

# Innovation Tech HS School Council

Minutes (2025-2026)

Meeting Date 11/1/2025 Meeting Location: ITHS Room 1-210

Members present	Lisa Wirtz, Melissa Slade, Rhonda Burnett, Ashley Rosenthal, Linda Lyon, Patricia Hurley, Aaron Ramos- Ochoa, Melissa Martinez
Members absent	Lora Nastase, Juan Rojas
Constituency group represented	Parent, Teacher, Admin, Student

- **I.** Called to order at 3:41 pm by Melissa Martinez
- II. Approval of Minutes for (9/23/2025)

DISCUSSION NOTES	N/A
CONCLUSIONS	N/A
ACTION ITEMS	
Approved.	

### **III.** Call to the audience

DISCUSSION NOTES	N/A
CONCLUSIONS	N/A
ACTION ITEMS	
N/A	

# IV. Reports

REPORTS TO REVIEW	Principal, Classified, Student Council
DISCUSSION	<ul> <li>End of Q1: good benchmark testing experience followed by Fall Break</li> <li>PSAT testing: this year, students were required to 'opt in'; about 100 juniors and AP Seminar sophomores took the test. Overall, scores were similar to last year. 5 students scored high enough to make them eligible for the National Merit scholarship.</li> <li>Professional Learning Day 10/29/2025: students had the day off. TUSD and JTED focused on developing unit plans for Project</li> </ul>



Based Learning in their individual classes. Throughout Semester 1, many students have attended JTED field trips in preparation for competitions later this school year. Spirit Week 10/27-31/2025: great participation from students Week of 10/27/2025: the State of Arizona announced school letter grades. Innovation Tech HS was rated as an "A" school! Since opening in 2020, our grade had been a "B". ITHS joins University HS and Sabino HS as TUSD's only "A" rated high schools! The hard work of maintaining our "A" has begun. We're working on a school wide celebration. Q2 Progress Reports were posted on 11/17/2025. Attendance push to reduce unexcused absences. Seniors have been notified that if they accrue 10 or more unexcused absences in a class, they will not receive credit for that class. Students can appeal NC grades and restore the credit. Winter Formal will take place 12/12/2025. The theme is "Nights in the North Pole." The cost for individual students to attend is: \$15 if purchased in November, \$20 if purchased by 3:15 pm on 12/12/2025, or \$25 if purchased at the door on the night of the dance. Q2 Spirit Week will take place the week before Final Exams. Semester 1 Final Exams will be on 12/17 (periods 1, 3, 5) & 12/18 (periods 2, 4, 6). No lunch will be served on half days. Semester 1 Grading Day will be 12/19/2025. There will be no school for students that day. Winter Break is December 22, 2025 to January 2, 2026. Classes resume, and Semester 2 begins, on January 5, 2026. Open Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now open! Classified Proposition 414, TUSD's bond/override, was approved by voters. Funds will go towards, among other things, \$1200 stipend for classified and a \$1500 raise for teachers. Student Council StuCo has been very busy running an after school snack bar, working in Winter Formal committees. **CONCLUSIONS ACTION ITEMS** 

### **V.** Action Items

ITEM TITLE	Use \$880 from Undesignated Tax Credit funds to pay an outstanding balance to the College Board from last year's AP exams.
DISCUSSION NOTES	Question: what will happen if the bill goes unpaid? Answer: it would eventually be referred to TUSD.
RESOLUTION	
Slade moved to approve the use of \$880 from Undesignated Tax Credit funds to pay for last year's AP exams. Rosenthal seconded. Motion passed unanimously.	



ITEM TITLE	Use \$1697.24 to pay for hotel costs for 10 Student Council members and 2 chaperones to attend the Arizona Association of Student Councils Leadership Conference in Gilbert, AZ from 1/29-1/31/2026.
DISCUSSION NOTES	<ul> <li>Site Council previously approved \$1050 to pay for the AASC Leadership Conference registration fees.</li> <li>Hotel fees will pay for 4 rooms over 2 nights (1 room for chaperones, 1 room for male students, 2 rooms for female students)</li> <li>Hotel fees include morning breakfast and afternoon snacks</li> <li>Question: are there other funds available to help pay the hotel fees? Answer: StuCo has \$600 in designated tax credit donations specifically for workshops and conferences.</li> <li>Question: how much is available in Undesignated Tax Credit funds for all requests? Answer: currently, there is \$3,630.47 available.</li> <li>Question: does StuCo also need to cover the cost of car rental and gasoline? Answer: StuCo needs \$297.11 to pay for car rental and further funds for gasoline.</li> </ul>

#### **RESOLUTION**

Slade moved to approve \$1500 from Undesignated Tax Credit funds to cover the bulk of the cost of hotel fees for ITHS Student Council members to attend the AASC Leadership Conference in Gilbert, AZ. Burnett seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM TITLE	National Honor Society request for \$1500 from Undesignated Tax Credit donations to cover start up Induction costs for the ITHS chapter.
DISCUSSION NOTES	<ul> <li>Without most of the usual high school activities and clubs (sports, music, etc.) at ITHS, National Honor Society is a worthwhile investment. It provides another avenue for students to be involved in a positive activity.</li> <li>School staff committee (Martinez, Greco, Hernandez, Salaz, Herring) approved 20</li> <li>members for induction.</li> <li>Initial membership drive (morning announcements, teacher encouragement, signs, Fall Parent Conferences) to recruit sophomores, juniors, and seniors yielded 20 new members – so far.</li> <li>NHS has already elected officers and has begun planning fundraisers and a service project (animal shelter).</li> <li>NHS is planning their required Induction Ceremony for January 23, 2026.</li> <li>Requested funds will be used to pay for certificates and pins and to help cover part of the membership fee for each NHS student.</li> </ul>
RESOLUTION	

Hurley moved to approve \$1000 of Undesignated Tax Credit donations to ITHS National Honor Society chapter. Burnett seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM TITLE	Martinez requested \$400 of Undesignated Tax Credit donations for a field trip to the Arizona Theater Company's student matinee for "Ain't Misbehavin"
DISCUSSION NOTES	<ul> <li>As a Title I school, the cost is \$1 per student for the performance. We plan to take 100 students (juniors and seniors). We will need 2 TUSD school buses to transport us to the Temple of Music and Arts.</li> <li>This is a wonderful chance to appreciate the hard work of our graduating seniors.</li> <li>When possible, we should provide opportunities for our students to experience the arts.</li> </ul>

### RESOLUTION

Lyon moved to allocate previously approved funds from our Q1 meeting to pay for 100 students at \$1 each and 2 buses for a field trip to a matinee performance of the Arizona Theater Company. Slade seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

## VI. Discussion/information items

ITEM TITLE	Spring Advanced Placement test fees and schedule



DISCUSSION NOTES	43 students are scheduled to take either the AP Seminar or AP US History (APUSH) exam in May. Ms. Burnett met with each student individually. Students interested in taking the exam signed an intention and understanding of the cost. She informed them that, if they changed their minds, they will be charged for the cancellation fee. Total estimated cost of 2026 test fee is \$2279.  Inquiry about a reduction in fees from the College Board based on students' economic need.  Question about setting a precedent for paying for students' individual test fees. Should we?  Suggestion that we set a partial payment for students.  In 2025-2026, kids were told that the test is paid for.  Discussion tabled until Semester 2.
RESOLUTION	
ITEM TITLE	
DISCUSSION NOTES	
RESOLUTION	
ITEM TITLE	
DISCUSSION NOTES	
RESOLUTION	

**VII.** Submission of items for next agenda.

Action Item: request Undesignated Tax Credit donation funds to pay for AP testing.

**VIII.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm by Martinez (following motion by Hurley and second by Slade).





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