

BULLETIN

CHPA, ‘We will prevail!’

In January of 2025, the Board of Pueblo School District 60 (District) voted not to renew CHPA's charter school contract. The District voted, not based on any academic or educational concern, instead, they alleged slow reporting and responding to issues and deadlines. CHPA does not believe it was a valid way to not renew a charter school. The reality is: (1) CHPA's academic performance is on par with the District in several respects, or it is even better than that of the District in many other respects; and, (2) CHPA is financially healthy, has a current budget surplus, and in many significant ways, is more financially sound and stable than is the District.

CHPA is appealing the District's non-renewal decision to the Colorado Board of Education ("CBE"), and CHPA is suing the District for various Breach of Contract claims, totaling well over for over \$1.7 million. The breach of contract claims are being litigated now. The Appeal of the non-renewal decision will be heard by the CBE on May 15, 2025. CHPA is highly confident of its legal prospects regarding the Appeal and its Breach of Contract claims against the District.

However, as CHPA awaits those legal issues, the District continues to retain sole authority over CHPA, meaning that even though the District does not want to renew the charter neither will it allow CHPA to be released, so that CHPA is free to obtain a new chartering authority. The Charter School Institute ("CSI") is very interested in becoming the new chartering authority for CHPA once the District releases CHPA. However, the District refuses to release CHPA!

On April 28, 2025, the District Board voted 3-2 to block CHPA from applying for its new CSI charter authorization! The chartering decision is also being challenged. CHPA is confident on the issue, as well, for a number of reasons, including:

- The State of Colorado Attorney General's Office has intervened and has filed a legal brief essentially asking that CBE and the parties to fully consider and implement any number of remedies,
- **Which under no circumstances include closing CHPA**, because there is simply too much at stake here — \$75 million in Colorado taxpayer funds and bond investments which dictate that CHPA should NOT be closed, regardless of how these legal appeals and issues are ultimately handled.



Let Us Go! Students, faculty, staff and community supporters rally in District 60 headquarters on April 8.

As the Attorney General's Office told the CBE:

*The investment the taxpayers of Pueblo and the State of Colorado have made into Chavez Huerta's facility is relevant to the best-interests standard. All else being equal, a path forward that allows Chavez Huerta's facilities to remain in use as public schools — serving the students of Pueblo — serves the interests of the students, the school district, and the community far better than a path that leaves the building vacant—or in private hands, from a foreclosure sale with no net proceeds available to return to the district and taxpayers... [we] ask the State Board to ask all necessary questions to ensure that the district and [CHPA] have sufficiently explored all available options for using their assets to best serve the interests of the students, district, and community. And if the parties have not done so, [we] urge the State Board to consider its options **for compelling the parties to work through these options.** (emphasis supplied).*

The problem is that the District views CHPA as its direct “competition,” both for academic accomplishment, AND for enrollment of Pueblo students, which the District Superintendent has admitted. Even more disturbing, the District's actions

appear to be motivated by the fact that the District stands to gain almost **\$12 million**, if CHPA closes, and if all CHPA students are conveniently absorbed by the District. But what is best for the community and **all** Pueblo students should be the paramount factor — not the District's need to balance its own mismanaged funds on the backs of students and families.

In any event, there continues to be great news at CHPA as a learning institution. CHPA academic accomplishments are strong on all levels, and here are but a few of them regarding CHPA's 43 graduating seniors this year:

- **100% are graduating with PCC college credit;**
- **100% are graduating with CSU-Pueblo college credit;**
- **49% are graduating with CU Denver college credit;**
- **5 will graduate with a Paraprofessional certificate from CU Denver;**
- **10 will graduate with their Associate Degree from Pueblo Community College;**
- **2 will graduate with their CNA certificate from PCC;**
- **2 will graduate with Welding certificates from PCC;**
- **1 will graduate with a Nail Certificate from PCC;**
- **1 will graduate with a CIS Certificate from PCC**

Finally, regarding CHPA's future and being open in the fall in 2025 and beyond, the CEO of CHPA states the following:

"I have always believed in the strength of our appeal to the state and our ability to continue next year. The parents, staff, students, and broader community understand the vital role Chavez/Huerta K-12 Preparatory Academy plays on the west side of Pueblo, and they stand with us in our fight for new authorization. We are confident in our case against Pueblo School District 60, as the contract violations presented clearly demonstrate the validity of our position.

With unwavering determination, we are actively preparing for the 2025-2026 school year—recruiting new staff, refining our budget, introducing innovative programs and curriculum, and welcoming new students. This upcoming year marks a fresh, promising chapter for Chavez/Huerta Preparatory Academy, and we are eager to continue serving the students and families of Pueblo with excellence and dedication."

Fred A. Segura,
Executive Director
Chavez Huerta K-12 Preparatory Academy

Indeed, to all our supporters, students, families, and staff, we say proudly "ADELANTE!!" Y "Hasta La Victoria Siempre!"



K-12 PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Mission:

To Provide students a challenging, high-quality learning environment that develops lifelong learners.

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| • Full Day Kindergarten | • 1 to 1 Technology |
| • Challenging Curriculum | • Full Sports Program, including Baseball, Softball, Esports, Flag Football, Football and much more! |
| • Student Support Services | • Bus services available |
| • Advanced Middle School option to earn high school credit | • Mariachi/Folklorico Programs |
| • Only CDE recognized "Early College" school in Southern Colorado, FREE for our families | • Dual-Language Immersion Program |

César Chavez



Ersilia Cruz

Middle School 6-8



Dolores Huerta

Preparatory High 9-12



OPEN ENROLLMENT
Fill out an application online:
www.chpa-k12.org
Call 719-744-0819

