

Informational Bulletin

Parents, students and stakeholders of Plumas Charter School,

We cannot thank you enough for your support and encouragement during these challenging times. We want you to know we are doing everything in our power to successfully navigate the many hurdles on our current path; and are optimistic that in the end our programs will be in a stronger, more stable place. PCS administration will make every attempt to provide current information around the status of the various moving parts currently affecting 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:

On Monday 10/3/2016, PUSD held a special board meeting where they discussed the following topics that directly related to Plumas Charter School. 1) Our request for a zoning exemption for the facility located at 424 North Mill Creek Road, 2) The Special Use Permit we submitted through the county for the use of an office building in Taylorsville to potentially house our IVA program during the 2017-2018 school year, 3) Our request for an extension of the current lease at the Pioneer Elementary facility through the 2017-2018 school year, and 4) The timeline associated with our submission of the Material Revision to our Charter.

- 1) The zoning discussion yielded general discomfort around granting a waiver, unless PCS was also required to have a school site approved by the CDE, and to abide by the Field Act (currently the state does not impose those regulations on charter schools, but does on districts). The board asked to add specific language to the waiver language around insisting on such requirements.
 - Since this meeting, Taletha had a second meeting with the Planning Department, and PCS will be pursuing a re-zoning of the site, rather than rely on a PUSD waiver. Taletha shared this with Terry Oestreich.
- 2) The Special Use Permit discussion yielded unfamiliarity with what PUSD board member roles and responsibilities might be with regards to the permit and application process. PUSD counsel was at the meeting and reminded the group that their feedback around the permit should be concerned only with any potential environmental impact. Feedback around the permit needs to be received by the planning department no later than 10/14.
- 3) Discussion around the potential for an extension of the lease for the Pioneer facility hinged around the current lease the district has with the County for their location at 1446 E. Main Street. The current lease expires on 6/30/2018 and includes a section stating that the lease can be terminated at any time by the County with 90 days' notice. The district would like the County to remove this clause and offer a lease extension in order for them to feel comfortable with offering us an extended lease in turn. PUSD will not be discussing this again in open forum until November, at the earliest.
 - Taletha will be attending upcoming County Board of Supervisor meetings, in the hopes of gaining some firsthand insight into the County lease.

- 4) The PUSD board, with the help of their legal counsel, reiterated that PCS will be submitting the Charter Petition Material Revision during the regular board meeting on Wednesday October 12. This submission initiates a 60-day timeline in which the board has to make a decision to either approve or deny the revision. On November 9, a public forum will be held during a regular meeting, around the petition. At this time, Taletha will give a formal presentation around the charter, and the public will be invited to comment on the school and petition. PUSD counsel also reiterated that if PUSD does not approve the amended petition, our current petition remains in effect for the remainder of the current term (through 6/30/2018).

General Facilities Update:

PCS is actively pursuing the facility located at 424 North Mill Creek Road, approximately one half mile from the Pioneer facility. This facility is approximately 15,000 square feet, which is about the same size as what we currently utilize at Pioneer. We have applied for financing through a Rural Development Program offered through the USDA. We will also apply for financing through Plumas Bank, who currently owns the facility. As mentioned above, PCS will work directly with the Planning Department to get the facility re-zoned.

General Charter Authorizer Update:

In light of the ongoing challenges the charter school has experienced over the years with district administration, and the existing politics, PCS is carefully examining the potential for an alternative authorizer. Because we are in a single district county, our only options are to seek authorizing in an adjacent county. In order to do this, we would have to merge with another charter school. There are many considerations for such a merger, currently we are in the exploration phase. We will share more information as it becomes available.