

Meeting Date September 23, 2025
Zoom

Meeting Location: ITHS Room 1-210 &

Members present	Patricia Hurley, Ashley Rosenthal, Melissa Slade, Rhonda Burnett, Lisa Wirtz, Lori Nastase, Melissa Martinez, Aaron Ramos-Ochoa, Wade Welch
Members absent	Juan Rojas
Constituency group represented	Administration, Certificated Staff, Classified Staff, Parents, Student Council

I. Called to order at 3:35 pm by Melissa Martinez

II. Approval of Minutes for April 23, 2025

DISCUSSION NOTES	N/A
CONCLUSIONS	N/A
ACTION ITEMS	
Hurley moved to approve, Slade seconded. Unanimous approval of the minutes for 4/23/2025 meeting.	

III. Call to the audience

DISCUSSION NOTES	Community member and budget override committee member, Emily Verdugo, spoke in support passage of TUSD's Maintenance and Operation (M&O) budget override in the November 4, 2025 special election. Ms. Verdugo is a parent of TUSD alumni and a former TUSD teacher. She is dedicated to fighting for all TUSD students. Ms. Verdugo directed the Site Council to TUSD's website page with information about the per school funding that the override would provide. If passed, the budget override would generate \$45 million in new funding for the district, with about \$27,000 allocated to teacher salary increases and at least \$19,000 for other staff salary increases at Innovation Tech. District-wide funds would be made available for CTE, social workers, reading and math interventionists, expanded credit recovery opportunities, and attendance specialists.
CONCLUSIONS	As a former student and teacher in TUSD, and as a parent of TUSD alumni, she wants to show her gratitude for all the good that she has experienced with TUSD . She wants to give back to TUSD by persuading parents and voters to support this election's override. Should anyone wish to contact her directly, Emily Verdugo can be reached at 520-251-1274 or emilyverdugo1@gmail.com
ACTION ITEMS	

IV. Reports

REPORTS TO REVIEW	Principal; Classified
DISCUSSION	<p>Principal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + We are in the 8th week of the school year! + We had a great start with our first Monday start in several years. In fact, our first day of school attendance was up over previous years! + Our theme this school year is "Building Our Future One Project at a Time". We will focus our efforts on developing schoolwide Project Based Learning opportunities. + Our combined (TUSD & JTED) teaching staff professional development training on 7/31/2025 featured a Project Based Learning consultant from High Tech HS in San Diego, CA. She will return for our next 2 Professional Development days this year and 3 of our teachers will visit High Tech High in January. + Our enrollment has grown to 400 students! We are one of the only TUSD high schools to experience a population increase this year. + Our attendance push aims to improve daily attendance in general, and 1st period on-time attendance in particular. A student who is late to first period every day of the week misses nearly an hour of learning every week. Regular attendance is also important for Project Based Learning. ITHS teachers do not assign a great deal of homework. Learning and project work happens during the school day. + Integrated Action Plan goals call for 10% increase (improvement) for all students from Fall benchmark exams, in September, to Spring benchmark exams in February. TUSD uses an ACT-mimic exam for benchmarks. Our 11th graders performed strongly in all areas of the benchmark exams. 11th graders will take the regular ACT in April. + In August, Student Council sponsored after-school mixers for each of our grade levels and organized the "Senior Sunrise." + Class assemblies were also held in August. Topics covered included: TUSD's Code of Conduct and a review of the new state law banning cell phone use during the school day. TUSD will continue its existing cell phone policy with increased attention to enforcement. Students were warned that violations of the policy could result in the principal holding a cell phone until a parent can pick it up. + 8/12/2025: we held an Advanced Placement Curriculum Night for families of students taking AP Seminar and AP US History. We were pleased to share that 8 of the 10 AP Seminar students who took the exam last year, passed and received college credit! + 8/19/2025 was Open House. + This year, we added Art as an elective and students are loving it! + We added a third Math teacher too! We have been able to reduce class sizes, especially for freshman in Algebra I. + 9/18/2025: Parent teacher conferences were held in the Event Center. We were happy to see parents and were grateful to the 4 parents who completed the Parent Survey. + We have just 7 days left in the 1st Quarter! October 2 is the last day of classes. October 3 will be grading day. + Fall Break will be October 6-10, 2025. School will resume October 13, 2025. + Juniors and Sophomores in AP Seminar are eligible to take the PSAT in October. Interested students can volunteer to take the test.. + October 29, 2025 will be a Professional Learning Day for teachers. Students get the day off.
	<p>Classified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Our new Attendance Tech, Alejandra Saenz, start with us on the last day of school in May. She is a much welcome addition to our campus and is doing great! + One of our custodians resigned this summer. We are looking for a replacement. + Undesignated Tax Credit balance is \$6760.40 with 2024-2025 AP testing costs yet to pay.
CONCLUSIONS	We are off to a great start!
ACTION ITEMS	
	N/A

V. Action Items

ITEM TITLE	ITHS Student Council requests \$1050 to fund registration fees for 10 students to attend the 2026 AASC State Convention at Gilbert High School in Gilbert, AZ on January 29-31, 2026.
DISCUSSION NOTES	<p>Student Council President Aaron Ramos-Ochoa and Rep. Wade Welch delivered a presentation in which they stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Convention is the biggest event for student leaders in Arizona.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will provide networking opportunities and an exchange of ideas. There will be an election for state leaders. Our students will learn new skills and make connections to make ITHS better and introduce our school to the rest of the state. The cost is \$105 per student but will go up to \$115 per student after November 28. Unclear whether there is a fee for the advisor's registration. Our sophomore and freshmen class representatives are especially excited to attend. Attendance would boost school spirit by giving our student leaders new tools and ideas. 10 students have volunteered to go. Decisions about attendance will be made considering grades and GPA. We will need verification about the use of undesignated tax credit funds for the conference and a field trip packet will need to be submitted and approved before generating the purchase order. Considerations: a TUSD van could cost about \$300; TUSD vans typically accommodate 8-9 students; there is a designated female chaperone, but a male chaperone will also be needed.
RESOLUTION	
Slade moved to approved \$1050 to cover the cost of student registration for the AASC State Convention - contingent upon the determination of other costs for the trip and the contribution of Student Council funds. Lyon seconded. The motion passed unanimously and \$1050 was approved for up to 10 students' registration fees to attend the AASC State Convention.	

ITEM TITLE	\$600 from Undesignated Tax Credit funds to purchase new handheld radios.
DISCUSSION NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several of our radios are broken or are no longer working. We cannot pay repair costs, we are only able to purchase new radios. Just today, tech was here to work on the radios. There was a discussion about switching from analog to digital handheld radios. Our buildings' materials (metal) make analog radios less effective. Digital handheld radios would be much better. The cost has not been determined but, ultimately, JTED will make the decision to switch to digital.
RESOLUTION	
Slade moved to approve \$600 to purchase new handheld radios. Burnett seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.	

ITEM TITLE	\$600 from Undesignated Tax Credit funds for Field Trips
DISCUSSION NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes, field trip opportunities arise unexpectedly. Holding \$600 in reserve would help pay for field trips, particularly to pay for buses. The cost of an in-Tucson TUSD bus is \$150.
RESOLUTION	
Hurley moved to approve \$600 for Field Trips. Nastase seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.	

VI. Discussion/information items

ITEM TITLE	N/A
DISCUSSION NOTES	N/A
RESOLUTION	

ITEM TITLE	
DISCUSSION NOTES	

RESOLUTION

ITEM TITLE	
DISCUSSION NOTES	
RESOLUTION	

VII. Submission of items for next agenda.

- Next meeting: October 21, 2025.
- National Honor Society
- AP testing fees from Undesignated Tax Credit funds.
- Student Council report
- State school letter grade

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm by Martinez

- Slade moved. Rosenthal seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

