

Academy for Academic Excellence
School Site Council/English Learner Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

1. Call to Order – Maya Rivas 3:47pm

2. Roll Call

First Name & Last Name	Representing	Start Term	End Term	Attendance
Chet Richards	Principal	09/07/2018		Present
Kathryn Lucas	Teacher	10/24/2024	10/17/2026	Absent
Kristel Sanders	Teacher	10/24/2024	10/17/2026	Absent
Varteni Krikorian	MS/HS Vice Principal	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Absent
Maria Fierro	Class. Staff	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
April Vincent	Parent	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
Maya Rivas	Parent	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
Tina Caro	Parent	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
Elizabeth Chapman	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
Ward Halwani	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Absent
Alyana Gonzalez	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
Isaac Chavira	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present

3. Public Comments

SSC/ELAC Meeting Minutes

3. Public Comments

A discussion was held about ELD student reclassification requirements. Mr. Richards explained that students must also demonstrate proficiency on state testing, receive a teacher's recommendation, and have a parent agreement to reclassify. It was noted that some senior students are considered LTELs due to state testing requirements. Mrs. Rivas asked how reclassification works for grade levels that do not participate in state testing. The clarification was made for 3rd grade where the requirements are limited to the three criteria: a score of 3 or 4, teacher recommendation, and parent agreement.

NHS activities and goals were shared, including an ongoing high school community project, as well as projects connected to NEHS and NJHS.

4. Approval of Minutes

Corrections were requested regarding the end-of-term dates for both teachers. Approval of the minutes was motioned by Elizabeth Chapman and seconded by Maya Rivas.

5. ELD Planning Updates

a. ELD Paraprofessional & Testing: Discussion was held regarding Xiomara Gaytan, the new ELD paraprofessional. Feedback has been very positive, and it was shared that she is highly liked and doing an

excellent job. ELPAC testing has been completed. Results are taking longer than state testing because reading components are involved. The school is eager to determine whether improvement is noticeable and is hopeful that implementing paraprofessionals, despite staffing changes, has supported student growth.

b. New Curriculum: Administration shared that they are pleased with the new curriculum implementation. Additional feedback from teachers is still needed.

6. Staffing / Master Schedule / Electives

The school is currently interviewing candidates for a PE teacher position. A new SPED position has been added due to a growing caseload. Two new TK teachers will also be added as TK enrollment continues to grow.

TK Program Updates: The change was made in response to concerns that a full-day program is too long for 4-year-old students. There will be four TK classes divided into two AM classes and two PM sessions. Teachers and paraprofessionals will remain on campus for the full day maintaining a 1:10 teacher-student ratio. Teachers will provide paraprofessionals with breaks. There are 96 “Little Knights” feeding into kindergarten reducing waiting lists and supporting students in becoming familiar with the school. Students must be potty trained and must turn 4 years old before September 1 to enroll in TK.

AM Session: 8:15 a.m. – 11:50 a.m./ PM Session: 11:55 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Teachers are responsible for teaching 3.5 hours daily. The same ADA funding will be received, and the school is working on providing ASAP services for students in the PM schedule, though the program is not yet available.

Staffing for elementary grades will be reviewed next week, including two teachers for upper elementary and one teacher for TK (lower elementary).

Electives Discussed

The new electives are History Through Film; Anatomy Honors; Criminal Justice; Interpersonal Communication; Graphic Design; and Forensics.

7. State Testing/iReady Scores

Juniors are nearly finished with testing, with science testing scheduled for the following day. Elementary testing and AP testing will take place the following week. A full week of AP Research presentations is also scheduled, and staff acknowledged the excellent work completed by the teacher.

i-Ready Scores: 8th grade performance has continued to trend upward. Consistency among teachers has contributed positively to student growth. Some concerns in Math, though the school remains hopeful for continued improvement. ELA performance and growth continue to show strong and consistent results.

8. Mission Statement

Most teachers have responded positively to the statement. Staff and students will still need to vote on the proposal. Board approval may also be required.

9. Updates

- Extending clubs is not possible at this time because it would impact instructional classes. Homerooms will be restructured.
- Principal's Cabinet continues to allow students to voice their opinions and preferences.
- ARISS was a success, and everyone enjoyed participating and watching.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: E. Chapman. Second: M. Rivas

Meeting Adjourned: 4:41 pm. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026