



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

Topic: September Regular Governance Council Meeting
Time: September 17, 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 September 17, 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* (10:20), Kevin Freitas *Secretary*, Jaime Quezada, Angela McNeely

Members Absent: Mike Davis *Vice President*,

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.

Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.

1st Jaime Quezada

2nd Kevin Freitas

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.

No members of the public were present

IV. Discussion and/or Action Items: Fiscal

- **Monthly Financials (EXHIBIT "B"):** Mrs. Cabral reviewed the August financial report: revenue totaled \$260,510.27, while disbursements totaled \$303,429.71
- **Action Items:** Mrs. Cabral went over BAR approvals to be processed in OBMS
 1. FUND 29102 567-000-2526-005-IB
 2. FUND 24190 567-000-2526-0006-M
 3. FUND 11000 567-000-2526-0007-M
 4. FUND 11000 567-000-2526-0008-M
 5. FUND 24101 567-000-2526-0009-M

Motion to Approve Financials and Action items as presented

1st Angela McNeely

2nd Jaime Quezada

V. Superintendent's Report

- **Enrollment:** Mr. Martinez reported current enrollment at 196 students, with 68 freshmen, 54 sophomores, 40 juniors, and 34 classified seniors. He explained that grade classifications are based on credits earned rather than years in high school, noting that some students may be behind in credits. While slightly below projection, the goal is to add about ten more students in the coming weeks. The school continues to receive daily inquiries and has recently enrolled three new students, with two more expected to start soon. Despite challenges with student mobility and contact information, Mr. Martinez expressed confidence that enrollment will reach or exceed 200 students soon. He also addressed an issue with the school's website, noting it no longer appears in Google search results. He will follow up to ensure the old Las Montañas site redirects properly to the Sendero Preparatory website to maintain accessibility for prospective families.

- **Sendero Launch:** Mr. Martinez noted that the Sendero launch event had already been discussed in the previous board meeting and shifted focus to an upcoming Project Showcase highlighting the completion of the first quarter of the project-based learning program. These projects, which span approximately ten to eleven weeks, are now being finalized by student teams. The showcase will be held on Thursday, September 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and will follow a gallery-walk format, featuring different projects presented in rotations throughout the day. Board members, parents, community members, and industry partners are invited to attend and view the projects students have developed over the past several weeks. Mr. Martinez explained that while this event will be smaller in scale than the launch celebration, it will provide an opportunity to highlight student learning, collaboration, and creativity. He encouraged attendees to stop by, even briefly, to see the students' work and the progress being made through the school's project-based learning initiatives.
- **Career Programs of Study:** Mr. Martinez explained that the upcoming Project Showcase will highlight the school's career programs of study, as each project aligns with a specific career pathway. He then provided an update on work-based learning placements, noting that since early September, approximately 25 seniors have been placed in paid internships earning \$15 per hour. He commended Mr. Waugh, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, and Mrs. Cisneros, CTE Director, for their efforts in coordinating placements and maintaining strong community partnerships. Students are currently interning at dental offices, nonprofit organizations, physical therapy centers, and other industry-related businesses connected to their career goals. Feedback from employers has been highly positive, and additional placements are being developed, including one in the insurance industry. Mr. Martinez also shared that several graduates from last year have continued to succeed in their chosen fields—some pursuing postsecondary education in related programs and others hired by their former internship sites, such as Apprendamos and NMSU's IT department. He emphasized that these outcomes highlight the lasting value of work-based learning in preparing students for future careers, and ongoing efforts are being made to track graduate success and strengthen local partnerships.
- **PBL Works:** Mr. Martinez provided an update on the school's partnership with PBLWorks, which continues to support teachers through professional development and ongoing coaching in project-based learning. A three-day training was held at the start of the school year, and continued sessions, including one scheduled for Monday, are helping strengthen instructional practices. He reported a noticeable increase in student engagement, with students working collaboratively to create projects tied to their career pathways while earning core credits. This hands-on approach has been especially effective for students who struggled in traditional

settings, promoting accountability and motivation. While attendance and mobility challenges remain, Mr. Martinez noted that project-based learning is positively transforming classrooms and inspiring students to pursue future internship opportunities.

- **Enrichment week:** Mr. Martinez shared plans for the upcoming Enrichment Week, created to replace the former Extended Learning Fridays that offered students hands-on and community-based activities. With new state calendar requirements eliminating those Fridays, the school designated enrichment weeks before fall and spring breaks to continue those experiences. The Fall Enrichment Week, beginning September 29, will include visits to the Las Cruces Aquatic Center, arts and crafts, a movie outing, and STEM-focused field trips to Spaceport America and the El Paso Water Tech2O Center. The week will balance fun activities with academic enrichment. Mr. Martinez noted that the Spring Enrichment Week will focus more on academics, featuring campus tours at Doña Ana Community College, as well as visits to the La Nube STEAM Discovery Center and NMSU STEM Outreach Center, providing students with engaging, real-world learning experiences.
- **Water Safety Policy:** Mr. Martinez added that during the recent charter leaders meeting, it was brought to his attention that all schools are now required to include a Water Safety Policy in their student handbooks and policy manuals. This requirement, based on recent legislation, had not been widely communicated to school leaders across the state. Mr. Martinez stated that Mr. Hill provided an example policy from a school in Albuquerque, which he and Mr. Estrada will revise to fit the Sendero Preparatory community. The finalized version will be presented to the board for approval at the next meeting. He explained that the policy is primarily informational and will include local resources for families about water safety, covering areas such as swimming, flooding, rivers, lakes, and community pools.
- Following that update, a board member inquired about the current campus climate and student safety. Mr. Martinez shared that overall, the school atmosphere remains positive, though there have been some isolated conflicts among small groups of students, often stemming from pre-existing personal or family disputes. He noted that staff have been proactive in maintaining a safe environment and addressing issues quickly. Mr. Estrada added that, like most high schools, occasional conflicts occur, but the school has been effective in resolving them through restorative practices and mediation. He further explained that while national or political divisions have not noticeably impacted the student body, the school continues to focus on maintaining a supportive, respectful environment where students can focus on learning and building positive relationships.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 10:44

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