the Board Communication Protocol at the next meeting.

11.0 Adjournment: Next meeting June 12, 2025

Minutes: The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.