



Orange Unified School District
District Advisory Council (D.A.C.)
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
District Office- Panther Lab



Dr. Matthew Witmer opened the meeting with a welcome to all District Advisory Council (DAC) participants. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the members in attendance and extended a thanks to those joining the session virtually. The meeting included updates from district leadership and several department presentations focusing on district priorities, multilingual family engagement, student behavioral health supports, and district communication tools. Dr. Rachel Monárrez, Superintendent of Schools made a special appearance to provide participants with an update on her ongoing meetings with various groups as well as highlighting the OUSD Graduate Profile & Strategic Roadmap progress.

Topics Discussed:

OUSD Every Voice Connected, Dr. Christina Lin

- Dr. Christina Lin discussed that Every Voice Connected initiative is a Pockettalk pilot program intended to strengthen communication with multilingual families. The initiative was developed in response to the feedback received through the LCAP survey process, where families identified improving communication with multilingual families as a clear community priority.
- Pockettalk is a translation technology device that helps to create a more welcoming and accessible school environment for families who speak a variety of languages. It is a tool that supports real-time speech-to-speech translation.
- Selected schools will participate in the pilot beginning in Fall 2026. The presentation included feedback and pilot interest survey QR code. DAC participants were encouraged to provide input.

CYBHI: Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, Andrea Foster, MS, RN, NCSN, PLNC

- Andrea Foster discussed how CYBHI supports access to behavioral health services for students and families while helping school build a more sustainable system of care.
- Schools must provide access to mental health services for all students, regardless of insurance status, the focus is on identifying and addressing students' needs early, before they escalate.
- The CYBHI services do not create a financial burden for families. It aligns with a Whole Child Framework, connecting academic, social-emotional, physical and mental health supports.
- Data privacy is protected under FERPA and HIPPA, parent and guardian consent remains central to the process. A parent or guardian consent is required before billing insurance for services. The purpose of collecting insurance information is to support reimbursement and sustain school-based behavioral health services, not to create a cost for families.

Parent Square, Dr. Jacqueline Perez-Chaidez

- Dr. Jacqueline Perez-Chaidez provided an overview of OUSD's transition from School Messenger to ParentSquare as a unified school-to-home communication platform. The presentation focused on the implementation timeline and feedback from pilot school sites.
- A major focus is improving accessibility for all families. The platform supports automatic translation, allowing families to receive a message in their preferred language.
- ParentSquare allows families to receive school news, emergency alerts and classrooms updates through push notifications, text messages or emails.
- ParentSquare gives families control over how and when they receive communication. Families can choose instant notifications if they want to receive updates as soon as they are sent or they can select a daily digest option that combines non-urgent schools' news into one message.
- Family data is protected and not shared with third parties.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.