



LAS MONTAÑAS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING for June 2025

Topic: June Regular Governance Council Meeting
Time: June 25, 2025 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

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**Las Montañas Charter High School
1405 S. Solano, Las Cruces, NM 88001**

Meeting Minutes June 25, 2025

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by LMCHS Director Mr. Caz Matinez.
 - **Members in attendance:** Patricia Gonzalez *President* (10:21am), Kevin Freitas *Secretary*, Mike Davis *Vice President*, Jaime Quezada
 - **Members Absent:** Diane Montoya
 - **Others in Attendance:** Caz Martinez (Superintendent), Matt Sandoval (Scheduler), Priscilla Cabral (Financial Officer), Sam Gonzales, Gabriel Estrada (Principal), 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 requested that Board members review the minutes from the previous meeting as well as today's agenda. He proposed adjusting the order of the agenda due to Mrs. Gonzales joining the meeting later

than scheduled. Specifically, Items 3 and 4 were moved to the end of the meeting to accommodate her participation. The Board agreed to the revised agenda order.

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes as presented and to approve a change in the order of the agenda.

1st: Kevin Freitas

2nd: Mike Davis

Rollcall Taken: **Passed unanimously**

III. Closed Executive Session

Pursuant to the Open meetings Act (NMSU 10-15-1)

Discussion on Superintendent's (Executive Director) Evaluation and Contract

Motion to enter Closed Executive Session:

1st: Jaime Quezada

2nd: Mike Davis

Rollcall Taken: **Passed unanimously**

Motion to exit Closed Executive Session:

1st: Patricia Gonzalez

2nd: Jaime Quezada

Rollcall Taken: **Passed unanimously**

IV. Discussion & Action Items

- **2025-2026 Superintendent's (Executive Director) Contract:** The Governing Council discussed the renewal of Mr. Martinez's contract for the 2025–2026 school year. A proposal was made to continue with Mr. Martinez's contract and include a 4% salary increase for school year 2025-2026.

Motion to approve Action Item: Superintendent's contract

1st: Mike Davis

2nd: Jaime Quezada

Rollcall Taken: **Passed unanimously**

- **2025-2026 Sendero School of Academics and Career Preparation Governing Council Annual Resolution (EXHIBIT B):** Mr. Martinez presented the annual resolution affirming the Governing Council's compliance with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act for the upcoming 2025–2026 school year. This resolution includes updates reflecting the school's new name, *Sendero School for Academic Preparation*, and confirms the designated meeting location and schedule. Any adjustments to meeting times can be made at a later date if necessary. Ms. Gonzalez requested verification that the school name is spelled correctly and consistently throughout the resolution. Mr. Martinez confirmed that the current version reflects the correct name, including the finalized designation of "Preparation" rather than "Advancement," in line with the school's charter and contracts.

Motion to approve Action Item: Sendero School of Academics and Career Preparation Governing Council Annual Resolution

1st: Jaime Quezada

2nd: Mike Davis

Rollcall Taken: Passed unanimously

V. 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 LMCHS Governance Council President.

No members of the public were present.

VI. Discussion and/or Action: Fiscal

- **April and May 2025 Financial (Exhibit C):** Mrs. Cabral presented the combined financials for April and May, as she was unable to attend last month's meeting. Total revenue for the two months was \$699,344, with total disbursements amounting to \$649,534.
- **Action Items:**
 - **BARs:** Mrs. Cabral went over BAR approvals to be entered into OBMS
 - Fund 24101 **567-000-2425-045-I**
 - Fund 29102 **567-000-2425-0046 IB**
 - Fund 24106 **567-000-2425-0045-I**
 - **2025-2026 IDEA-B Application (EXHIBIT D):** Mrs. Cabral presented the IDEA-B application checklist, which must be submitted to PED. Some components—such as board signatures and board presentation were incomplete due to Mrs. Cabral's absence at the previous meeting. The full application and budget proposal were included in the board packet. Funding for 2025–26 will support the school's SLP, psychologist, nurse, and diagnostician. The proposal also includes a 0.5 SPED EA with benefits and contracted SPED coordination services through JMP Academy.
 - **2025-2026 Annual BAR Resolution (EXHIBIT E):** Mrs. Cabral presented the annual resolution for the 2025–2026 school year authorizing the submission of maintenance and increase transfer BARs (Budget Adjustment Requests) in OBMS without prior board approval, in order to reduce time constraints. Although this resolution allows for submission ahead of board meetings, all BARs will continue to be presented to the Board monthly for review and approval, maintaining a running record of all actions taken.

Motion to approve April and May Financials and Action Items as presented:

1st: Kevin Freitas

2nd: Jaime Quezada

Rollcall Taken: Passed unanimously

VII. Superintendent's Report/Action Items

Summer Enrollment: The school closed out the academic year with 167 students, following the graduation of over 30 seniors and the withdrawal of a few underclassmen. As of now, 167 students have re-enrolled for the upcoming school year. In addition, 77 new students have expressed interest in enrolling. Their contact information has been collected, and Ms. Lezlie is currently reaching out to them to complete the registration process. The goal is to finalize enrollment prior to the first day of instruction on July 15. The administration expressed confidence in meeting and potentially exceeding the 40-day enrollment projection for the 2025–2026 school year, as was achieved in the previous year.

- **CTE Vision Update:** Mr. Martinez provided a CTE update, highlighting student success in the construction pathway. Four graduating seniors secured employment in the construction industry as a result of their work on the student-built education home. These students are now working with local framers and concrete contractors. He also shared that one underclassman who participated in the project received a job offer and is expected to graduate early due to strong academic progress. The school is especially proud of her success in a male-dominated field. In addition to construction, students are engaged in summer internships both on campus and throughout the community. Mr. Martinez emphasized the school's commitment to career-focused opportunities that help students transition directly into sustainable employment after high school.
- **CSD Conference-Student Showcase:** Mr. Martinez gave an update on the recent Charter School Division Conference, which took place two weeks ago. Mr. Kevin Freitas attended the full two-day event and completed all of his required training hours. Mr. Martinez, along with Mr. Estrada, Mr. Sandoval, Ms. Priscilla, and Mr. and Mrs. Salas, also attended, primarily to support student participation. LMCHS students recreated their National School Redesign showcase originally presented in Washington, D.C. at the state conference, alongside three other charter schools. Four students represented the school, presenting their work and engaging with educators and charter leaders from across New Mexico. The event offered valuable professional development, networking opportunities, and a meaningful experience for both staff and students.
- **Governing Council Training Hours:** An update was provided on the status of Governing Council training hours. Mr. Martinez shared that he spoke informally with Mr. Quezada prior to the meeting and will be following up by sending him training resources from Missy Brown at the Charter School Division to ensure his hours are completed. All other Governing Council members Mr. Freitas, Ms. Montoya, Ms. Gonzalez, and Mr. Davis have completed their required training hours. Mr. Davis fulfilled his hours at the PCSNM Conference in December. Ms. Gonzalez addressed the Board, encouraging members to prioritize completing annual training hours earlier in the year to avoid last-minute compliance. She recommended setting an informal goal to complete all training by December 2025. Mr. Martinez agreed and committed to more consistent communication about upcoming opportunities. He noted that the PCSNM Conference in December and the Charter School Division Conference in June offer board training sessions. If annual hours are completed before the June conference, any additional hours may count toward the following year. Other available options include Canvas modules

and both synchronous and asynchronous training sessions provided by PCSNM and the Charter School Division.

- **Sendero Environment Design:** Mr. Martinez shared an update on the school's rebranding efforts associated with the new name, Sendero. With the rebranding comes updated school colors, logos, and building design. Miss Priscilla presented mockups of the planned environmental redesign, highlighting the main entrance, cafeteria, and administrative areas. Key design elements include a new mural featuring mountains and clouds, the phrase "Ram Territory," and the theme "Follow Your Path," which ties into the school's career pathway model. All crimson-colored walls throughout the building will be repainted to align with the new branding. The redesign will be completed over the next few weeks in preparation for the new school year, which begins July 15. Mr. Martinez also announced a grand opening/name change event scheduled for July 18, designed to introduce the Sendero identity to the community. The event will include food trucks, music, program showcases, and invitations to families, community members, industry partners, and local media outlets. Board members will receive an official invitation once they are finalized. Ms. Gonzalez suggested coordinating with local news outlets, such as Las Cruces Sun-News, to feature a story on the name change and school growth. Mr. Martinez confirmed media will be invited and expressed appreciation for Board support in promoting the event and school identity.

VIII. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

The LMCHS 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 Las Montañas Charter High School at 575-527-5916 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.