



Orange Unified School District
District Advisory Council (D.A.C.)
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
District Office- Panther Lab



Dr. Matthew Witmer introduced Michael Christensen, Superintendent of Schools of the Orange Unified School District. Mr. Christensen welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the 2024-2025 school year and expressed gratitude for their time and dedication.

Topics Discussed:

7-11 & Consolidation Committees – Sulema Holguin/Assistant Superintendent, Business Services

- Mrs. Sulema Holguin provided an overview of two voluntary committees currently in place in Orange. The Consolidation Committee and the 7-11 Committee.
- The Consolidation Committee meets on Mondays to provide input on potential school consolidations. She also reminded everyone of the challenges of declining enrollment across California.
- Furthermore, Mrs. Holguin also addressed a circulating rumor regarding the La Veta site. She clarified that La Veta is not scheduled for closure at this time; rather, all elementary and middle school sites are under consideration as part of the broader consolidation discussion.
- Additionally, Mrs. Holguin discussed the 7-11 Committee, a Board-approved, appointed volunteer committee responsible for reviewing the district's asset management.

2025-2026 LCAP - Dr. Sandy Schaffer/Director, Accountability/Educational Services

- Dr. Sandy Schaffer discussed that the district is currently in the second year of its three-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) cycle, focusing on refining and implementing goals based on outcomes and feedback. The plan is aligned with the California School Dashboard and the district's 2019–25 Strategic Plan.
- This phase emphasizes monitoring progress, adjusting actions as needed, and preparing for the final year of evaluation and development of the next LCAP cycle.
- Dr. Schaffer also mentioned that Richland Continuation High School and Community Day School were identified to receive funds based on their student stability and socioeconomic status.
- To streamline efforts, several actions were merged or embedded into broader actions. This reduced the total number of actions while maintaining focus.

Climate Survey Results – Jana Saenz/Administrator, Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports/Educational Services

- Jana Saenz explained that the state-required annual climate survey collects input from students each January through February. The results are shared with schools and district departments to support positive school climates and guide prevention and intervention efforts tailored to each site.
- She further shared that the district's climate survey results reflect a strong, positive perception of school safety, with students reporting minimal experiences or concerns related to bullying and cyberbullying. Overall, students expressed that they are receiving a quality education, feel supported by their teachers, and enjoy positive student-teacher relationships, key indicators of a healthy and engaging learning environment.
- Moving forward, site principals will present their school-specific results to staff, students, and families to promote transparency and collaboration in strengthening school climate across the district.

Employees of the Year – Tracy Knibb, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

- Tracy Knibb opened her remarks by highlighting the district's commitment to celebrating its staff. She shared that the annual Employee of the Year Celebration took place at Fred Kelly Stadium on May 13 where nine honorees, three classified staff members, three certificated teachers, and three administrators, each of whom was selected for their exemplary service, commitment to student success, and positive impact within their school communities.
- The OUSD Communications Department was also praised for its outstanding efforts in showcasing these honorees.

Closing Remarks - Dr. Matthew Witmer

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Dr. Matthew Witmer, expressed his gratitude to everyone in attendance. He wished everyone a wonderful summer and shared his hope to reconnect in the fall. He also encouraged everyone to complete the DAC survey, emphasizing its importance in helping better understand site needs and bring more meaningful topics to the table.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.