

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
3:00 pm Room 2**

Advisory Council Members:

Present: , Brent Givens, Russell Brown, Jonathan Elfstrom, Melissa Greenwood, Shereen Ghozzy, Kori Moore, Kristin O'Brien, Bonnie Bjorgum, Jack Fowler

Absent: Brian Ginter, Bob Erickson, Megan Burke, Mindy McIntyre, Adam Spohn, Tanesha Travis-Jackson, Teresa Rene' Beckner, Olivia Browne, Emma De Fraga, Jayda Nance

Welcome & Introductions:

The meeting is brought to order @ 3:15pm 11/01/2023. Introductions were made O'Brien (WASC Coordinator – via Zoom), Givens (School Director) Brown (Asst. Director) Fowler (Student/Advisory board), Ghozzy (Parent), Bjorgum (Admin) Moore (Teacher) Greenwood (Teacher)

Other parents, and students were expected, hopefully, they will be able to join next time.

Went through the Advisory Council Document 'What is an Advisory Council' – attached.
Went over the voting component.

Approval of previous meeting minutes – April 26, 2023 (action)

The group reviewed the document - and found an error on page 3: Looking ahead: Priorities for 2022-2023. change to 2023-2024. Russell Brown makes a motion to approve the minutes. Johnathon Elfstrom seconds the motion.

Enrollment & Budget Update:

a. Enrollment at this time/date = 288; this date last year = 217; we are 71 students larger this year.

b. largest growth grade in 8th and 12th

c. Advisory teachers are full at 25 students; the only way past that is to hire more teachers,

d. Caseloads for SPED are similar at 30 students.

e. Enrollment through 3/22/2024 due to state testing (this is shown on our website).

Enrollment capped at 300 students. No date has been set for ending S1 enrollment.

f. Budget connection to Enrollment is important. Dollars are sent to the San Juan District and then given to the Charter.

1. 100% attendance is what our goal is.
2. 1st log period is = just under 95%
3. 2nd log period is = just under 94%
4. Most students earn 100%. Students earn by completing work (approximately 5 hours of work per subject per week), not by physical attendance.
5. A parent asked - do you review work completed or time spent? Mr. Givens answered 1st work completion - then the time spent if there is an issue with the work completion piece.
6. A parent asked: what about State Testing dates? Mr. Givens answered: Testing is administered at the latest date in the year as possible.
7. A parent asked: what about assessments at the beginning of the semester? Mr. Givens answered yes; they take the IReady at the beginning of each semester to collect data for growth and possible need

for remediation. A parent also asked about IXL testing and whether the middle school students can get access to i-Ready support.

- g. Funds are used for school facilities and teacher salaries (85% of the budget) Each student brings in \$12,800 ADA as of this year.
- h. We are in a healthy spot. We should have a conservative reserve.

WASC & LCAP Update – School Wide Action Plan 2023-24

Mrs. O'Brien shared a document, 'What is WASC' - attached.

CCS Vision: shared, CCS Mission Statement shared, CCS Graduation Outcomes: shared

In 2018, Choices earned a 6-year WASC accreditation term with a required mid-cycle report and visit in 2021. (Visiting Committee observations shared - very complimentary).

What's next? Our current Self-Study document must be submitted to WASC at the end of January 2024. This Advisory Council will have a chance to review the Self-Study document; please devote whatever time you have to its review. Please send any questions, concerns, or suggestions to Mrs. O'Brien's email. She does a great job of ensuring everyone has a voice in this document and that our school represents everybody: Students, Staff, Parents, Community Members, etc.

A parent asked if there were questions about the curriculum, etc. How does she get that information to Mrs. O'Brien?

Mr. Givens takes information and talks it over with parents, staff, and the leadership team and ultimately decides.

Parent says: I understand, I can bring information to Mr. Givens or the Teachers directly in writing or verbally in person/over the phone.

WASC and LCAP are connected: improving the culture and climate of our school for our students.

LCAP has a special emphasis on making sure the gaps are filled for our EL learners, Social, Economic, and foster youth learners.

Mr. Givens shared a QR code for both the WASC School Wide Action Plan and the Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

Comprehensive School Safety Plan Review 2023-24

The QR code is attached to this document. Mr. Givens quickly showed where the document is located on our website and wanted Parents to know what we are going to do in case of an emergency.

Mr. Brown is the head of our School Safety Team. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact him.

- d. Mr. Givens will share the one-page document with the Advisory Council Team. Mr. Givens asked if Jack and Mrs. Ghoszy would be part of the School Safety Team.

CAASPP & ELPAC Testing Update

- e. Reviewed

Looking ahead: Priorities for 2023-2024:

- f. Returning some more electives and courses that were dropped.
- f. It is hard to mandate classes to be in person when our school is designed to be independent and remote. However, with new technologies, we can possibly make it more engaging.
 - i. Coding Class (game creation and game theory)
 - 1. open for high school only at this point.
 - a. Parent: all the fun stuff for high school only.
 - b. Givens: the intention is to make it available for everyone, but this is just the starting point right now.
 - c. Staff Improvements happen with encouragement to attend staff development training and conferences.

Walk-ins & Visitor Comments:

- h. Mrs. Ghoszy asked if we could get the membership for iReady to give the students lessons in the areas where they scored low.
 - i. Mr. Givens stated that we did have that membership, but for the expensive costs and the low number of students participating, the school made the decision to drop the membership,
 - ii. Mr. Givens will look at it again with a lower # of members.
 - iii. Mr. Elfstrom would like to see it return, at least for Middle Schoolers
- iv. Jack F. (student) commented that the kids don't like it because it is elementary - cartoons, etc.
 - h. Jack F: Gaming Club - Jack would like to see a gaming unit on a big screen (developing relationships while still having fun doing things that most kids like).
- v. Keep in mind ratings - let's talk about games.
- vi. Finding a teacher that is willing/able to lead this gaming group.
 - vii. Is the lunchroom/lunchtime good? Might be too short of a time frame - but could be a good starting time.
- h. Mr. Elfstrom: Staff Meetings/Leadership meetings are good places for teachers/staff to talk out ideas/concerns. Can we have the same thing for Parents - like a PTA?
- viii. Mr. Givens, probably worthwhile - let's look into it and see what the attendance would look like.
- ix. Different ideas were also brought up for Student Fundraising for events they would like to have on campus.
 - h. Mrs. O'Brien asked about Student Leadership. Mr. Givens is taking into consideration the different needs of students on days/times that work for them. The first student leadership meeting did not have strong attendance.

Next Advisory Council Meeting – January 24, 2024

Adjournment

Mrs. More and Mr. Brown officially motioned to adjourn at 4:24 pm.

Meetings are open to the public



What is an Advisory Council?

The Advisory Council will advise the director and will act as the voice of the constituencies they represent. The Advisory Council is a team of people representing various segments of the community – parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, and other interested community members.

The Advisory Council is designed to:

1. Provides a place where parents can voice their opinions and suggestions.
2. Gives the opportunity for parents to actively participate in setting goals and making plans to achieve those academic goals.
3. Allows for parents to identify issues that need to be addressed concerning the school climate.
4. Address parent/community concerns; work with administration to solve problems and initiate desired changes.
5. Identify and coordinates the use of community resources to improve student achievement and school effectiveness.
6. Participate in increasing/sustaining high levels of community support for the school.
7. Help identify the educational needs and priorities of the school.
8. Advocated for positive change in the school.
9. Remain current with school, district, state, and national issues.



**Choices Charter School
2023-24**

**Enrollment Update
(as of Nov. 1, 2023)**

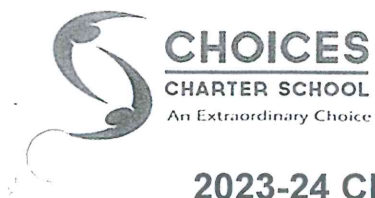
We are nearing capacity in some grade levels and programs. Capacity is based on staffing and caseload limits for our Advisory Teachers and Specialists.

Grade	# Students
Grade 06	11
Grade 07	28
Grade 08	42
Grade 09	27
Grade 10	51
Grade 11	56
Grade 12	73
Total, All	288

Comparison:

**217 students on this day in 2022
2 largest growth areas – 8th & 12th grade.**

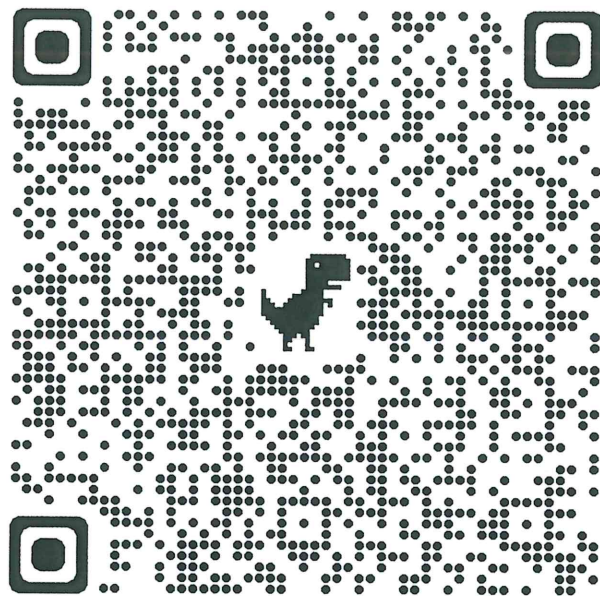
We are 71 students larger today than last year.



Choices Charter School 2023-24

2023-24 Choices Charter School – WASC School Wide Action Plan [2023 Local Control Accountability Plan (“LCAP”) Tasks Incorporated]

Using your smartphone, scan the QR code to view important information & documents.



For questions or comments, please email or LCAP & WASC Self-Study Coordinator:
Kristin O'Brien - kristin.obrien@sanjuan.edu



Choices Charter School
2023-24

Comprehensive School Safety Plan
(Draft as of Nov. 1, 2023)

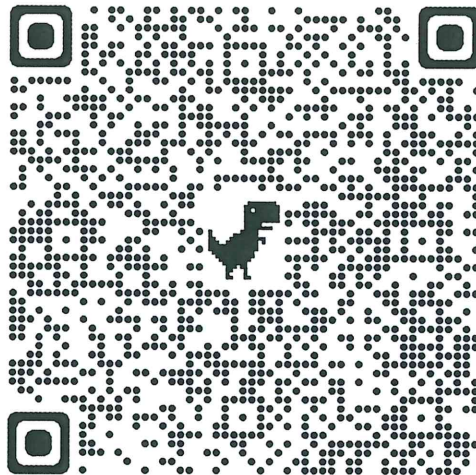
We are in need of your input and review for our CSSP.

Please take a look at the plan and send your input and suggestions to the Assistant Director, Russell Brown at rubrown@sanjuan.edu.

This is a “living document” and is amended and changed as needs and updates are shared/directed.

All changes will be vetted and approved by the San Juan Unified School District Safe Schools Team. The Safe Schools Team Community Safety Specialists (CSS) are not law enforcement officers, nor are they campus security guards. They are highly knowledgeable and trained school district professionals who specialize in addressing school safety concerns and support school communities to improve overall campus safety.

Choices Charter School CSSP Draft



<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1698872969/choicescharterorg/czgcyjkq54clxnu1a13m/ChoicesCharterCSSPTemplateSY23-24draft11123-Web.pdf>

This document lives on our website under the Resources page and is a downloadable .pdf document under the Safety Plan menu option.