



Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation Governing Council Meeting for August 2025

Topic: August Regular Governance Council Meeting
Time: August 20, 2025 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

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

Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Sendero School Of Academics & Career Preparation Director Mr. Caz Matinez.

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

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance: Caz Martinez (Superintendent), Priscilla Cabral (Financial Officer), Dan Hill (Attorney), Matt Sandoval (Scheduler) Amy Trevizo (Attendance Coach), Angela Parra-McNeelly

- **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 Patricia Gonzales

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.

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

- **July 2025 Financials (EXHIBIT “B”):** Mrs. Cabral went over the July Financials. Revenue totaled \$375,492.34 and Disbursements totaled \$280,338.28
- **Action Items:** Mrs. Cabral went over BAR approvals to be processed in OBMS
 1. **Fund 24106:** 567-00-2526-0001-I
 2. **Fund 11000:** 567-000-2526-0002-M
 3. **Fund 26107:** 567-000-2526-0003-IB
 4. **Fund 29102:** 567-000-2526-0004-IB
 5. **29190** Initial Budget
 6. **27584** Initial Budget

Motion to Approve Financials and Action items as presented

1st Jaime Quezada

2nd Mike Davis

V. **Superintendent’s Report**

- **Enrollment-** Mr. Estrada reported that current enrollment is strong, with a total of 190 students. By grade level, there are 66 ninth-grade students, 51 tenth-grade students, 40 eleventh-grade students, and 33 seniors. Mr. Martinez noted that the school is comfortable with this number at present, though the goal is to increase enrollment closer to 200 over the coming weeks. He explained that while some students have been disenrolled due to transfers, relocations, or other reasons associated with high mobility, new students continue to enroll. As a result, the enrollment figure has remained steady at approximately 190. Leadership anticipates that enrollment will stabilize and continue to grow in the near future.

- **PBL/CTE Update:** The school is in full implementation of its project-based learning model, with two dedicated project blocks each day, each lasting two hours. The morning block focuses on Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways, while the afternoon block emphasizes core academic content, with elements of both areas integrated throughout the sessions. For example, students in the Business, Medical, and Education pathways are currently engaged in a customer service project designed to teach professional interaction skills with clients, patients, and customers, providing a strong foundation for success in any service-related field. Other pathways, such as Audio-Visual and Construction, are participating in projects that range from creating media content for the school to preparing for the construction of a tiny home. Additionally, some groups are working collaboratively on a forensic “who-done-it” project that combines critical thinking with applied technical skills. While areas for growth and improvement remain, overall student engagement has been strong, and teachers continue to refine their approach to align projects with the school’s broader CTE vision.
- **Work Based Learning/ Internship Update:** Mr. Jeff Waugh and Mrs. Antoinette Cisneros are actively developing internships and work-based learning opportunities, beginning with the 33 seniors referenced in Mr. Estrada’s enrollment report. Seniors are being given priority placement, as they are further along in their academic journey, often more prepared to engage with industry partners, and in some cases in need of credit recovery to remain on track for graduation. These opportunities not only support credit completion but also allow students to earn industry certifications and gain valuable experience prior to graduation in May. Several seniors have already been placed and begun their internships, while others are in the final stages of placement. Once all seniors have been placed, attention will shift to juniors who demonstrate readiness for these experiences, with the goal of expanding work-based learning opportunities across additional grade levels.
- **Navigate (CSI-Grad):** The school is currently participating in the Navigate program through the Priority Schools Bureau as part of its comprehensive school improvement plan, which was required due to the graduation rate falling below 67%. Preliminary data, still embargoed for public release, indicates that the school’s graduation rate improved. This aligns with broader trends showing that schools engaging with the program with fidelity saw an average increase of 9% in graduation rates, with 33 out of 40 participating schools reporting improvement. A brief celebration was held to recognize this progress. Leadership emphasized that continued improvement depends on building strong systems beginning with the current freshman cohort, including both traditional students and those entering credit recovery programs. While many of these students are classified as freshmen, a number are over age and under credited, and targeted supports are in place to keep them on track for graduation. Even if some students graduate one or two years

beyond their four year cohort, such outcomes are still considered meaningful successes. To further strengthen efforts, the school will be assigned a dedicated coach and will receive regular site visits as part of the program. Updates on the Navigate initiative and its connection to graduation outcomes will be provided to the board on a monthly basis.

- **HERE Heroes- Attendance:** Mrs. Sandoval previously discussed the HERE grant, which directly supports initiatives to improve student attendance. Mr. Martinez added that the school's participation in the Navigate program, together with targeted attendance initiatives, is supported by additional grant funding provided outside of operational funds. This supplemental funding is critical in allowing the school to strengthen systems and implement initiatives that directly support student success. For example, resources from these grants are being used to provide paid internships for students, which both create hands-on learning experiences and encourage consistent engagement. Funding also makes it possible to bring in licensed experts in the field of attendance to help design and implement more effective strategies for reducing absenteeism. These supports are in addition to dedicated personnel who monitor attendance trends, intervene with at-risk students, and provide guidance to help them stay on track. By leveraging these resources, the school is working to ensure that students remain engaged, successfully complete their coursework, and ultimately graduate prepared for their next steps.
- **Action Item(s):**
 1. **Approval of New Board Member Angela Parra-McNeely:** The board considered the approval of Ms. Angela McNealy to fill the open board position. Mr. Martinez recommended her appointment, noting her background as a business owner in the finance sector and her commitment to supporting the school community. Board members expressed support for her qualifications, emphasizing the value of her financial expertise. A recommendation was made to approve Ms. McNealy to the board. Mrs. Gonzales reminded board members to complete their board training hours in a timely manner.

Motion to Approve New Board Member

1st Jaime Quezada

2nd Mike Davis

VI. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 10:43

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