

10/9/2017

## **Parent Informational Bulletin**

Parents, students and stakeholders of Plumas Charter School,

We cannot thank you enough for your support and encouragement during these challenging times, as well as the trust you have in us to provide educational services to your children. We want you to know that we are doing everything in our power to successfully navigate the many obstacles that are in our current path, and are optimistic that in the end our programs will be in a stronger and more stable place. PCS administration will make every attempt to provide current information around the status of the various moving parts that are currently effecting the school. We encourage you to continue to attend upcoming meetings, speak if you feel moved, ask questions if you have them, and show support for your school.

### **Here is the latest:**

#### **Facilities:**

Visualizing our longer term home: PCS successfully submitted our full application to the USDA Rural Development Program for the construction of our new facility in Quincy. Prior to this submission, we received the last important piece of information around the project: the “as improved” appraisal. This appraisal came in right where we needed it to, which adds strength and viability to the project as a whole. We will hopefully receive initial feedback on our application in the next month or so, with a potential funding date as early as February. The best case scenario would be that the loan is funded in February and we can then shortly thereafter break ground. The anticipated project completion time frame would be 6-9 months. This would take us into winter 2019. We would then anticipate beginning the move in Spring 2019. Within the next two months, PCS will establish a facilities committee comprised of staff, parents, and other stakeholders, to fine tune the building and layout design. This committee will then meet regularly until we are all satisfied with the output. Meetings dates and times will be publicized to all stakeholders.

So what about next year? At the request of PUSD, PCS Quincy will be vacating the Pioneer Facility in June/July of 2018. We are mapping out a one year transition facilities plan that includes the use of several commercial spaces in downtown Quincy. While this scenario will include parts of the programs being in different locations, we believe that we can continue to provide excellent educational services and continuity to your children. We also believe that this will be an amazing opportunity to better utilize our community level resources such as the museum, the library and the theatre. We are all very excited to make this transition and are confident that it will be a successful one.

The facilities options we are considering are:

1. 493 Main Street (the old Quincy Drug Building)
2. 80 Main Street (the old DMV/Head Start Building)
3. 455 Main Street (where Environmental Alternatives is now)

4. 535 Lawrence Street (where Mountain Mattress is now)
5. Tulsa Scott Building at the Fairground

493 and 80 Main Street are solid options at this point, the owners of the buildings are willing to lease to us and to hold the buildings for us until May 2018 when we would officially begin a lease. We will also be submitting Special Use Permits with the Planning Department the week of 10/9/17 for these two buildings. The other options require more exploration before we seek the appropriate permitting. In the next six weeks, we will have formalized all of our options, and begin the programmatic planning for the use of the different facilities (i.e which grades levels, staff and programs will be present at each of the locations). We will inform parents and other stakeholders as to when these planning meetings will be held and they will be open to any interested stakeholder.

#### **Charter Renewal:**

Plumas Charter School will be submitting a petition for the renewal of our Charter to the PUSD Governing Board on Wednesday 10/11. This meeting will be held in the Portola High School Library. Quincy Site Director Patrick Joseph will be submitting the petition, and it is our understanding that there will not be the opportunity for much discussion during this meeting. The charter renewal process takes sixty days and will be a meeting topic for the PUSD Governing Board for the next three months. **On Wednesday 11/8 in the Greenville High School cafeteria, the PUSD Governing Board will hold a public forum around our renewal. This is the opportunity for discussion and shared opinions and thoughts, and we encourage all PCS stakeholders to attend this meeting and speak out on behalf of PCS and its renewal. On Wednesday 12/13 in the PUSD District Office, the PUSD Governing Board will share out their decision on whether or not they will be renewing PCS's charter. This too is an important meeting to attend.**

Plumas Charter School is confident that our charter will be successfully renewed. Renewal decisions are based on the past performance of the school's academics, finances, and operation in evaluating the likelihood of future success, along with future plans for improvement, if any. While PCS's state level academic data as a whole shows that less PCS students meet or exceed standards than students of PUSD, when you look deeper into the data as relates to specific grade levels and subgroups (white, economically disadvantaged, and special education), PCS in fact outperforms PUSD in some areas. In terms of our financial viability and our programmatic and governance organization, PCS is strong, stable and consistent.

Your continued support of PCS is vital to the upcoming charter renewal and we hope that we can count on you to be present at the upcoming meetings.

We hope that this information bulletin was helpful. These bulletins will be regularly sent out to all stakeholders as new information becomes available. Please don't hesitate to contact the main office if you have questions or concerns.