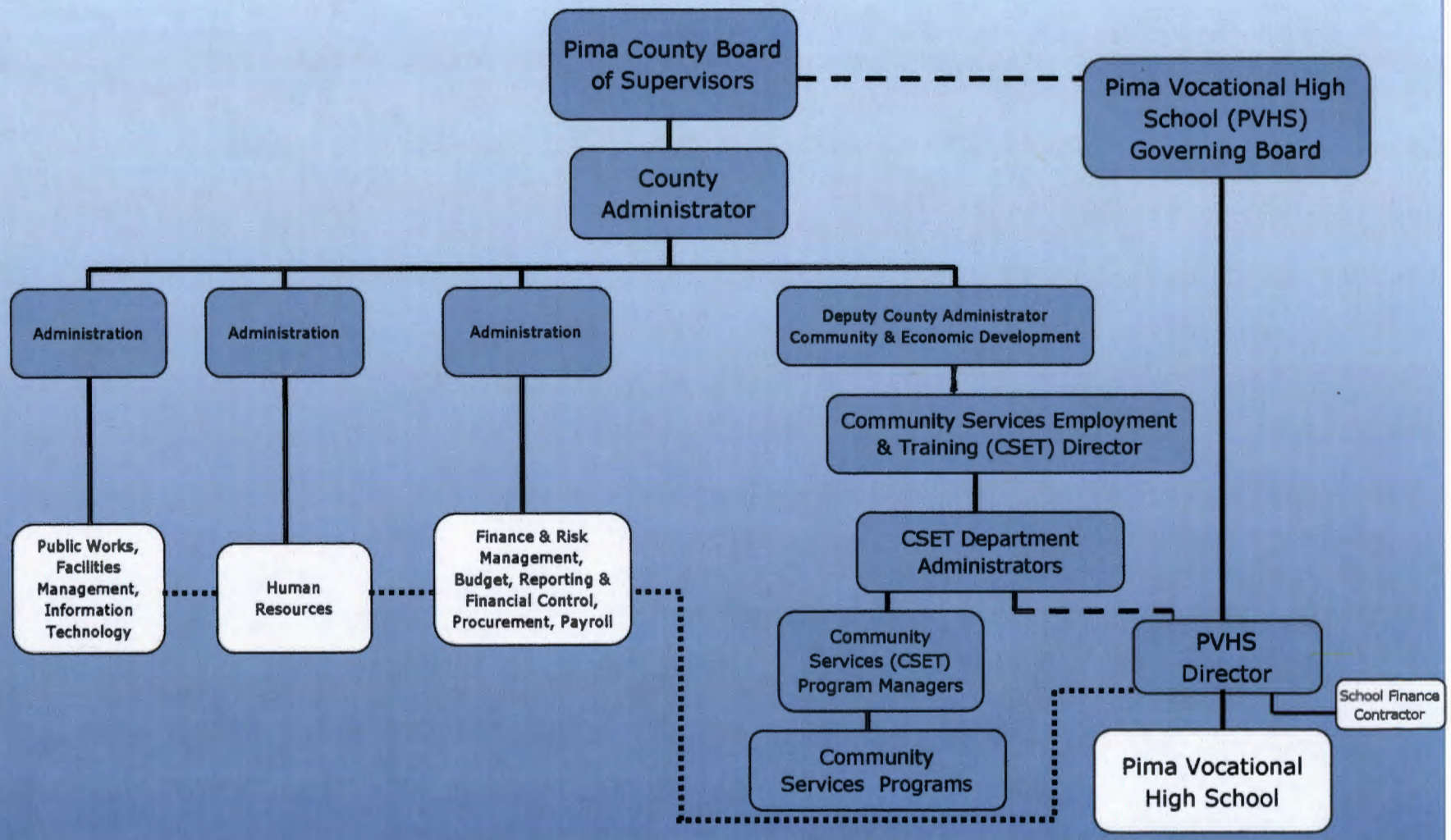
Pima County


Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima Vocational High School (PVHS) Governing Board
County Administrator
Administration
Administration
Administration
Deputy County Administrator Community & Economic Development
Community Services Employment & Training (CSET) Director
Public Works, Facilities Management, Information Technology
Human Resources
Finance & Risk Management, Budget, Reporting & Financial Control, Procurement, Payroll
CSET Department Administrators
Community Services (CSET) Program Managers
Community Services Programs
PVHS Director
School Finance Contractor
Pima Vocational High School

Pima County: Pima Vocational High School

Organizational Structure

Background

Pima County, under the leadership of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, established Pima Vocational High School (PVHS) in September of the year 2000 in response to the escalating number of high school dropouts seeking County employment training services but failing to meet minimum academic requirements. These young people, ages 16 to 21, presented with multiple barriers to success. They had exhausted available options for obtaining a regular high school diploma, skills programs for sustainable employment, and training leading to solid career options. The typical youth was 18 years old, with less than 7 of the 22 credits needed for high school graduation, and had attended an average of 4 previous high schools. School attendance patterns were interrupted by poverty, homelessness, low academic achievement, personal and household unemployment, court involvement, and/or teen parenting obligations. Pima County identified the charter school option as an opportunity for focusing state and county resources within an innovative and intensive school program built around proven best practices for reconnecting formerly out-of-school youth to high academic achievement and vocational skills. In a school placed within the Community Services Employment and Training (CSET) Department of Pima County, and directed by a professional and dedicated Governing Board and staff, PVHS students graduate equipped to transition to post-secondary education, employment training programs, and sustainable job and career options. PVHS is a unique model of government and community partnership coordinating resources for a strong academic and career option for older youth who are in need of one more chance for success.

Organizational and Membership Structure (See Organizational Chart)

Pima County, a body politic and corporate of the State of Arizona, is the Charter Holder and has the authority to appoint a Governing Board. In the year 2000, the Pima County Board of Supervisors appointed the Pima Vocational High School (PVHS) Governing Board, which develops and approves school policy, the submission of the annual audit, budget reports, academic performance reports, the Annual Financial Reports, charter amendments and notifications, procurement of services, and other operations as required by the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, and the Arizona Department of Education. The PVHS Governing Board is one and the same as the Charter Holder Governing Board. The PVHS Board members meet all the requirements of governing board members and comply with the requirements of the Arizona Open Meeting Law (A.R.S. § 38-431*, et seq*.)

The Pima County Board of Supervisors approves all appointments to the PVHS Governing Board and has the sole authority to terminate any member “for cause”.

At a regularly scheduled public meeting on May 20, 2014, the Pima County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming the support of Pima County for the continuation of Pima Vocational High School and approving the submission of the Charter Renewal application

to the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools. The PVHS Governing Board had previously approved submission of the application.

School Operation and Structure

Within the County governmental structure, Pima Vocational High School is a program of the Pima County Community Services Employment and Training (CSET) Department under the supervision of the Deputy County Administrator, and follows County policies and procedures in matters of human resources, financial control, procurement, and risk management. In addition, the school ensures accurate state financial reporting through a separate contract with an independent company with expertise in school finance. The Pima Vocational High School Director is responsible to meet all requirements of the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools and of Pima County Government in the operation of the school.

All school staff members are County employees. County salary and benefit packages add incentives to employee retention over time – an important factor in school sustainability. Pima Vocational High School hires and maintains an elite staff of administrators, teachers, youth specialists, and support staff specializing in best practices for older youth proven to increase academic performance of students performing at an average of 5th grade in math and 6th grade in reading upon enrollment. Staff expertise also includes strategies for retention and high level instruction of formerly out-of-school youth, and for increased attendance rates leading to improved academic performance and credit completion. The strong vocational skill instructional component connects students to work options.

Students often enroll at PVHS at age 17 or 18, so they graduate from 1 to 4 years after their cohorts. The County/school structure provides students an avenue for direct connection to employment options outside of school as they improve their academic and attendance records. This resource allows students to remain in school and begin to provide for their own living expenses and that of their families

Sustainability

Pima County as the charter holder offers a school structure that provides sustainable options for space use at reduced or no cost to the school. The funds saved enable the school to operate within a small school design of 15 students per class and 50 students per member campus, a design that provides a safe and excellent learning environment for students returning to school. Campuses are located within County buildings where students can see and relate to County employees in a regular work environment modeling practical work skills.

Additional County Departments assist the school with communication and marketing expertise, on the job training internships for students, emergency assistance for homeless youth, and facilities management. The County as Charter Holder and the Pima Vocational High School Governing Board ensure a sustainable and vibrant program for formerly out-of-school youth of Pima County.