



## **Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation Governing Council Meeting for July 2025**

**Topic: July Regular Governance Council Meeting**  
**Time: July 30, 2025 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85422920095?pwd=nUS4OY9aNSlzZebIZjDcgnRrdFvNaY.1>**

**Sendero School of Academics & Career Preparation**  
**1405 S. Solano, Las Cruces, NM 88001**

### **Meeting Minutes July 30, 2025**

#### **I. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation Director Mr. Caz Matinez.

**Members in attendance:** Patricia Gonzales *President* (10:12) Mike Davis *Vice President*, Kevin Freitas *Secretary*, Jaime Quezada,

**Members Absent:**

**Others in Attendance:** Caz Martinez (Superintendent), Priscilla Cabral (Financial Officer), Dan Hill (Attorney), Amy Trevizo (Attendance Coach)

- **Roll Call**

Called to order by Caz Martinez

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Caz Martinez

II. **Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes (EXHIBIT “A”)**

Mr. Martinez called the meeting to order and asked the Board to review the minutes from the previous meeting and today’s agenda. He also noted that the date on the agenda will need to be updated to reflect the new date of today’s meeting

**Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.**

1st Jaime Quezada

2nd Mike Davis

III. **Open Forum**

*Public comments and observations regarding education policy and governance issues, as well as the strategic plan for education, are heard at this time. There is a three-minute time limit per presenter. Persons from the same group and having similar viewpoints are asked to select a spokesperson to speak on their behalf. Multiple and repetitious presentations of the same view will be discouraged and may be ruled out of order by The Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation Governance Council President.*

Angela Parra-McNeelly was present during the open forum, where she introduced herself to the Board and shared a short background.

IV. **Discussion and/or Action Items: Fiscal**

- **June 2025 Financials (EXHIBIT B)** Mrs. Cabral went over the June Financials. Revenue totaled \$494,577.01 and Disbursements totaled \$317,254.07
- **Action Items:** Mrs. Cabral went over BAR approvals to be processed in OBMS
  1. **2024-2025 Inventory Certification (Exhibit C)**
  2. **2025-2026 Activity Account Resolution (Exhibit D)**
  3. **2025-2026 Department of Finance Travel Rates (Exhibit E)**

**Motion to Approve Financials and Action items as presented**

1st Jaime Quezada

2nd Mike Davis

V. **Superintendent’s Report**

- **Enrollment-**Mr. Martinez reported that enrollment is currently at 200 students. While numbers are still stabilizing, all 33 graduated seniors have been replaced, and he is confident the school will meet or exceed projected enrollment by the October 40-day reporting deadline. He also commended staff for their ongoing efforts in welcoming and enrolling new families.
- **Sendero Launch Party:** On July 19, Sendero hosted its official launch party to celebrate the school’s transformation from Las Montañas to Sendero, marking a new era with a name change, logo redesign, and complete rebranding. Invitations were extended to stakeholders, community members, and statewide partners,

many of whom attended to support the occasion. Board members Mr. Quezada and Mr. Freitas were present at the event, while Ms. Gonzalez previewed the new environmental design the day prior. The launch party itself featured lively activities, including a DJ, food, a photo booth, and guided tours of the facility and CTE spaces, as well as several giveaways. Branded Sendero shirts were distributed to students and industry partners, with additional shirts set aside for board members to further promote the new school identity within the community. Board members expressed appreciation for the successful launch and praised the administration team for bringing the school's vision to life. Ms. Gonzalez commended Mr. Martinez and his team for their dedication, highlighting the state-of-the-art facility design and its strong alignment with the school's mission. She noted the positive impact this new environment will have on students and expressed pride in representing Sendero moving forward. In his remarks, Mr. Martinez thanked the board for approving the reprogramming, rebranding, and name change, noting that this vision had been in development for three to four years. He emphasized that the rebranding represents Sendero's commitment to preparing students for adulthood, postsecondary opportunities, and career pathways, particularly for those who may not have guidance at home. While acknowledging the financial investment required for the redesign, Mr. Martinez assured board members that the costs were budgeted and expressed confidence that the changes will lead to increased enrollment, providing a strong return on investment.

- **Career Programs of Study:** Sendero offers five pathways designed to prepare students for adulthood, whether entering the workforce after high school or pursuing postsecondary education. These programs provide focus and direction for students, many of whom may not have that support at home. During the week we started school on July 17, we dedicated the first few days to introducing students to our career programs of study. This was especially important for new students, not only freshmen, but also those transferring in as sophomores, juniors, or even seniors. We provided a full day focused entirely on learning about all five of our career pathway programs, giving students the opportunity to choose which program they wanted to participate in. It was a true student choice process, where they could build their schedules around the pathway that best matched their interests. As new students continue to enroll, Mrs. Cisneros, Mr. Wall, and our registrar staff Ms. Lezlie and others are making sure they are informed about these options. This ensures every student has the chance to make an informed choice and design their schedule around the career pathway that works best for them.
- **PBL Works:** Project Based Learning Works (PBL Works), a national professional development organization specializing in project-based learning and CTE. To

launch the year, all teachers participated in a three-day training that, while intensive, left them better prepared with strong PBL plans and project ideas. Building on lessons learned from last year, staff are now implementing projects with greater confidence and momentum. This support will continue throughout the year. On August 14, PBL Works will meet with teacher teams individually to further develop their skills and reflect on the first month of projects. Updates will be shared with the board, and members are welcome to visit classrooms to see student projects in action. Mr. Quezada has expressed interest in supporting business pathway projects, which focus on entrepreneurship and management.

- **Board Member Resignation:** As announced earlier in the meeting, Ms. Diane Montoya has officially resigned from her position on the board. Ms. Montoya has served for several years and has strong ties to the school community, with several of her grandchildren attending Las Montañas, now Sendero Prep. She chose to step down to focus on family responsibilities, and the board expressed gratitude for her years of service and dedication. Although she will no longer serve in an official capacity, she remains a close neighbor to the school and will continue to be a presence in the community. Her resignation leaves a vacancy that the board intends to fill formally next month with Ms. McNealy.
- **Action Item(s):**
  1. **Anti-Distracted Policy (Exhibit F):** The final item was an action item regarding the Anti-Distracted Policy, developed in response to Senate Bill 11. This legislation, supported by Governor Lujan Grisham, requires schools to adopt policies limiting student use of electronic devices during instructional time. Sendero was already aligned with this directive through its existing Yondr pouch system, which was introduced in March of last school year. Under this policy, each student is issued a Yondr pouch to secure cell phones, earbuds, AirPods, and gaming devices. Devices remain locked during instructional time but are accessible during lunch and after school. Exceptions are made for students with medical needs, and front office staff can unlock pouches in emergencies. Students who intentionally damage a pouch are charged a \$30 replacement fee, as the pouches are designed to be highly durable. Since implementation, the policy has been well-received by both students and staff, with compliance levels higher than anticipated. Teachers and administrators report increased engagement and improved classroom performance as a direct result. The policy template was provided by NMPED, and Sendero's version incorporates the existing Yondr system, making it more restrictive than the minimum requirements of Senate Bill 11. Board counsel confirmed the policy is compliant with state law.

**Motion to Approve Anti-Distracted Policy**

1st Jaime Quezada

2nd Mike Davis

**VI. Adjourn**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:46

*The Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation Governance Council attempts to follow the order of items as listed, however, the order of specific items may vary from the printed agenda. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting, please contact the superintendent at Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation at 575-527-5916 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.*

APPROVED