

Brennen Elementary School Improvement Council (SIC)

Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Brennen Elementary Media Center

Attendees:

Tiffany Ligon, Mike Harmon, Stephanie Blackmon, Jake Chapiesky, Kara Knight, Sarah Owens, Lee Patterson, Tracy Miller, Caroline McManus, and Beth Moore.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM.

A. Welcome

B. Approval of Minutes

Stephanie Blackmon made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2 meeting, which Jake Chapiesky seconded. Principal Ligon requested that the approved minutes be sent to Jessica Cypress for posting.

C. Principal's Report

Principal Tiffany Ligon provided an update on recent school activities. She reported that the "Rock Your School" event, themed "Game On," was a great success, with significant student participation and engaging lessons from teachers. The PTO assisted with decorations for the event. A "Pink Out" day and a mini "Walk for Life" were also held, which included meaningful classroom conversations about empathy and community.

Principal Ligon also noted that teachers have been receiving half-day planning sessions to prepare for the second quarter and to adapt to the new iReady math program being implemented by the district. She acknowledged the challenges teachers face when new programs are introduced mid-year. Upcoming is Red Ribbon Week, which will provide another character-building opportunity for students.

D. PTO Report

PTO Co-Presidents Kara Knight and Sarah Owens presented the PTO report. The PTO will operate two big fundraisers this school year – the Color Run on October 24 and the annual auction on March 24.

Now that the playground improvements are complete, the PTO hopes to focus on creating a teacher grant program. They detailed the new "Brennen Bucks" program, designed to funnel fundraising money back into the school now that the multi-year playground project is complete. The program features two funding request opportunities for teachers and staff. A small project fund is available year-round for

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requests under \$250. A second form, treated as a mini-grant program, is for requests over \$250, with an application deadline of November 7. The PTO encouraged SIC members to submit ideas as well.

The PTO also provided updates to upcoming events. Literacy Night is scheduled for this Thursday, with 60 families already registered. The event is open to all Brennen families, not just those with identified literacy challenges. The annual Color Run is scheduled for October 24, with a fundraising goal of approximately \$16,500 yet to be met. A pep rally will be held to encourage final fundraising efforts, and volunteer sign-ups are now circulating.

The Color Run has met its first \$15,000 fundraising goal, and the students have earned their extra recess. Principal Ligon noted that the PTO has chosen this fundraiser as it as an inclusive one, with prizes for all of the students, as well as special activities for kids with sensory and other needs.

E. Paw Pals

Mike Harmon noted a push for more volunteers is needed, and flyers will be distributed at the upcoming Literacy Night to encourage participation.

F. 2025 Career Day

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the upcoming Career Day. The event will be held over two days. Thursday will be for Kindergarten through 2nd grade and will focus on careers involving vehicles. The goal is to secure 12-14 speakers for this day. Friday will be for 3rd through 5th grade, focusing on career clusters, and will require 18-19 speakers. Both days will run from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Council members were asked to help recruit speakers by reaching out to contacts in various fields, particularly in STEM, manufacturing, and transportation. A Google Form will be created to track committed speakers.

The next School Improvement Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, at 5:30 PM in the Brennen Elementary Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.



Respectfully submitted,
Lee Patterson, Secretary (11-11-25)

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