

Melissa Bassanelli, Superintendent
Brent Givens, Director

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
3:00 pm Room 4

Meeting Summary

The second advisory council meeting of the year at Choices Charter School focused on reviewing academic performance, financial status, and program updates. The school reported positive enrollment numbers and financial reserves while highlighting improvements in various academic metrics and student support initiatives, including a new digital check-in system and expanded career exposure programs. The meeting covered important topics such as charter renewal preparations and a new tiered re-engagement framework pilot, with discussions centered on improving graduation rates and student success through collaboration with other educational institutions.

Approval of Minutes of previous meeting – October 29, 2025

No changes to last meetings minutes. Approval of the minutes: Unanimous.

Melissa Greenwood makes a motion to approve the minutes. Kori Moore seconds the motion.

Next steps

- Brent: Present the LCAP mid-year update to the school board next Tuesday night, February 10th.
- Brent, Mrs. O'Brien, and Mr. Brown: Continue participation in differentiated assistance meetings with the County Office of Education, focusing on improving the graduation rate.
- Brent and Mrs. O'Brien: Continue working with the consultant on the new charter renewal template and prepare to submit the charter renewal this summer or early fall.
- Staff (unspecified): Collect and analyze first semester data (grades, iReady, CASSP) to evaluate the effectiveness of the tiered re-engagement framework pilot.
- Brent: Invite this group back for the next advisory council meeting on April 29th, 2026.
- Brent/Mrs. O'Brien: At the April 29th meeting, conduct a formal process of collecting feedback from the group to guide the annual LCAP update.
- Staff: Continue rollout and implementation of the new digital check-in system for staff and eventually for students, including ordering iPad stands.

Summary

Choices Charter School Advisory Council

Brent Givens, the director of Choices Charter School, welcomed attendees to the second advisory council meeting of the year. The meeting aimed to share information about academics, social-emotional programs, budgets, and compliance reports with the San Juan School District governing board. The meeting began with introductions and Brent emphasized the importance of feedback from attendees.

Enrollment and Financial LCAP Update

Brent presented an enrollment update, noting that the school currently has 288 students, with the largest classes being juniors and seniors. He mentioned that the school is at capacity for advisory teachers but still has room for middle school students. Brent also discussed the school's financial health, stating they have a healthy reserve of about \$1 million.

He then presented a mid-year LCAP update, highlighting the school's successes and areas for growth, such as college and career readiness and math proficiency. Brent emphasized the school's focus on supporting students who may be credit deficient or struggling academically.

American River College Dual Enrollment Update

Brent presented an update on American River College's dual enrollment program, highlighting its benefits for high school students to earn college credits while still in high school. He discussed the school's efforts to expose students to various career paths through college visits and vocational school tours.

Brent also reviewed the school's budget, including funding sources like the lottery fund and Prop 28, and explained how they allocate funds to support student activities and social-emotional well-being. Finally, he shared positive improvements in various academic metrics, including a significant increase in students performing at or above grade level in reading and math.

Charter Renewal and Student Support

The meeting discussed two main topics: charter renewal and tiered re-engagement framework pilot. Brent explained that the current charter, renewed in 2019, was extended to 2027 due to the COVID pandemic, and they are now preparing for renewal using a new, more complex template. The school is in the medium category for charter ratings, which is considered favorable. They plan to submit the renewal application by summer or early fall, capitalizing on recent positive California School Dashboard data. The tiered re-engagement framework pilot was introduced to provide a more structured process for identifying and supporting struggling students, following WASC's recommendation during their 2024 accreditation visit.

Tier Engagement Process Early Results

Brent discussed the implementation of a tier engagement process, noting early positive indicators such as increased enrollment, fewer drops, higher attendance, and better teacher outreach. He mentioned that they would collect more data from the first semester, including grades, iReady growth, and CASSPP test results. Brent also highlighted improvements in California Dashboard results, with graduation rates and college career indicators increasing by two levels, which he attributed to analyzing course bottlenecks and correcting data entry errors.

School Initiatives and Safety Updates

Brent provided an overview of school updates, highlighting new initiatives such as the Thrive Club bowling trip, and various electives including a pop culture class and technology courses. He discussed the implementation of a new digital check-in system using iPads to enhance safety and accountability, with plans to expand this to students. Brent also mentioned participating in differentiated assistance with other schools to address areas needing improvement, viewing it as an opportunity for growth and collaboration.

Enhancing Graduation and Student Success

The meeting focused on improving graduation rates and student success, with Brent emphasizing collaboration with the County Office of Education and other charter schools. The group discussed strategies to support students, including early intervention in middle school and addressing credit deficiencies. Mrs. O'Brien announced plans to collect formal feedback in April to guide the annual LCAP process. The conversation ended with an open forum for questions and feedback, and participants were invited to an upcoming meeting on April 29th to complete a formal survey.

Next Advisory Meeting –April 29, 2026

Meeting Adjourned 3:59 pm

Meetings are open to the public