

Sahuaro School Council

Minutes 2025-2026

Meeting Date: September 23, 2025

Meeting Location: Zoom 835 4407 2830

Members present	Cara Grasso Roberto Estrella Carol Rodriguez Jackie Krieg Philip Hemmo Lori Emrich Amber Wolf Ali Wood Allyse Chalmers	Facilitator/Teacher Administration Administration Teacher Teacher Classified Parent Student Student
Members absent	Maria Saavedra TBA TBA	Parent Parent Community Rep

I. Called to order at 4:00 by Cara Grasso

II. Cara began the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Cheryl Watters.

III. Call to the audience

DISCUSSION NOTES	<p><u>Dara Carlson</u>, on behalf of the PBIS Committee, is seeking funds to help stock the Cougar PBIS store. An example of items that will be purchased includes school supplies, snacks, fidgets, gift cards, etc.</p> <p>Bryan Nodine, A TUSD employee for over 30 years and now with the political action committee, spoke to the Site Council about the upcoming special Maintenance and Operations budget override election on November 4th. The funds generated would be used to increase teachers' salaries, expand fine arts, invest in students' well-being, and much more. The override is expected to generate about \$45 million in the first year. For more information, you may follow the link: https://www.tusd1.org/article-20250814-maintenance-and-operations-override-2025 If you are interested in supporting the efforts through volunteering, you may email Mr. Nodine: bmnodine@gmail.com</p>
CONCLUSIONS	
ACTION ITEMS	

IV. Reports

A. Principal Report

Parent Square: Mr. Estrella is not sure what the parents see regarding the app, but he is pleased with the administrator side. It is user-friendly, and information is being disseminated to families quickly and efficiently.

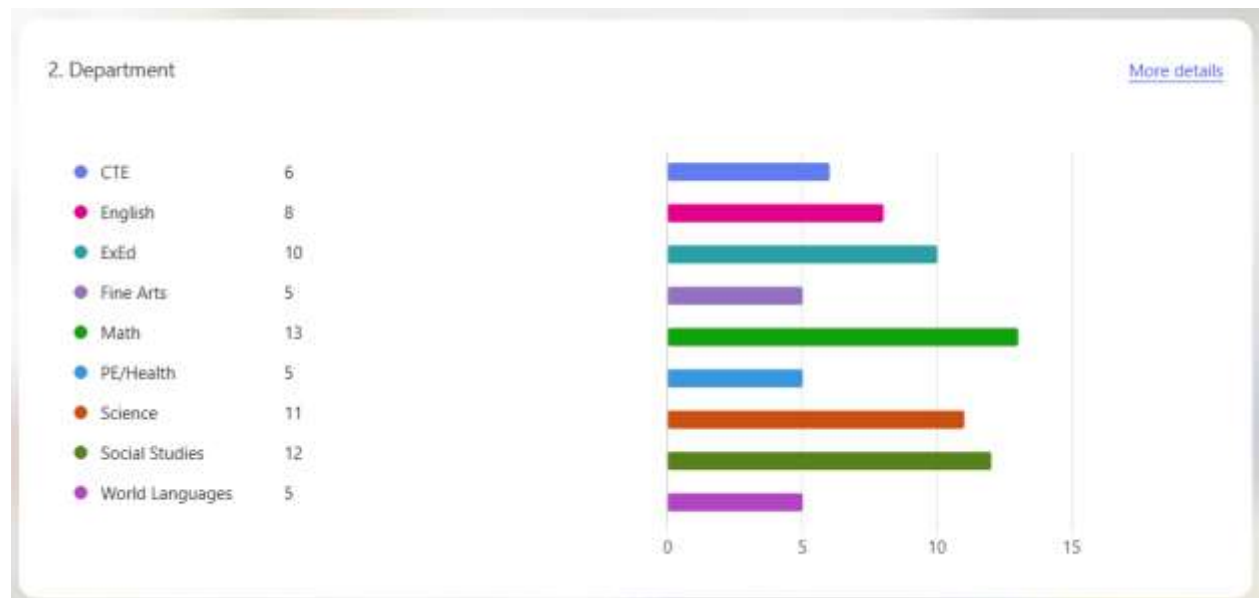
Class Intercom: A new app that is like other social media app. Mr. Estrella wants to encourage Coaches, club sponsors, and music directors to use Class Intercom. It is another platform to send out even more information regarding events and celebrations

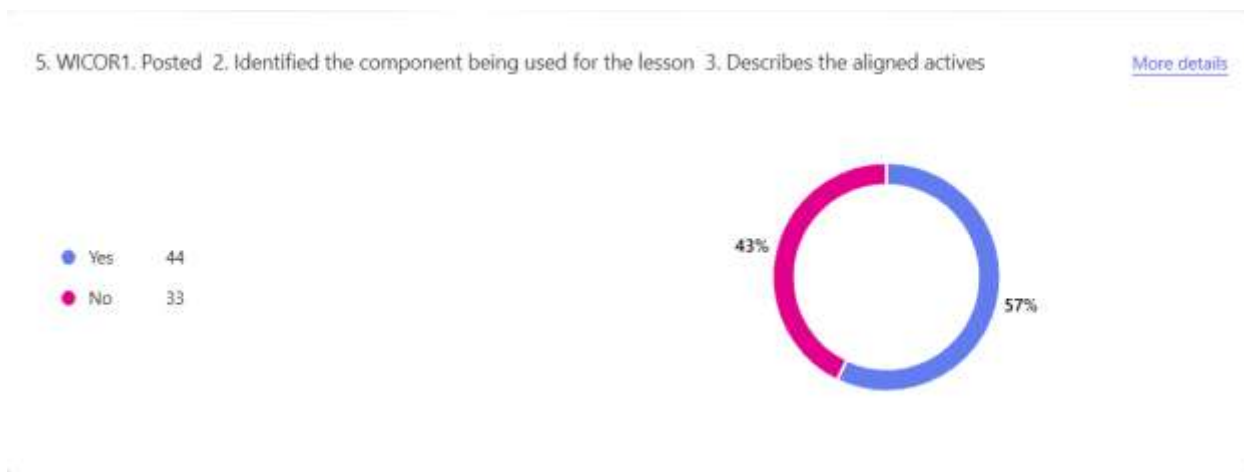
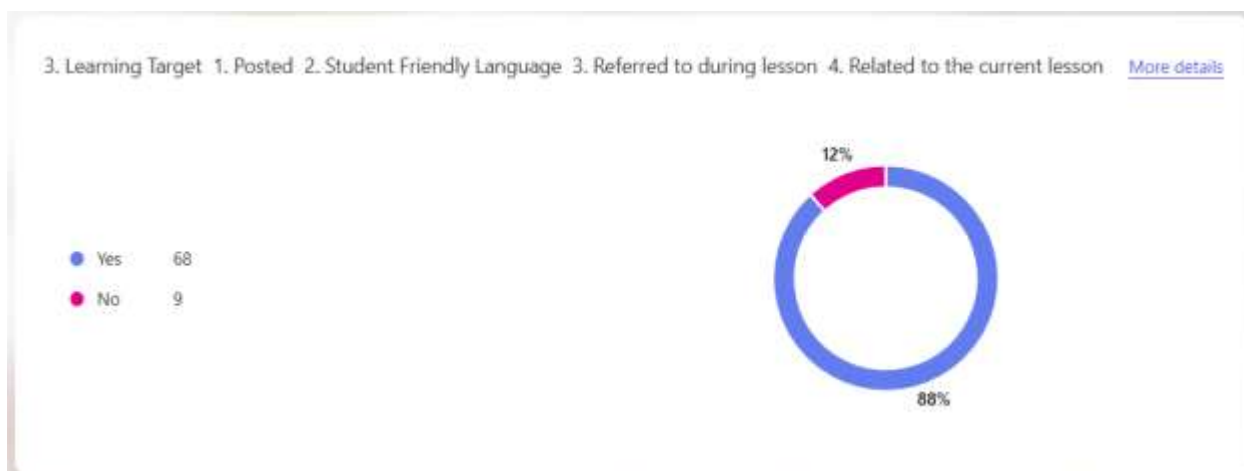
Digital Hall Pass- With the implementation of digital hall passes there have been and continue to be adjustments. It has been found that a student ID is not as critical since students' pictures populate in the app. Overall, teachers are finding it to be a positive tool. We are seeing fewer students in the hallways, and the 3-pass limit has been successful. We are in constant contact with the district to make refinements as needed.

- B. ACT Scores-Not where we want to be, but we are seeing a growth trend. The 2024-25 Math scores made the biggest jump in the district.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
ELA	22.3	27.5	29.6
Math	16.8	10.2	16.7

- C. Administrators have begun their Walk Throughs. They are visiting classes with a Single Point Walk Through focus. The scores reflect posting of Learning Targets, Success Criteria, and WICOR strategies.





D. Eleot Results (Active Learning)

Mr. Estrella and his team are visiting a lot of classrooms this year and seeing improvement with teachers throughout the school. Teachers are following some basic yet high-impact standards, and seeing students improve in their engagement and interest in academic success. They are not seeing cell phones during the walkthroughs. Feedback from the last

Title I walked through was very strong and positive. Sahuaro is expecting to be prepared for next year's big walk through for our Cognia Accreditation Review

- E. Title I Funds are being used to support our credit recovery classes, smaller class sizes for Algebra and ELA. The funds will be used to purchase Casio Calculators so all incoming freshmen will be given a calculator to use over the next four years while at Sahuaro. The funds will also be used to fund tutoring or future faculty training.
- F. Benchmarks are only twice a year. This is the reason for the schedule change. We should be receiving access to those scores very soon. Next benchmarks will be in February.
- G. Homecoming and Dance on Friday, September 26th.
- H. Planning Day on Friday, October 3
- I. Fall Break October 6-10
- J. StuCo Blood Drive Friday, October 17
- K.
- L. AP Chem Numbers

M.

Percentage of Student Scores of 3 or Higher	
Sahuaro's Class	75.0%
Arizona	69.7%
Global	77.9%

- N. Faculty Report
Cara Grasso reported that the National Honor Society (NHS) is off to a good start. Students are looking for volunteer opportunities.
- O. Student Council Report
Allyse Chalmers reported the following:
 - STUCO is preparing for Homecoming
 - Fundraisers have been successful
 - Freshman social was a big success, especially the use of school merchandise.
 - Senior sunrise and parking lot painting were also very successful.

P. Parent Report

Amber Wolf reported that Parent Square has been very helpful in keeping parents informed of events and happenings at the school. She appreciates the new app.

E. Community Report-none

V. Action Items

ITEM TITLE	Election of Site Council Facilitator
DISCUSSION NOTES	Cara Grasso was nominated
RESOLUTION	
Moved By: Roberto Estrella Seconded By: Phil Hemmo Vote: Unanimous: 9-0 in favor	

ITEM TITLE	Election of Secretary
DISCUSSION NOTES	Jackie Krieg was nominated
RESOLUTION	
Moved By: Roberto Estrella Seconded By: Cara Grasso Vote: Unanimous: 9-0 in favor	

ITEM TITLE	Participation Fees for Extracurricular activities up to \$1,000.00 for FY 25-26
DISCUSSION NOTES	These monies would be for those students who have a financial hardship and did not qualify for a full EEF scholarship in order to pay for their FY 25-26 participation fees for Fine Arts and/or Interscholastic activities. To qualify, the student would first need to have their parent/guardian complete the EEF scholarship application. If unable to qualify for the EEF scholarship, then their parent/guardian would complete the TUSD Waiver Form to receive this scholarship opportunity.
RESOLUTION	
Moved By: Jackie Krieg Seconded By: Cara Grasso Vote: Unanimous: 9-0 in favor	

ITEM TITLE	Sponsor Stipend of \$3000.00 for Robotics Club.
DISCUSSION NOTES	The money would be used to pay the two club sponsors and would be split evenly.
RESOLUTION	
Moved By: Jackie Krieg Seconded By: Phil Hemmo Vote: Unanimous: 9-0 in favor	

ITEM TITLE	Supplies for PBIS Store up to \$500.00 for FY 25-26
DISCUSSION NOTES	The funds would be used to purchase items that students could “buy” with the points they have earned. Students are recognized and rewarded with points for meeting expectations, which encourages more positive interactions. The points can then be used to “purchase” items such as school supplies, gift cards, snacks, school merchandise, etc. The committee is seeking additional funding sources through Donors Choose.
RESOLUTION	
Moved By: Carol Rodriguez Seconded By: Jackie Krieg Vote: Unanimous: 9-0 in favor	

ITEM TITLE	AP Test Fees for up to \$3,500.00 for FY 25-26
DISCUSSION NOTES	The money from the Site Council would go to students who do not qualify for AP scholarship test fees. Families will be asked to pay for the first test. This money will be used to help pay any additional test fees the student(s) may want to take. Other funding sources, such as the Cougar Foundation and Civic Funds, will also be used to help fund AP Test Fees.
RESOLUTION	
Moved By: Carol Rodriguez Seconded By: Cara Grasso Vote: Unanimous: 9-0 in favor	

VI. Discussion/information items

ITEM TITLE	None
DISCUSSION NOTES	
RESOLUTION	

VII. Submission of items for next agenda.

- Esports
- Next meeting will be Thursday, November 13th at 4:00 pm via Zoom.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 by Cara Grasso.