



A FREE
Personalized Learning
Public Charter School



*Melissa Bassanelli, Superintendent
Brent Givens, Director*

**Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 29, 2025
3:00 pm Room 4**

Members present: Brent Gives, Bjorgum, Russell Brown, Kori Moore, Melissa Greenwood, Phyllis Needleman (Zoom) , Kaia Hurd, Ali Brown, JoJo Allwza (Zoom)

Welcome & Introductions

Brent opened the meeting and welcomed teachers, staff, and community members, including Phyllis Needleman and student leader JoJo.

Approve previous meeting minutes – April 30, 2025 (action)

Kori Moves to approve; Russell Brown moves to second the minutes.

Enrollment, Budget & School Updates

The council discussed the school's enrollment, noting a total of 267 students, which is 3 more than last year. They observed a significant increase in upperclassmen and a decrease in middle school students, which Brent attributed to the school helping students who are struggling in traditional schools. Brent also mentioned that the school budgets for 245 students, and having more than that is financially beneficial, allowing them to build a reserve balance. Finally, he announced that the staff had received a 5% raise, which was officially approved at the recent board meeting, effective November.

Charter School Renewal / WASC Accreditation Update / LCAP

Brent outlined plans for charter school renewal, emphasizing the need to prepare a new charter petition by fall 2026 for San Juan Unified School District approval before the June 2027 expiration. He clarified that Choices, unlike some charter schools, does not operate as a homeschool program but rather provides A through G approved curriculum taught by licensed teachers, with parents supporting students' learning and reporting to the school for compliance purposes. Brent also explained the process of dual enrollment for specific district programs, such as band or choir, and confirmed that a student is currently dual enrolled in choir at Bella Vista High School while remaining enrolled at Chart Choices.

CAASPP & ELPAC Testing Update

- CAASPP - April 20 – May 29

Brent reviewed the Local Control and Accountability Plan, including goals and strategies to support student success, and an overview of testing schedules and upcoming academic discussions.

What We're Most Excited About

- Brent Givens: Present charter renewal petition to San Juan School Board in fall 2026
- Mrs. Greenwood and Mrs. Olivares: Continue organizing Thrive Club activities including rock painting, community service, and bowling
- Mrs. Moore: Continue coordinating speaker series for students
- Staff: Advertise for upcoming December field trip to Carrington College
- Staff: Plan field trips to American River College and CSUS
- Teachers: Present best practices for engaging online curriculum throughout the year as scheduled
- Staff: Develop and implement Zoom help desk for after-hours students and family support
- Brent Givens: Send out Halloween costume guidelines one more time before Friday
- Brent Givens/Staff: Hold first Student Leadership Club meeting next Wednesday at 2:30 PM with Kaia, Allie, and JoJo
- Brent Givens: Present academic information including CAASP scores comparison at January Advisory Council meeting after November 14th dashboard release

Walk-ins & Visitor Comments

Advisory Council Meetings Tentative Schedule – 2025/26

- October 29, 2025
- January 28, 2026
- April 29, 2026

Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 3:50pm

Meetings are open to the public