Brennen Elementary SIC Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2026

The Brennen Elementary School Improvement Council met Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in the school library. Chair Mike Harmon presided; two new parent members were elected.

In attendance (12): Mike Harmon, Stephanie Blackmon, Kendra Myers, Angeles Estrada, Tammy Henry, Amy Weaver, Tiffany Ligon, Kimberly McIntee, Kim Flicker, Caroline McManus Easley, Rebecca Gillespie, Beth Moore.

1. Opening remarks (Mike Harmon, Chair)

Mike Harmon called the meeting to order, welcomed members and reviewed the SIC's purpose.

- **Role of the SIC:** The council includes teachers, administrators, PTO representatives, parents and community members. It does not raise funds; it looks for ways to improve career day, volunteering, parent support and student life, and supports the PTO with volunteers.
- **Voting members:** State rules require elected voting members, set by the bylaws. Principal Ligon recuses herself from votes, as do PTO representatives.
- **Agenda requests:** Members and community guests may ask the Chair to add items before each meeting.
- **2026 Annual Report:** Last year's survey of students, teachers, administrators, and families shaped this year's initiatives and will be repeated.

Election of members. A motion was made and seconded to elect parents **Amy Weaver** and **Kendra Myers** as voting members. The motion passed by voting members.

A succession plan was shared so parent seats rotate with continuity (roughly two members joining while three stay on). Jake, an elected member last year who stepped away, may return to the elected board.

2. Principal's report (Tiffany Ligon)

- **Staff theme:** This year's theme is "Let's grow, bloom and root for each other."
- **Academics:** The first round of I-Ready testing is complete. I-Ready now covers both math and ELA; ELA replaces the STAR assessments used before.

- **Growing Together Night – Planting Seeds for Success (September 22):** This curriculum night responds to survey feedback asking for more parent resources. Teachers built a menu of sessions with descriptions so families can pick topics.
- **Palmetto's Finest:** A team of about 12–13 staff is preparing the school's first application in many years, due for submission next week. Selection for a site visit is the first step.

3. PTO report (Rebecca Gillespie)

- **PTO meeting:** The PTO meets tonight right after the SIC meeting; all are welcome.
- **Internet Safety (September 29):** A presenter from the Attorney General's office will give age-based sessions to students during the day and a parent session in the evening on protecting children online.
- **Walk for Life (October 8):** Teacher-led; the PTO is recruiting volunteers to staff the route.
- **Color Run (October 23):** This is the third year. The PTO reported reaching its fundraising goal (30K) earlier today; sponsors and volunteers are still needed.
- **Communication:** Families should sign up for the Brennen Blast through the website to receive updates.
- **Use of excess funds:** Last year's surplus sits in the PTO mission account. After a teacher round table, ideas include partly funding a part-time staff position, which would be an ongoing budget commitment. Tonight the PTO votes on buying a vision screening device; the nurse currently borrows the district's device and could only screen 3rd grade last year. Two parents wrote that school screenings caught their children's vision problems.

4. SIC initiatives for 2026–2027 (Mike Harmon)

- **Survey:** Beth Moore led last year's survey of parents, teachers and community members. Results led directly to Growing Together Night. The survey will continue at the end of each year.
- **Dick and Tunky Riley Award:** Survey results will support the application, typically due December 1. The award recognizes SICs in good standing and engaged with their community. Mike has met with Dr. Quantina Haggwood about the process.
- **SC-SIC Connect Dinner (October 22, Lexington):** Open to all SIC members; new members are encouraged to attend. Trainings and events are listed at sc-sic.org.

- **Paw Pals:** Volunteers work weekly with kindergarten and 1st grade teachers, mainly supporting small reading groups.
- **Mentor program:** Volunteers mentor a student about 30 minutes a week.
- **Career Day:** Last year's career-cluster format, developed with Dr. Moss, worked well for grades 3–5 and brought in less traditional careers.
- **Student leadership:** Members discussed partnering with the school's house team and inclusion team on leadership projects for upper grades. New offerings this year include a Boys' running club.

5. Faculty and community updates (Stephanie Blackmon)

Grade	Update
Kindergarten	Nothing new to report
1st	Sorted into houses; first grade-level house meeting Friday; field trip upcoming; i-Ready testing complete
2nd	Nothing to report
3rd	Studying plot versus theme; practicing addition
4th	Nothing to report
5th	House leaders elected; i-Ready diagnostic complete; Camp Discovery field trip in October

- One class (PK) is at capacity with 20 students and has finished beginning-of-year numeracy and literacy testing.
- Congratulations to Caroline McManus, now Mrs. Easley; students celebrated with a farewell song.
- **5th grade legacy projects:** Mrs. Easley plans to survey students, find the majority idea and possibly vote at grade level, perhaps with a house element. Members suggested first sharing last year's survey results with students in a class meeting, as was done successfully last year. Mike offered to visit and explain the SIC's role so students know their input matters.

6. Action items

- Mike Harmon: send draft minutes to members before approval at the next meeting
- Mike Harmon: update and recirculate the bylaws to reflect tonight's motion
- Mike Harmon: send each agenda at least 24 hours before meetings
- SIC: begin compiling the Dick and Tunky Riley Award application (due about December 1)
- Caroline McManus Easley: gather student input for 5th grade legacy projects; coordinate with Mike on a class visit
- All members: confirm your email is on the sign-in sheet; invite community partners to attend

7. Next meeting and adjournment

These minutes will be voted on and approved at the next meeting and then posted on the Brennen website, as state standards require. The next SIC meeting is **Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 5:30–6:30 PM** in the library, followed by the PTO meeting at 6:30. Meetings are open to parents and community members.

Mike Harmon adjourned the meeting.