

**Coffee With the Superintendent – Palomares Academy
January 18, 2018 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Sessions**

Welcome and opening comments by superintendent to attendees. Three things he wants to know:

1. *What do you like and why did you choose this school district?*
2. *What things do you not like, what concerns you?*
3. *What other programs have you seen in other districts that you would like to see here?*

You can also share a complaint but you will need to give us the solution to the complaint.

Dr. Perlman – Welcomed the group and said that the work we do here involves everyone. Thank you for what you do at home with your children. On behalf of the school board we are doing everything we can for the benefit of your children. If there is something that we are not doing, please let us know.

Evening Comments:

Mr. Martinez made the introductions and talked about the elections that will be coming this year. There are three Board Members up for re-election. Mrs. Adrienne Konigar-Macklin is up for re-election and she is the Board Member for this Area.

School Climate/Safety

Parent Comment: Here to represent Barfield and Pomona High. She has a concern regarding the scoreboard at Pomona High. They pay a fee and they can't see the scoreboard. She has talked to the school Administration. It's not fair since parents are paying for it and it's broken. Why is their group being charged?

Mr. Martinez told parent that he will have an update regarding the scoreboard at Pomona High today.

Parent Comment: 1300 students are forced to eat in less than 30 minutes. Students do not get enough time to eat. The new system is not working. Maybe we can get the carport area and reopen so kids have more food options. My son has option to leave school but he does not have enough time to get something to eat. Another lunch period is not a good idea.

Mr. Martinez: We have been working with Daryl Hickey because there are restrictions on what can be served. Next year we will be going a universal program. Everyone will get food but there are restrictions. Maybe we can enhance the lunch time but it will affect instructional minutes.

Board Member Adrienne Konigar-Macklin addressed the group. She said that we are a community of givers. She said she is always available and can be reached by email.

Parent Comment: Has a complaint regarding his daughter. Have talked to the Principal and nothing being done. My daughter is being bullying. An adult here at the school is bullying her. Nothing is being done. The idea of filling out a form and to wait 30 days is too long. Also asking that there be no repercussions against his daughter.

Mr. Martinez said that the solution is to write the Principal and copy Superintendent or Board Members. Bonita Madrid in our office will ensure the Board of Education receives the email messages. Mr. Meza will investigate and report back to the Board of Education.

Parent Comment: Inquired about Zero tolerance regarding bullying. Her son has been experiencing bullying because he is an Asian. What do I do as a parent when my child does not want to open up? What can the school do? Can I transfer to another school in the district?

Mr. Martinez indicated that we have a process but it's not zero tolerance. Recommend that parent speak to administration. Consider other schools within PUSD before going to another district.

Parent Comment: Why should we move to another school? Let's not run away. Last night two parents spoke at the Board meeting, they transferred to Lorbeer and now they are having problems because Lorbeer staff does not don't speak Spanish. I want our schools in Pomona to improve; I don't want to hear that they are taking their kids up there because there are better opportunities.

Parent Comment: Have we considered something similar to “Toastmaster” it’s a speaking forum where we learn to speak. We are the solution; I’m a Toastmaster and can come to a group.

Dr. Ramos-Beal, Principal thanked the parents and Mr. Martinez for their support. Whatever it takes, I know that your team is here to support so please come to us.

Parent Comment: I went to this school and my kids attended here too. Talk to the Administration, you can connect with them.

Parent Comment: Want to thank the administration here at Palomares for welcoming the parents.

Parent Comment: I have kids at Barfield and they don’t let us go inside. I asked the Office Manager why.

Mr. Martinez: Mr. Stacey Wilkins is working with the Principal. They support children from Prototypes and they have to be more cautious in protecting the children.

Parent Comment: I would like to share that I have not had any problems with my kids because I have been involved.

Parent Comment: Attended a meeting at Pomona High regarding security. There has always been a problem. Is the District going to increase security? Are you going to add more cameras? There was a big fight and the response time was slow. The climate is changing but I still hear from neighbors concerned about the security issues.

Mr. Martinez: A bond measure was passed to help with safety/security and modernization projects. We are looking at the alarm systems as they are old and are not properly functioning. I spoke to Mr. David Jaramillo who is in charge of security and he indicated that card readers would be a good plan because that way we will know who goes in and out of the rooms. They have card readers at Lopez and Cortez have. Our Security Office works 24/7 and we have night security. The response to last week’s incident was 11 minutes. It happened after school and they were non PUSD students. The rule is that if it happens at our campus, we communicate to the community. If it happens outside Police reports through Nixel.

Parent Comment: Mr. Aaron Gould asked Mr. Ruiz if he would be interested in forming a group of men to guide the youth. There is a culture divide. As men, what are we doing? It is our responsibility to manage our kids. Need to plan things to help our boys.

Mr. Roger Fasting, Principal at Pomona High, stated that – every Friday there is a group called Men’s circle that meets on a regular basis. Claremont students come and meet with the group.

Mr. Martinez: I have been talking to Tamela Hutchinson, African-American Parent Advisory Council, regarding the data which is equally bad for Hispanics and African-American students. They are at the bottom. If fathers do something it will be powerful. Oliver is running two mentoring groups (Diamond Point and Garey).

Parent Comment: **Can PUSD change the Friday schedule?** No late start Friday, the students come late in the day or don’t come at all. Also, zero period students start at 7:00 a.m. and then they have to wait for an hour.

Parent Suggestion: Why don’t you start regular time and let the student go home early.

Parent Comment: Our family is new to PUSD, we come from Alhambra. We have 2 boys one in 7th grade and another 11th grader attending Options for Youth. Our 7th grader is having issues in getting acclimated in his new school. He was discouraged when he tried out for sports because there was no organization and he did not make the team. They are having tryouts for basketball now but we don’t know how it works in Middle school. Kids want the sports activities. Brought their son here for the education and want the best for him. We saw that Palomares would be a good opportunity for him but kids do need extra-curricular activities. Sports helps student develop their social

skills especially for new students. When parents don't have enough information about social skills. We need to find out what we can do to make it better.

Parent Comment: What is the evidence that there is equity in PUSD? Have you observed each school this year?

Mr. Martinez: The equipment is based on the type of school and program being offered. Bigger concern is when I hear that there are not getting enough materials. Parent reported last night at Board meeting that Lorbeer does not have Spanish speaking staff.

Parent Comment: My child plays soccer here at Palomares and said that the sports field is full of gopher holes and don't get to play on it often because it's not safe.

Parent Comment: My child wants to know why our school is painted all blue and our school colors are black and yellow they don't feel like it's their school.

Parent Comment: Do you ever open the forums to students? Have you asked them for solutions about problems at their schools?

Academics/Technology

Parent Comment: The job the Computer Tech has a lot of responsibility and you should hire an intern to help Julio. The Parent Connect is outdated. When I go to the website, it's outdated. He is a Network Administrator and he knows what it takes. Collectively how can we free teachers to really educate and not be bounded by laws and regulations?

Parent Comment: The money is in China, what about learning Mandarin. In China there is a multitude of investors, what investors can we target to come over. There is a cultural benefit and a real estate benefit. There is a friendly school collaboration program. Consider Cyber bases, free program. Need to create atmosphere to allow our children to be free and creative. Parent noted divide between China and USA.

Mr. Muhammad Abdul-Qawi, Administrator at Pomona High: There is a big gap, level of proficiency between group of A and group B. At Pomona High we added a programming course and for summer we will offer same course again. Students in the course now will take another extension. We will eventually have computer coding, within 2 years we will have 6 to 8 computer science classes to help close the technical divide.

Mr. Martinez: We appreciate what Pomona High is doing and what Palomares is doing with Health Sciences for future doctors, etc. Regarding the partnerships, Board of Education approved an organization that will bring foreign students for a short program in our schools. Will speak to the Board of Education about bringing more programs like this.

Parent Comment: Interested in the other subjects that will be introduced at Pomona High. Will those classes be offered at Palomares?

Dr. Ramos-Beal: Yes, we have Robotics and coding will be offered too.

Parent Comment: Do you have any more ROP classes for high school students to choose from? Will you have more than 2 selections?

Mr. Martinez: We are spreading the classes across the system. Hearing that not all parents know what is being offered. We want parents and students to be aware of the variety of ROP classes.

Parent Comment: Why is the Parent Connect not updated? Student information is not updated. We provide the information each year.

Mr. Meza: We will announce next month that enrollment will be done online. Computers will be available at schools and family does not have a computer at home. We will start in February and this will save on paper. Workshops have started to train parents.

Parent Comment: She has been involved for 5 years and will be here for a long time. She has children in the Special Ed program. She attended Mendoza for Kindergarten and was left outside for a few hours. No one helped her until a 5th grader took her to her brother's classroom. Her mother went to the newspaper the next day. Her family had a lot of struggles. She feels the culture in PUSD has changed. It seems like PUSD is buying a lot of properties. The district also owns some Charter schools. Have seen students being mistreated in the Special Ed program at Decker and La Verne Charter. She had to call Child Protective Services regarding students being mistreated. Hope the Special Ed culture is also changing. I see a lot of complaining regarding Special Education and it's not good for the community. There are a lot of negative things on the website. We need to advocate for all children. In September she attended a meeting at LACOE where she heard some PUSD employees making negative comments about the District's Administration. It was very uncomfortable.

Dr. Perlman mentioned that we recently purchased a property by Washington Elementary. We have not purchased any property in a long time. The last property purchased was 13 years ago. 2) Charter Schools – we have 1 independent charter school and we have 1 dependent charter schools we run. She explained that Charter schools get to pick and choose their students. They don't have programs for Special Ed students because it's very expensive but we do it. It's our responsibility.

Mrs. Konigar-Macklin commented that it's a myth that charter schools are better. Any comprehensive school is better than a charter school. Charter schools are just about making money. They don't have to comply with Ed Code. Public Education has 90,000 Ed Codes. Charter Schools only have 1. They only take the best students. They don't want Special Ed students.

Mr. Muhammad Abdul-Qawi commented on Charter Schools. We are dealing with public funding source for the families we serve. Parents have the ability to decide what happens; you can decide how the funds are used. Charter Schools are a private entity and they don't allow parents to decide what happens with that money. We are dealing with a highly political issue, it's a business. Please remember that right now in the Public School system, parents have a say so.

Mr. Martinez said that parents have choices, just do your research.

Parent Comment: Attended Coffee with the Superintendent at Marshall and asked if the Friday late start schedule can be changed. Had suggested to let the students get out early so teachers can have their planning time. The Zero period students could also benefit.

Mr. Martinez stated that we are still researching the possibility and it needs to be discussed with the union.

Parent Comment: I would like to see some improvement to the Parent Portal, Suggestion: Instead of clicking on the teacher maybe we could click on the lesson so we can reinforce the homework subject at home. We only get Remind.

Parent Comment: Can PUSD improve internet connection for students? My student got a computer she says the internet is always down.

Mr. Martinez: Internet is properly working in the Palomares and Pomona High area. Maybe Barfield is the one having problems.

Parent Comment: If the students are attending an Academy can they participate in sports at another high school that has the a sports program?

Mr. Martinez: CIF told us that if we combine 2 schools then we are put in another bracket. So there are some

setbacks. We decided not to do it.

Parent Comment: Suggest that we create internal teams so more kids can play.

Mr. Martinez said he will have staff look into the rules.

Parent Comment: The district has received money from grants or other means, what is the money being used for?

Mr. Martinez: The biggest grant was for 25 million and it focused on schools that need more academic support. Palomares will receive support for 4 yrs. Barfield and Lopez will also be supported by receiving additional services.

Parent Comment: Is there a program to reclassify at the High School level?

Mr. Martinez: There is at the High School level but we focus more in the early years so they will be able to excel when they get to High School. There are resources to help students grow. AR program, Footsteps2Brilliance, Tumble (digital books). We have support at all levels and we need to encourage our kids.

Mr. Unaka: English Learners structure is changing, we are focusing on being data driven, focusing also on long term English Language Learners.

Mr. Martinez: We are continually looking at gaps and areas that need to improve. We have improved culture and climate. It's hard to measure but you can feel it when you walk into the campus. I meet with parents throughout the year, visit schools, Board Members are very active too and they visit schools too.

Facilities/Staff /Miscellaneous

Parent Concern: Can you do some upgrades here at Palomares specifically in the Cafeteria. Can you change the blue color to the school color?

Mr. Martinez: We will speak to Leslie Barnes

Meeting Closed with Mr. Martinez thanking parents for their continued support and attendance.