

Academy for Academic Excellence
 School Site Council/English Learner Advisory Committee
 Regular Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, March 10, 2026

1. Call to Order – Maya Rivas 3:40pm

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	10/17/2024	Present
Kristel Sanders	Teacher	10/24/2024	10/17/2024	Present
Varteni Krikorian	MS/HS Vice Principal	09/23/2025	10/17/2024	Present
Maria Fierro	Class. Staff	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present
April Vincent	Parent	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Absent
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	Absent
Ward Halwani	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Absent
Alyana Gonzalez	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Absent
Isaac Chavira	Student	09/23/2025	09/23/2027	Present

3. Public Comments

A question was raised about expanding club offerings to support students in developing interest-based learning opportunities rather than requiring mandatory participation. The principal shared that they will follow up with the ALT team to determine if this can be implemented on Mondays and Fridays.

There was also discussion about increasing elective options for the upcoming school year. Proposed electives include:

- History Through Film
- Honors Anatomy (Mr. Robinson)
- Criminal Justice (Mr. Blinsmon, replacing Psychology)
- Interpersonal Communication (Ms. Thielen)
- Graphic Design (new, Mrs. Atkisson)

Members expressed interest in hearing more about how the school plans to improve campus culture and student engagement. Cabinets will be used to support this effort.

The group also reviewed draft mission statement options:

1. Focused on preparing students for post-secondary success through a relevant, rigorous college preparatory education.
2. Emphasizes safety, social-emotional learning, and responsible citizenship alongside academic rigor.

3. Highlights developing disciplined thinkers through critical inquiry, analytical reasoning, and rigorous education grounded in responsible citizenship.

4. SSC Business

Correction noted: Maya Rivas was present.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by V. Krikorian and seconded by K. Lucas.

Vote: All in favor – motion carried

5. ELD Planning Updates

Mr. Richards announced the hiring of a new ELD paraprofessional. Teachers have shared positive feedback about the current paraprofessional, Xiomara Gaytan, and expressed optimism and excitement about the new hire supporting students and helping them acclimate.

ELPAC testing is currently underway. Students are being tested individually (or in very small groups depending on grade level). K–2 students are assessed one-on-one. In middle and high school, testing may include small groups to support comprehension, though most testing remains individual.

Students had concerns about missing classwork; however, staff reassured them that missed work will be excused, and the principal emphasized ensuring students receive support to make up any missed learning.

6. Math Curriculum Pilot / Traditional

The school has selected a McGraw Hill curriculum for high school math, including Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II. The program uses consumable workbooks that must be repurchased annually.

Each unit now includes approximately 30 practice problems, compared to the previous curriculum's 5–10 problems, providing more opportunities for practice while maintaining depth of knowledge.

McGraw Hill will also provide materials for Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Middle school will use the Savvas curriculum. Instruction and assessments are aligned with Next Generation standards

7. Updates

ARISS Program: The school will have another opportunity to connect with an astronaut in space. Students can enter a contest to design a mission patch for Artemis. Selected students will have a 5-minute live interaction. The entire school will be invited to watch the livestream. Students from Norton will visit to observe and participate, bringing questions for the event. The front parking lot will be reserved during the event. Staff parking will be available behind the gym and near A101.

Facilities: Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding new classroom construction.

School Improvements: The school is considering installing a marquee.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: V. Krikorian. Second: K. Sanders

Meeting Adjourned: 4:15 pm

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026