

Informational Bulletin

General Information

Under California Education Code Section 47601, one of the legislative intents of charter schools is to provide vigorous competition within the public school system to stimulate continual improvements in all public schools.

California Education Code Section 47605(d)(2)(C) states that “in the event of a drawing, the chartering authority shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the growth of the charter school and shall not take any action to impede the charter school from expanding enrollment to meet pupil demand.”

2015-2016 marked the first year that PCS had an enrollment lottery.

Plumas Charter School currently has 324 students enrolled. With the district’s enrollment coming in around 1,700 students, PCS represents about 19% of the total district students.

Program Contributions

In 2015-2016 PCS contributed \$81,498 to the Plumas SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area), which supports SELPA administration, SPED state level reporting, School Psychologist support on initial and triennial IEP’s and School Nurse support on initial and triennial IEPs.

In 2015-2016 PCS contracted back with PUSD for various SPED services including special day class placement in the amount of \$26,000.

PCS pays PUSD an annual oversight fee consisting of 1% of our total revenues. In 2015-2016 that amount totaled \$25,888.45.

In 2015-2016 PCS contributed \$7,360 to the Pioneer facility’s kitchen manager and accepted financial responsibility for all unpaid student balances at both the Pioneer and IVA facilities.

In 2015-2016 PCS contracted with PCOE for payroll services in the amount of \$8,400.

In 2015-2016 PCS contracted with PUSD for custodial services at IVA in the amount of \$3,000.

In 2015-2016 PCS leased space at the Pioneer campus in the amount of \$70,000.

In 2015-2016 PCS leased space at the GHS campus in the amount of \$40,000.

The total monetary contributions to PUSD run programs for 2015-2016 was **\$262,146.45**.

Facilities

PCS currently leases the Pioneer facility for \$72,000 annually, and accepts responsibility for maintenance and basic repairs to the areas leased.

PCS currently leases and shares the Greenville High Facility for a recommended (not yet approved by the PCS board) rate of \$165,000 annually.

PUSD currently leases their office space for roughly \$17,000 annually.

PCS has access to Prop 39 Energy Efficiency Funds that can be used to make upgrades to the Pioneer campus if a multi-year lease is agreed upon.

PUSD currently has vacant facilities in Taylorsville, Portola, Greenville and Quincy. According to the facilities report compiled on behalf of the district, all of the PUSD school sites currently in use are operating under capacity.

There is a very real possibility that PCS will no longer have access to the Pioneer facility after 6/30/2017. The primary reasons being given are 1) that PUSD is paying for office space when they own and are leasing out their own buildings, 2) that the office space they are currently leasing is not large enough to accommodate all of the district office staff, and 3) that they do not currently have an option with the county to engage in a longer term lease for the building they are currently leasing. Their current lease agreement expires in 2018, and there is a clause in the lease that the county can evict them at any time with 90 days' notice. During the community Bond meeting (Measure B) that was held on Tuesday 9/13 in the QHS cafeteria, Lori Simpson (County Supervisor from Quincy) said that she doubts the county would ever exercise that clause and that they would be willing to discuss a long term lease agreement with PUSD.

PUSD is currently asking for a 50 million dollar school facilities bond – Measure B on November's ballot – to upgrade their existing facilities. PCS is not included in the bond, thus 19% of the district students will not be benefiting from this bond. All property owners in the county will pay for the bond.

PCS is interested in purchasing Taylorsville Elementary School and has notified PUSD. There is also another entity interested in purchasing the facility that is not a school.

Because PCS is an Independent Study school, it is not eligible for facilities funding at the state level.

At the PUSD Board meeting in Chester on 9/14, PCS asked to have access to the Pioneer facility through June of 2018 to allow for more time for a facility transition.

During the same meeting, PCS also asked for a property specific zoning exemption (a District can choose to provide a zoning exemption to an authorized charter school) so that we can continue to pursue our facilities options. PCS asked for the zoning request to be placed on the October agenda for action.

Independent Study-Why do we need “classrooms”?

Plumas Charter School is an independent study program at its core, but offers various center based programs at each of our locations. This is what is commonly referred to as a hybrid program. The Independent Study designation allows us programmatic flexibility, offering many educational variations at each resource center we occupy. This designation also comes with significant strings attached in terms of auditing, documentation, and budgeting practices. Within the current legislation around what constitutes a site based program, there is a clear restriction that in order to be such a program you have to “require pupils to be in attendance at the school site at

least 80 percent of the minimum instructional time required...” Because our center based programs are optional, PCS cannot be considered site based. An Independent Study designation does not limit a school’s ability to **offer** center based instruction, and thus a need for space. An Independent Study designation does mean that PUSD is not obligated to provide facilities to PCS, but can choose to do so. Under Proposition 39, if PCS were a site based school, PUSD would be obligated to provide facilities for our programs.

There are many schools like PCS throughout the state that offer hybrid programs, and who inhabit school buildings. In fact, recently an IS school in Marysville, Camptonville Academy, received funding through the USDA, to build a new school facility for their hybrid programs. PCS is applying for the same funding to continue to pursue other facilities options. Another example of a school that PCS operates similarly to is the Classical Academies in San Diego. These schools offer a variety of educational opportunities and operate out of brick and mortar facilities.