

ORION ALTERNATIVE AND MANDARIN IMMERSION

School Site Council Agenda

Oct 22nd 3-4 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rcsdk8-net.zoom.us/j/3081105609?pwd=QmE1UTlrSUpPcnQ4S21pQWtHMWpzUT09>

Meeting ID: 308 110 5609

Passcode: orion1

Responsibilities of School Site Council:

Review, modify, and evaluate the annual Single Plan for Student Achievement.

The school has a Mandarin Immersion program offering 21st-century learning wherein students become bilingual and bi-literate.

The school offers an Alternative Education Program that meets 21st-century learning. It offers a nurturing learning environment where students develop positive values of self-reliance, initiative, kindness, resourcefulness, courage, creativity, and joy.

AGENDA

Time	Facilitator	Topic	Description	Notes
3:00 pm	Winnie	Call to order	Review SSC Ground Rules Christina Luke Luna (Co-op Program Parent Representative, Year 2) Winnie Chen (Principal) Cathy Schechter (Teacher, Year 2) Michelle Chen (Teacher) - new Elva Wu (Teacher, Support Staff, Year 2) Shijia Liu (Teacher) - new Chenchen Gong (Teacher, Year 2)	Meghan listen

			<p>Steven Jeuck (Co-op Program Parent Representative) - new Paul Derby (Co-op Program Parent Representative) - new Joe Ballou (Co-op Program Alternate) - new Tracy Lee (MI Program Parent Representative) - new Mindy Ye (MI Program Parent Representative) - new Tara Charles (MI Program Parent Representative) - new Oscar Flores (MI Program Alternate) - new</p>	
3:05	Winnie	<p>Roll call Introductions</p> <p>SSC Members, please leave cameras on</p>	Confirm attendance of representative members	No absent
3:10	Winnie	Announce Agenda & review meeting minutes	Approve agenda and meeting minutes from September 24th, 2025	<p>Approve agenda</p> <p>Motion: Jiajia Liu</p> <p>Second: Cathay, Steve, Tara</p>
3:15	Winnie	<p>Chairperson Candidates</p> <p>Secretary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vote for chairperson/co-facilitator: Steven Jeuck Vote for notetakers/secretary (on a 	All approved

		y/notetaker	<p>rotating basis) 9/24 - Elva Wu 10/22 - Christina Luke Luna 11/19 - Tracy Lee 12/17 - Paul Derby 1/28 - Mindy Ye 2/25 - Tara Charles 3/25 - Oscar Flores 4/22 - Joe Ballou 5/27 - Cathy Schechter</p> <p>Back Up: Chenchen Gong, Michelle Chen, Shijia Liu,</p>	
3:20	Winnie	Principal Update	<p>Orion School Budget Review SY25-26</p> <p>Please review before Wednesday: Update on the RCSD Strategic Resource Alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● #1 Committee Meeting ● #2 Committee Meeting ● Orion parent representatives: Oscar Flores and Meghan O'Reilley-Green ● RCSD admin representative: Winnie Chen <p>Orion School Budget Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orion Starship PTO 25-26 Budget ● Orion Measure U 25-26 Budget ● Orion School Budget Overview presented by Winnie <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question 1: Based on 	<p>Committee member Oscar and Meghan share first meeting information</p> <p>Oscar: First meeting introduction – members shared strengths and focus areas. Discussed the district budget and questions about district data for the advisory. The final budget submission date is not yet confirmed. Explained that COVID funding has ended, and the district must now cover many programs that were previously supported by temporary funds. The goal is to reduce the budget by \$5.5 million.</p> <p>Oscar: Noted there are many financial issues and questions about where the money goes. COVID-related funding has ended, and while many new programs were started, the district now faces the goal of cutting \$5.5 million, as shared in</p>

			<p>what you know about the district’s funding challenges, please prioritize the programs, services, or supports you consider most important to present rve — both at your school site as well as districtwide. This could include two different or overlapping lists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question 2: Are there programs, services, or practices that could be streamlined, combined, or restructured to make better use of limited resources? 	<p>the first meeting with Dr. Baker.</p> <p>Winnie reviewed the slide deck of “Strategic Resource Alignment”.</p> <p>Winnie: Shared that the school district reviews all student data, including enrollment numbers, particularly for upper grades at Orion. The goal is to encourage students to remain at Orion, especially in the upper grades. Some parents expressed that they may not stay if there are combo classes. Winnie clarified that the decision about combo classes is entirely based on student enrollment numbers, not individual preference.</p> <p>Meghan: mentioned the reasons for the budget cuts. Dr. Baker explained that rising costs — including teacher compensation, facilities, and property expenses — have contributed to the district’s financial challenges. Enrollment patterns also play a role, such as school choice. Many low-income families find it difficult to afford living in the area, and some students have transferred to charter or private schools. Meghan also noted that North Star’s selective enrollment impacts Orion’s student retention, particularly in the upper grades.</p> <p>Winnie presented the school district values and priorities slides. She reviewed the enrollment numbers and</p>
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			<p>explained how student enrollment has increased over the past 10 years(15-25). The school currently has the largest TK class. Winnie highlighted this as a positive sign but emphasized that it completely depends on enrollment.</p> <p>Next, Winnie presented slides explaining enrollment history across different schools. Specifically reviewed Orion’s enrollment data by grade level and explained the rationale for having combo classes in the upper grades. Noted that TK classes are full and have a waiting list, and that families choose to remain on the waiting list. Emphasized that when 2nd graders leave, the district will maximize student numbers in the upper grades. Teachers will review assessment and student data to determine whether combo classes are appropriate.</p> <p>Winnie highlighted that 2nd graders’ choices impact class configurations, and that Orion families come from various neighborhoods and schools.</p> <p>Meghan: Shared that the community is working together to retain 2nd graders and provided some background history and context regarding board policy.</p> <p>Winnie: Continued presenting and explaining staffing allocation, including positions</p>
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				<p>for the district.</p> <p>Meghan: Highlighted that Orion provides reading intervention, a bilingual program, and SLC, offering better resources. Noted that overall, the district is experiencing low enrollment.</p> <p>Cathy: Noted that North Star’s enrollment has remained fairly consistent over the years. However, the school’s practice of pulling students impacts all schools in Redwood City. After 2nd grade, students who do not want combo classes often transfer to charter or private schools.</p> <p>Oscar: Suggested that policies should be applied consistently across all schools in Redwood City.</p> <p>Winnie: Explained that all 2nd graders can take North Star’s admission test.</p> <p>Steve: Asked about the 20% cost for the district office FTE and where that money goes, noting it as a starting point for discussion.</p> <p>Cathy: Suggested that more information is needed before giving recommendations.</p> <p>Oscar: Emphasized the need for more questions and data to identify where cuts could be made.</p> <p>Oscar: Talks about that changes to school structure, such as</p>
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				<p>combining schools.</p> <p>Cathy: Noted that closing school sites could drive students to charter schools.</p> <p>Oscar: Observed that many students previously went to charter schools before returning to Redwood City because their expectations were not met.</p> <p>Meghan: Shared that within Redwood City boundaries there are 7 private schools and 3 charter schools, highlighting that many students are leaving for these options.</p> <p>Oscar: Raised the concern that if more students leave, questions remain about teacher placement and staffing within the district.</p>
3:55	Winnie	Open discussion	Guests are welcome to speak and ask questions on agenda items only.	<p>Winnie: Will share questions with Dr. Baker. Community members are welcome to email Winnie or the school district with questions and requests for additional data and information.</p> <p>School District Funding/Programs:</p> <p>Reading Intervention (0.5 FTE) MTSS TOSA STEAM (0.25 FTE) Outdoor education funding/scholarships</p> <p>Math afterschool tutoring and enrichment (funded by PTO)</p>

				<p>Discussion Points:</p> <p>Questions raised about district priorities and what programs or positions could potentially be cut. Meghan noted that some schools' budgets are increasing. Oscar shared historical data on how the budget has changed. Winnie clarified that Orion no longer receives Title 1 funding. Winnie also noted that the school does not provide school bus services because it is a school of choice. Oscar explained that Title 1 schools receive additional funding and that some schools are considered "at risk" due to legal requirements, attendance, and other factors.</p>
4:00 p.m	Winnie	Adjournment	Thank you	<p>Winnie: Will continue to share more data at the next meeting.</p>

Future Agenda items: