

Academy for Academic Excellence
School Site Council/English Learner Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2026

1. Call to Order – Isaac Chavira 3:45pm.

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

3. Public Comments

Public comments were deferred to the end of the meeting.

4. SSC Business

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by A. Vincent and seconded by W. Halwani. Minutes were approved. Vote: All in favor – motion carried.

5. PLC & CHK

The group reviewed the four guiding PLC questions: What do we want students to learn beyond California Standards? How do we know they have learned it? What do we do when students have learned it? What do we do when students have not learned it?

Additional discussion included: Considering increased AP opportunities and intervention strategies to support student achievement; emphasizing the three PLC Big Ideas of Culture of collaboration, data-driven decision making, and focus on results.

Members discussed evaluating school performance through proficiency scores and focusing on student learning rather than sole teaching practices. The discussion points included: Preparing students for college beginning in early grade levels; instilling academic and behavioral habits that support college success; recognizing diverse post-secondary pathways including community college, trade school, and

career preparation. A. Gonzalez shared that approximately 79% of students attend college. A. Vincent emphasized the importance of incorporating social-emotional learning into the mission.

Vision Statement Discussion

Mr. Richarda read the Vision Statement aloud at 4:00 p.m. The group discussed STEM and STREAM educational models. Members discussed preparing students for success regardless of specific academic program focus. Reassessing the school's vision and mission requires approximately 60% agreement with 100% commitment to implementation. A. Gonzalez noted that the current vision and mission statements do not specifically identify the school as a math and science focused institution. Mr. Richards emphasized the importance of developing strong character and citizenship.

CKH (Capturing Kids' Hearts) Discussion

Members discussed the impact of CKH on campus culture and relational equity between staff and students. To highlight, building relationships with students supports motivation and emotional well-being. CKH implementation appears stronger in elementary than secondary settings. The school staff discussed maintaining professional boundaries while fostering positive relationships and implementing classroom practices such as sharing highs and lows to help build community and peer connections. Staff shared examples of relational capacity and how it contributes to a positive school environment.

6. ELD Planning Updates

Mr. Richards reported that the ELD staff position is currently vacant due to employee separation. The school is in the process of filling the position

7. Math Curriculum Pilot/Traditional

There was a discussion regarding potential math curriculum changes. Three curriculum companies are being considered as the school explores a shift back to a traditional math model. TC expressed strong support and enthusiasm for the transition.

8. Shift in Classroom/Campus Visits

Administration discussed the philosophy of increasing campus visibility and classroom presence. The importance of parents scheduling appointments when visiting campus was also discussed.

9. Updates

Tutoring/JROTC: A. Gonzalez asked if students participating in JROTC tutoring could be allowed on campus at 7:35 a.m. Administration will communicate with the CSO regarding this request.

W. Halwani asked about tutoring stipends. Mr. Richards discussed payment procedures.

Parent Engagement – Parents and Pastries: Members discussed low parent attendance at Parents and Pastries events. A. Vincent shared that virtual viewing options are helpful for working parents but limit opportunities for real-time questions and interaction.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: April Vincent. Second: Ward Halwani.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:35 PM

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026