

Brennen Elementary School Improvement Council (SIC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | 5:30–6:30 PM

(Those in attendance: Tiffany Ligon, Kara Knight, Sarah Owens, Mike Harmon, Beth Moore)

1. Opening Remarks

Chair Mike Harmon opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. A small group was present.

2. Approval of March Minutes

- A quorum was not present; therefore, a vote to approve March minutes could not take place.
- Concern was raised that past SIC minutes are not consistently posted on the school website.
- Action: Follow up with Jake and administration to ensure all prior minutes are submitted and posted.

3. Principal's Report (Tiffany Ligon)

School Highlights & Updates

- **JA BizTown** experience was successful, though initial logistical challenges occurred.
- **Teacher Recognition:** Alex Fogle was named a finalist for District Teacher of the Year.
- **Academic Performance:**
 - Strong gains across grades 3–5 on practice assessments.
 - 3rd grade ranked **1st in the district** with over 90% proficiency in ELA.
- **Reading Initiatives:**
 - Strong participation and success in district reading challenges.

Testing & End-of-Year Focus

- State testing (SC READY) begins in approximately 10 days.
- School-wide initiatives include:
 - First-ever **Testing Pep Rally**
 - **Testing Buddies** program (older students encouraging younger students)

Celebrations & Programs

- Continued recognition of student achievements (e.g., fitness competition winner— Porter Harmon for the 2nd consecutive year).
- Ongoing school-wide and individual recognitions discussed for inclusion in reports.

Annual Report & School Report Card

- Drafting is underway; completion targeted by end of April.
- Discussion included:
 - Potential restructuring (student engagement, family engagement, community involvement).
 - Including highlights such as Career Day participation, service projects, and academic successes.
 - Incorporating survey themes and forward-looking priorities.

4. PTO Report (Kara Knight / Sarah Owens)

Auction Recap

- Highly successful event with **net proceeds nearly doubling the goal.**

Use of Funds

- PTO met with teachers to gather input.
- Identified 6–7 priority areas including:
 - Facility improvements
 - Academic supports
 - Hands-on learning resources

Outdoor Classroom Update

- Near completion; volunteers still needed for final work.
- Teachers are already utilizing the space.
- Future enhancements (e.g., seating) will be considered.

Additional Notes

- Discussion on prioritizing projects that directly impact student experience.
- Nature trail improvements deferred; focus remains on higher-impact initiatives.

5. SIC Initiatives for 2026–2027

Training Opportunity

- Mentoring & Literacy Training with Dr. Julie Moss (April 16).
- Members encouraged to attend or review follow-up insights.

Annual Report / School Report Card

- Collaborative work will continue using a shared document.
- Focus areas may include:
 - Student engagement
 - Family engagement
 - Community partnerships
 - Survey-informed priorities

SIC Survey Results

- Survey feedback will guide future planning.
- Consideration given to communicating key themes (not full data) to the school community.

Tunk and Riley Award

- Initial discussion held.
- Focused work session planned for May meeting.
- Goal: Majority of application work completed over summer (deadline typically December).

6. Faculty / Community Updates

JA BizTown

- Strong student engagement; valuable hands-on learning experience.
- Noted need for consistent volunteer support.

5th Grade Legacy Project

- Discussed shifting from a fundraising model to a **service-oriented project**.
- Potential for increased student ownership and leadership.
- Follow-up needed with grade-level leadership.

Additional Ideas

- Greater student involvement in decision-making (e.g., survey feedback, focus groups).
- Continued emphasis on community service initiatives.

7. Review of Action Items

- Follow up on posting all SIC meeting minutes online.
- Begin collaborative work on Annual Report and School Report Card.
- Share and organize content via a common document.
- Gather input from staff and SIC members for report highlights.
- Continue PTO coordination on funded initiatives.
- Prepare for May meeting focus on Tunk and Riley Award.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **6:20 PM**.