



Orange Unified School District
District Advisory Council (D.A.C.)
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
District Office- Board Rooms 1-3



Dr. Matthew Witmer opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all District Advisory Council (DAC) participants. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the members in attendance and extended a special thanks to those joining the session virtually. He noted that this meeting marks the second time the Council has utilized a hybrid format. He emphasized that offering both in-person and virtual participation is a key part of the district's commitment to accessibility and engaging in a broader, more diverse range of voices within our Council. Throughout the evening, representatives were given the opportunity to provide feedback scanning several QR codes.

Topics Discussed:

District of Excellence- Superintendent, Dr. Rachel Monárrez

- Dr. Rachel Monárrez sought input from participants to ensure a shared vision of what a “District of Excellence” should look, feel, and sound like in practice. She also asked the participants to review the behaviors that were shared by others.
- The journey of a District of Excellence serves as a guiding framework to promote consistency and continuous improvement across the district.

Strategic Mapping Process- Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Witmer

- Dr. Matthew Witmer shared with the participants that the district is beginning the development of the OUSD Strategic Roadmap in partnership with Inspire School Services.
- As we prepare for this work, the focus is on gaining a clear understanding of our current systems, priorities, and practices across the district.
- This initial phase is designed to establish a shared starting point and ensure that future planning is thoughtful, aligned, and reflective of where we are today.
- More information and opportunities for input will be shared as the work progresses.

Summer Programs 2026- Executive Director of TK-12 Curriculum & Instruction, Lisa Green

- Lisa Green shared that all departments involved in the summer programs were represented at the meeting, and that staff were available to address any questions participants may have had regarding specific programs.
- She shared detailed plans of a variety of summer offerings, including CARES Summer Camps, Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP), Special Education Summer School Program (ESY), Middle School Summer Enrichment Academies, High School Summer School Credit Recovery and Original Credit, Mandarin Immersion Summer Program and Summer College for Kids.

Cell Phone Policy/AB3216- Executive Director of Student & Community Services, Heriberto Angel

- Heriberto Angel, Executive Director of Student & Community Services, presented information regarding Senate Bill 3216 (Phone-Free Schools Act) which requires all school districts to adopt a policy by July 1, 2026, to limit or prohibit student smartphone use during school hours.
- The new law shifts from optional to mandatory implementation to address concerns that smartphones interfere with school missions, lower student performance, contribute to mental health issues like anxiety and depression and promote cyberbullying and social pressures.
- The district is currently developing a district policy, (BP 5131.8) through stakeholder engagement, ensuring it includes required legal exceptions for emergencies, medical necessity, and individualized education programs (IEPs).

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.