



# San Diego Mission Academy

## Q2 PAC “Townhall” Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Online

**Date:** 11/14/24

**Time:** 6:00-7:00 pm

Notetaker: Blair Jenkins

**Staff attendance:** 4 staff members present

**Staff in attendance:** John Amis, Missy Yermai Thao, Sarena Divall, Stacey Sperry

**Parent/Caregiver groups in attendance:** 8

**Parents/Caregiver Families in attendance:** Charlotte Wall for student Catalina Wall, Ludy and Tom Passons for student Ilianna Passons, Debra Shed for student James Cornelius, Aregache Demelew for student Dawit Demelew Jr., Mary Hughes for student Noah Moore, student Luis Mata, Roxanne R Rubalcaba for student Gabriella Yslas, Brandi Landrum for student Kennedy Landrum

Meeting Started at 6:00 pm and Ended at 7:05pm

### I. Welcome

- A. Heather Barnhart, Assistant Principal, provided a welcome to parents, caregivers, students and staff thanking them for their attendance and we are so grateful to provide awards to our students.
- B. Heather Barnhart asked staff to introduce themselves in the chat with their position
- C. Heather Barnhart shared the importance of parent/caregiver attendance and feedback. The state of California requires online schools to show proof that parents/caregivers were present at our meeting this evening. We will be using the chat function to assist. Heather Barnhart reviewed briefly with attendees how they can locate and use the meeting chat to share feedback or ask questions. Also shared how grateful the school is for the feedback parents/caregivers share during these meetings.
- D. Heather Barnhart guided parents/caregivers to introduce themselves in chat, and then students to introduce themselves in the chat, as well as the student they are attending to support
- E. Heather Barnhart thanked everyone for attending, did a walk through of the agenda, and encouraged attendees to stay on after the awards to go through some updates, get some feedback, hand out swag, and share future meeting dates.



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### II. Annual Parent Survey

- A. Jennifer Ulie, Parent Engagement Liaison, introduced the annual parent survey and shared appreciation of parents/caregivers to share feedback. Heather Barnhart included QR code to the parent/caregiver survey into meeting chat for parents/caregivers.

### III. LCAP

- A. Jenna Unis, Principal, walked through explaining what LCAP is and our credit completion goals. Clarified that our schools are public schools and that the LCAP is required by every school in California and how we are required to spend funding that directly benefits students. Reviewed that LCAP is based on feedback and how funds will be used to improve outcomes for all students.
- B. Current 4 LCAP Goals: Increase Academic Progress, Students will Gain Skills for College and Career Readiness, Increase Student Retention, Increase Educational Partner Engagement
- C. Focused on Educational Partner Engagement and commits assembled to support this goal. Expanding current partnership.
- D. Reviewed visual explaining current data regarding LCAP goals infographic including Story, Budget, and Highlights (including charter, enrollment, student demographics)
- E. **Feedback:** Jenna Unis asked the participants to share, put answers in chat regarding what we can be doing to increase parent participation in future PAC meetings.
  - 1. **Mary Hughes:** *Reaching out multiple times as you did for this meeting in multiple formats such as text and email*
  - 2. **Charlotte Wall:** *The email verbiage can specifically state that parent participation is encouraged and valued.*
  - 3. **Aregache Demelew:** *You all did great because I'm here!*
  - 4. **Freedom:** *Reaching out multiple times as you did for this meeting in multiple formats such as text and email*
  - 5. **Debra Shed:** *I'm impressed by the amount of support and consistency in communication from admin and staff.*
  - 6. **Leslye Grimaldi:** *Direct messages/calls and biweekly meetings for student progress.*
  - 7. **Debra Shed:** *James loves the virtual learning. It's a better run and more efficient business.*
  - 8. **Cindi Bradford:** *I couldn't get into the meeting on my computer. I almost gave up trying to get in but decided to try on my phone. It is nearly impossible to see the presentation because it is so small and putting in comments is very challenging. From this point on I will just listen.*



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### IV. Student G.R.I.T. Awards

- A. Heather Barnhart introduced the GRIT awards by sharing the meaning and purpose of each letter of GRIT and what each award represents.
- B. **Feedback:** Heather Barnhart asked the participants which of the elements of GRIT is the most important for your child.
  1. *Growth Mindset: Selected by 3*
  2. *Resilience: Selected by 5*
  3. *Independence: Selected by 4*
  4. *Transformation: Selected by 1*
  5. **Aregache Demelow:** *ALL!!! All of these intersect/intertwine*
  6. **Keri Del Conte:** *I appreciate this acronym for GRIT!*
  7. **Debra Shed:** *I feel growth mindset being fundamental the others will follow.*
    - a) **Aregache Demelew:** *I thought this you know 🤔*
  8. **Leslye Grimaldi:** *Growth Mindset: None would be possible if a student isn't willing. Helps with long-term consistency.*
- C. Awards given:

Breanna Dosty	Transformation: Student has shown a transformation either academically or personally and deserves recognition of growth as an individual	I am thrilled to nominate Breanna for the Transformation Award, as her journey this year has been truly inspiring. Last spring, Breanna faced challenges with completing credits and struggled to maintain reliable communication with school staff. This year, however, she has shown remarkable determination and growth, transforming into a dedicated student committed to achieving her goals. Breanna now meets weekly with her academic adviser, has built strong connections with the school staff, and has successfully completed 27 credits on time. Her hard work earned her a diploma and a spot in our upcoming in-person winter ceremony. To say I am proud of Breanna is an understatement—she truly embodies the spirit of perseverance and transformation.
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Joshua Alcaraz	Growth: Student has demonstrated growth (improvement) in personal or academic areas	As Joshua approached his high school graduation, he initially faced some uncertainty about his next steps. However, during our meeting, he was receptive to suggestions, completed a career assessment, and developed a postsecondary plan. I'm pleased to share that he has now applied to college, completed his FAFSA, and is ready to register for classes! Joshua's determination and resilience are truly inspiring, and I have no doubt he will turn his dreams into reality. Congratulations, Joshua! I'm excited for you as you embark on this new chapter in your life!
Roque Zavala (goes by Gio)	Independence: Student demonstrates the ability to work independently and take accountability for his/her/their responsibilities.	Gio started at Mission Academy five weeks ago and has already completed three full classes with an A in all three classes! He is focused, quick to reach out if he has questions, willing to go the extra mile on his schoolwork, and extremely kind in all his interactions. He is truly thriving as a student, and I am so proud of his amazing start with our program.
Leslye K Grimaldi Pineda	Independence: Student demonstrates the ability to work independently and take accountability for his/her/their responsibilities.	Leslye is motivated to complete her remaining credits and ready to submit her CSU Applications! She hopes to attend Cal State Northridge Fall 2025!
Vicente Torres	Resilience: Student has shown the ability to bounce back from adversity and overcome significant challenges	Vicente has a good heart and he has been working hard showing up to all the meetings. He has overcome a lot of struggles and he continues to not give up and tackles the academics with a positive and humble attitude. Proud of you Vicente.
Angelica Del Conte	Resilience: Student has shown the ability to bounce back from adversity and overcome significant challenges	Angelica has been working so hard to overcome obstacles and has really taken the time to reflect and work on herself internally to help her persevere. I am so proud of the grit and determination she has! She has been meeting with our school counselor, Ms Bradley, to prepare for her post-secondary goal, college, and she is also taking her last 3 courses at the same time to get herself to the finish line. She displays resilience in all facets of her life and it does not go unnoticed. Way to GO



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		Angelica!! -Ms Vega
Lailany Evangelista	Independence: Student demonstrates the ability to work independently and take accountability for his/her/their responsibilities.	Lailany is a remarkable young woman who embodies our school values of GRIT. She is independent, a self-advocate, and consistently pursuing excellence in everything she does. Not only does Lailany work with speed and efficiency, she does it well. Her resume was one of the best I've ever seen! She is a solutionseeker and is undeterred by challenges. I can't emphasize enough how much I enjoyed having Lailany in class and look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future!
Blake Ritter	Resilience: Student has shown the ability to bounce back from adversity and overcome significant challenges	Blake recently lost his step-mother unexpectedly and had to step up and take care of his siblings while also completing his school work. He has been grieving and doing the best he can while also making the most of his life with his positive attitude and thoughtful reflection of life. Blake is kind and caring. He works hard and always completes his courses even when the subjects are not his favorite. He never complains. Blake just gets to work.
Joshua Rojas	Transformation: Student has shown a transformation either academically or personally and deserves recognition of growth as an individual	I wish I could nominate Joshua for all 4 of the GRIT awards! Joshua has shown so much growth in the short time that I have been his teacher. He has shown resilience while overcoming difficult obstacles. He recently has independently been seeking out more opportunities to learn and grow while also staying on top of his work and communicating his needs with his teacher team. I am in awe of your growth and resilience, Joshua! Keep doing what you are doing! You have such an amazing future ahead. -Mrs. de Caussin



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Gabriella Yslas	Resilience: Student has shown the ability to bounce back from adversity and overcome significant challenges	Gabi is an incredible example of resilience. She has been able to overcome many challenges and barriers all while remaining kind, dedicated, and on top of her work. I am so proud of all you are doing, Gabi. You are a pleasure to have as a student.- Mrs. de Caussin
Daniella Gonzalez	Resilience: Student has shown the ability to bounce back from adversity and overcome significant challenges	Daniella is an incredible young woman who is successfully managing motherhood, a full-time job, dual enrollment, and multiple classes each Learning Period. She never makes excuses and always pushes herself when she feels she is falling behind. She is just one class away from graduation and is an outstanding example of GRIT and determination.
Leeyah Dwellingham	Independence: Student demonstrates the ability to work independently and take accountability for his/her/their responsibilities.	Leeyah has been absolutely crushing it since she joined Mission Academy! She is completing 15 credits per LP, attending all of her meetings, and is communicative about her needs. She seems to really be thriving here, and I'm so happy to have her as a student!
Jadon Rodriguez	Transformation: Student has shown a transformation either academically or personally and deserves recognition of growth as an individual	Jadon has been on such a positive journey this school year. It took a little while for us to build a relationship as student and AA, but she has shown me her openness and vulnerability in our talks, as well as her excellence and perseverance in her academics. I am so proud of her progress and I look forward to talking with her every time we have a check-in. I am truly so honored to be part of Jadon's academic experience and can't wait to keep working towards graduation!
Samantha Appleton	Transformation: Student has shown a transformation either academically or personally and deserves recognition of growth as an individual	Sami has demonstrated remarkable determination and perseverance, achieving outstanding academic success since enrolling in August by completing 35 credits with an impressive 3.78 GPA. Her commitment is evident in her consistent attendance at every check-in, where she communicates excellently and stays engaged. Sami has set personal growth goals for herself and has surpassed each one with flying colors. I am genuinely impressed with her development,



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		<p>dedication to her studies, and overall success. She is an absolute pleasure to work with, bringing enthusiasm and a positive spirit to every interaction. Keep up the hard work, Sami, and take pride in the incredible journey you've accomplished so far!</p>
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### V. Student Leadership Team Update

- A. Student President of Student Leadership Team, N. Reyes introduced the Student Leadership team and reviewed the team currently meets every Thursday.
- B. **Feedback:** Heather Barnhart requested parents/caregivers to include in chat the type of opportunities they would like the Student Leadership to support as well as unique opportunities for students. What activities would you like to see offered to students online?
  - 1. *Mary Hughes: An E sports Team! -Noah*
  - 2. *Nathaniel Reyes: Field Trips too. 😊*
  - 3. *Julia: Field trips*
  - 4. *May: Drama or Choir*
  - 5. *Aregache Demelew: Tech/STEAM/E Sports/Field Trips*
  - 6. *Mary Hughes: More field trips!!! College tours*
  - 7. *Aregache Demelow: Field Trips to Balboa Park Museum. Yes ART! LOTS OF ART and endless amount of ART!*
  - 8. *Julia: Museums*
  - 9. *Debra Shed: Museums. Beach*
  - 10. *Julia: Observatory, art, music. In person would be great*
  - 11. *Julia: Independent field trip with virtual meeting about it after to make it easier*
  - 12. *Debra Shed: Chit chat Q and A with coffee.*
- C. Jennifer Ulie shared with participants congratulations to N. Reyes for being recently elected as the Student Leadership Team president.
- D. N. Reyes recognized other students in the meet and expressed gratitude for them participating in the meeting.

### VI. Counseling Dept. Student Support Highlights

- A. Heather Barnhart shared our current counselors, how to contact them, and what counselors are available to support
- B. Heather Barnhart shared upcoming counseling events including upcoming in-person graduation





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- C. **Feedback:** Other than text messaging, anything else that would help parents/caregivers to help students finish courses within 4 weeks?
1. *Mary Hughes: Love the text messages but maybe in a text a specific update*
  2. *Debra Shed: Texts are fab!! You guys are on it regarding communication and support.*
  3. *Courtney Lynch-Thomas: Progress reports*
  4. *Leslye Grimaldi: Motivational meetings or student-run check-in*

### VII. Comprehensive Support and Improvement Plan (CSI)

- A. Blair Jenkins, Tutor Coordinator, discussed why the schools qualify for the CSI plan regarding the graduation rate of students in their 4th or 5th year of high school.
- B. Current plan in place has identified increasing Tutoring to increase the graduation rate. As well as a plan in place to identify students once they enter their 4th or 5th year of high school to target with additional support and mentorship. System currently in place to identify students once they begin their 4th or 5th year of high school.

### VIII. Opportunities for Additional Parent/Guardian Feedback

- A. **Feedback:** Heather Barnheart asked parents/caregivers to pick one thing you'll do this year to stay involved with our school?
1. *Wyona Jimenez: Communicate regularly with my child's teacher, read school newsletter, and updates, Provide feedback on school processes and the LCAP*
  2. *Lesley Grimaldi: Mentorship programs to help develop life skills*
  3. *Cindi Bradform: Attend meetings and provide feedback*
  4. *Debra Shed: Are you able to send surveys in texts?*

### IX. Important Dates

- A. Heather Barnhart shared the SPAC upcoming dates.
1. Friday, December 6th, 2024 1pm-2pm
  2. Friday, January 24th, 2025 1pm-2pm
  3. Friday, March 7th, 2025 1pm-2pm
  4. Friday, April 25th, 2025 1pm-2pm
  5. Friday, May 23rd, 2025 1pm-2pm

### X. Next meeting date and time

- A. Heather Barnhart shared the upcoming PAC dates.
1. Q3: February 6th, 2025, 6pm-7pm
  2. Q4: April 10th, 2025, 6pm-7pm

### XI. Thank you





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- A. Jenna Unis reminded parents/caregivers that parent conferences will be held soon and to reachout to Advisors if parents/caregivers are not yet scheduled
- B. Heather Barnhart and Jennifer Ulie thanked award recipients for their hard work and recognition, thanked all participants for attending and looked forward to seeing them at the next meeting.
- C. Heather Barnhart included a QR code and link to remind participants to please share their feedback on the Parent/Guardian survey
- D. Heather Barnhart included a link to the slideshow link for the meeting