

Brennen Elementary School Improvement Council (SIC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Time: 5:34–6:30 p.m. ET

Location: Brennen Elementary School Library

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **5:34 p.m.** by Chair **Mike Harmon**.

2. Attendees

- Mike Harmon (Chair)
- Stephanie Blackmon (Vice Chair)
- James Ann (Lynch) Sheley
- Jake Chapiesky (Secretary)
- Principal Tiffany Ligon
- Monica Lawton
- Katrina Love
- Kara Knight
- Sarah Owens
- Caroline McManus
- Beth Moore

A sign-in sheet was circulated.

3. Approval of Minutes

- **October Minutes:**
 - Minutes are being compiled by Lee Patterson, Stephanie Blackmon, and Mike Harmon.
- **November Minutes:**
 - Will be voted on in February along with January minutes.
 - Mike will send approved minutes to post.

- **Secretary Update:**

- Lee Patterson stepped down as secretary.
- **Jake Chapiesky was nominated and approved** as the new SIC Secretary. Blackmon nominated, Harmon seconded. All voting members were in favor.

4. Principal's Report — Principal Tiffany Ligon

Principal Ligon provided updates on school operations, academic progress, and staffing:

School Operations & Instruction

- **Second semester** began with a full instructional week (no teacher workday), resulting in a busy but positive start.
- **WIDA Testing** begins soon for multilingual learners; this metric contributes to the school report card.
- **PTA Performance Task Assessment** for gifted identification begins soon.

Events & Programs

- **Beauty and the Beast Musical** will be held on Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at AC Flora auditorium.
- Free admission; concessions support future productions.

Staffing Updates

- New **School Resource Deputy** assigned last week; proactive and engaged.
- New **Social Worker** introduced; begins next week.
- New **Special Education Consultant** assigned and already providing strong support.

5. Junior Achievement BizTown

Principal Ligon and Caroline McManus provided an overview:

- Brennen piloted BizTown last year with strong student engagement.
- Students practiced real-world skills: banking, budgeting, employment roles, voting, and civic decision-making.
- Fifth graders reported it as a highlight of the school year.

- Principal Ligon coordinated expansion for 2026, inviting additional schools and securing **Heyward Career Center** as the host site.
- District leadership approved funding (\$5 per student).
- **Dates:** March 16–20 and March 23–25.
- **Volunteer Need:**
- Each BizTown “business” requires an adult volunteer.
- If other schools struggle to provide volunteers, SIC discussed organizing a volunteer call and shift structure.

6. PTO Report — Kara Knight & Sarah Owens

Updates included:

- **Brennen Bucks** program continuing to support teacher needs.
- **Outdoor Classroom** progress.
- **Annual Auction** scheduled for **March 21**.

Discussion included whether SIC could support or align with Brennen Bucks in future cycles, particularly around identifying schoolwide needs.

7. SIC Initiatives for 2026–2027

The council discussed several initiatives and potential components for the **Dick & Tunky Riley Award** application:

Career Day Redesign

- Feedback from students indicated the previous “vehicle-only” format was repetitive.
- This year’s Career Day included a wide range of professions aligned to state career clusters.
- Strong student engagement, especially in upper grades.
- Community presenters reported positive experiences.

PAW PALS / Parent Support

- Continued interest in expanding parent volunteer and academic support programs.

Family Resource Development

- Discussion of surveying parents, students, and teachers to identify needs and priorities.
- Potential to align PTO funding priorities with SIC-identified needs.

Award Application Planning

- Agreement to begin drafting the Riley Award application early (summer if possible).
- Components may include:
- Student voice-influencing program changes (e.g., Career Day redesign).
- Community-building themes across initiatives.
- Expansion of BizTown to benefit multiple schools.
- Parent support and volunteer engagement structures.

Beth Moore emphasized the emerging theme of **community building and citizenship**, both within Brennen and across schools.

8. Faculty & Community Updates

General updates were shared; no formal motions.

9. Action Items & Next Meeting

- Mike will distribute October, November, and January minutes for review.
- SIC will explore volunteer recruitment for BizTown.
- PTO and SIC will continue discussions on aligning support programs.
- **Next SIC Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026.**

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately **6:30 p.m.**