

Meeting Minutes

University High School Council

Date: 8/18/2026

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: HYBRID RUHS Library (East-side) or <https://tusd1.zoom.us/j/89347572549>

Attendance (26 of 31 seats filled):

Members present	Administration	Faculty	Students	Parents
	K. Bristow	M. Cassidy	A. Al-Kinani	A. Nelson
	J. Miller	I. Davidowitz	S. Beutel	D. Daniell
	R. Ranjel	S. Don		S. Downer
	Staff	N. Hamilton		A. Rohrbach
	S. Ooka	J. Marchant		
	Community Members	K. Messing		
		R. Schmidt		
		D. Volkman		
Members absent	Administration	Faculty	Students	Parents
			W. Ruiz	K. Citron
			L. Chambers-Daniell	A. Kelly
			B. Chabra	D. Wilson
	Staff		V. Burgos	
	Community Members			

Minutes:

I. Call meeting to order

- a. Chair calls meeting to order at 3:35pm

II. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motion presented: Approval of August Agenda
 - i. Motioned By: Daniell
 - ii. Seconded By: Bristow
- b. Vote Type: Unanimous consent
 - i. Result: Passes

III. Introduction of Councilmembers

- a. New members of the council introduce themselves. D. Volkman from English department, Mr. Davidowitz from Social Studies, Ms. Cassidy from Instructional Council, Ms. Don from World Languages and Mr. Al-Kinani, Student Council VP.

IV. Election of School Council Leadership

- a. Facilitator (President)
 - i. Nominations- Mr. Schmidt from Bristow
 - ii. Vote (*if required*): Unanimous consent, passes
(At this point the incoming Facilitator will take over the meeting)
- b. Assistant Facilitator (Vice-President)
 - i. Nominations- Ms. Messing volunteers
 - ii. Vote (*if required*): Unanimous consent, passes
- c. Secretary
 - i. Nominations- Mr. Miller volunteers
 - ii. Vote (*if required*): Unanimous consent, passes
- d. Treasurer
 - i. Nominations- none and no volunteers, will table discussion for now
 - ii. Vote (*if required*): tabled

V. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

- a. Motion presented: Approval of April Minutes with no corrections
 - i. Motioned By: Daniell

ii. Seconded By: Hamilton

b. Vote Type: Unanimous consent

i. Result: Passes

VI. Call to the audience:

a. Mr. Madrid Rincon Assistant Principal proposing to name spaces around campus

i. Richard Utter is former boys basketball coach, here at RUHS for 40 years. Achieved 500 wins, coach of the year awards, a hall of fame entry in 2015, was also a teacher at Rincon for 20 years. Want to honor him by naming South Gym after him.

1. Miller shares Utter always cared about students and their well being, won Cotton and Fitzsimmons coach of the year awards.

ii. Roxanne Taylor is former boys soccer coach, 3 time AZ coach of the year, won 3 state championships at RUHS. 3rd winningest coach in the state and achieved 500 wins as well.

Proposing to name the soccer field after Roxanne

1. Schwartz - 2007-2009 went to 3 state championships, D1 players came from RUHS, 2020 honoree for MLK Basketball Classic contribution. Coached softball as well. Came here in early 70's and coached boys soccer when her daughter had to play on that team. Family always attended UHS or Rincon. Coached club teams, has been recognized for that as well. No other female coach in boys soccer or boys sports at all that have as many wins, head counselor in Dioces of Tucson. She believed in serving other people. Spearheaded Tucson Torro's baseball. Done many things in Tucson and on Tucson's east side to support youth in athletics.

VII. Action/ Discussion Items:

a. **Action Item: Approval of meeting dates for the 2026-2027 School Council (see *appendix A*)**

i. Discussion/Debate: Second Tuesday of every month will continue, October's meeting will be the 3rd week due to fall break.

ii. Motion for action item: Messing

iii. Second: Rohrback

iv. Vote Type: Voice

1. Result: Passes unanimously

b. **Action Item: Approval of Undesignated Tax Credit Grant Request- Fall Musical Production (see *appendix B*)**

i. Discussion/Debate: Same grant request approved in 2024 for the musical, UHS site council is not the only contributor. \$55,410.54 in the coffers with \$10k pledged to Writing Specialist position, there is usable \$45,410.54.

1. Bristow- Does Rincon site council contribute?
 2. Schmidt- Yes but they have not had a meeting yet
 3. Marchant- Is this a fundraiser? Do they charge admission?
 4. Messing- I don't think they make much off it, would like for them to make something
 5. Beto- They do charge admission, but choir, theater, and dance all split the funds.
 6. Messing- Schmidt, how much did the raw materials cost you just for what you needed to build the set in 2024?
 7. Schmidt- Don't remember exactly but I think about 2500 in supplies and another big cost they have had in the past are royalties for the music.
 - ii. Motion for action item: Cassidy
 - iii. Second: Rohrbach
 - iv. Vote Type: Roll Call
 1. Result: Passes (Yes-15, No-1, Abstain-2)
- c. **Action Item: Approval of Undesignated Tax Credit Grant Request – Portable AC Units (*see appendix c*)**
- i. Discussion/Debate: \$2,400-\$3,600 Requesting portable AC units for departments that don't have them.
 1. Ranjel- Limited resources when AC goes out. Interim proposal for small air conditioning units. After discussing with all departments to purchase them. Asking for money from site council.
 2. Volkman- Why is it on us to pay for this when TUSD has money for bulletproof glass?
 3. Ranjel- Don't have money allocated for M&O, only certain spending is allowed
 4. Miller- Would units also be available for Rincon or exclusively UHS?
 5. Ranjel- open to sharing
 6. Al-Kanani- This situation has affected LL6 which is where student council meets, must move rooms for class. Inconvenient.
 7. Davidowitz-Do we know how well they work? Will they work without windows?
 8. Ranjel shares screen on zoom of desired AC unit, reviews listing
 9. Messing- Do they need a window? Have we used them before?
 10. Ranjel- No and no
 11. Marchant- When we've used them, is it actually temporary? Have district been fixing the AC?
 12. Davidowitz- Used for 2 months until it was fixed
 13. Schmidt- Similar experiences in my area of campus
 14. Hamilton- Are we worried this moves us down on list of priorities?
 15. Ranjel- No

16. Rohrbach- Units can be loud, is that a concern of it disrupting class? Does it make more sense to buy one model?
 17. Davidowitz- Maybe we can look at specs of sound level?
 18. Ranjel- Eden direct, 4 in 1 portable air conditioner 50 decibels
 19. Daniell- 50 decibels is a quiet speaking level
 - ii. Motion for action item: Bristow
 - iii. Second: Al-Kinani
 - iv. Vote Type: Roll call vote
 1. Result: Passes (Yes-17, No-0, Abstain-0)
- d. **Action Item: Approval to name the RUHS Gym after Rich Utter**
- i. Discussion/Debate:
 1. Volkman- Personally, is not for naming things after anyone. It can be complex at times. Not saying they aren't great, if there was a mural or a plaque that would be beneficial. Renaming gets lost over time. Concerned about planning, would like other people of the future to understand the purpose.
 2. Schmidt- This is the first step, that is a future step. Today we are just saying if we are okay with it.
 - ii. Motion for action item: Bristow
 - iii. Second: Volkman
 - iv. Vote Type: Voice
 1. Result: Passes
- e. **Action Item: Approval to name the RUHS main field after Roxanne Taylor**
- i. Discussion/Debate:
 1. Schmidt- Field was named in 2004 for Lou Dexter who passed away. Doesn't think it ever happened in official capacity. Marchant suggested naming new band room after Mr. Dexter to honor that previous decision.
 - ii. Motion for action item: Volkman
 - iii. Second: Bristow
 - iv. Vote Type: Voice
 1. Result: Passes
- f. **Action Item: Revision and Approval of letter to TUSD about insufficient bathroom access/accessibility to water in Tech Building/Portables area (*see appendix D*)**
- i. Discussion/Debate: Letter is ready to go but needs student and parent comment and final edit
 - ii. Motion for action item: To table until student and parent contributions

1. Result: Tabled

g. Discussion Item: Beginning of Year Information Form for mandatory demographic information to be submitted to TUSD

- i. Discussion/Debate: Scan the QR or utilize the link in the email for the meeting, district always must collect this information of council members.

h. Discussion Item: Council Seats still needing to be filled

- i. Discussion/Debate: Parent Meeting on Thursday with one seat to fill. Two student seats to fill.

VIII. Reports

a. Principal's Report

- i. Just over 1000 at UHS, 227 9th grade students. School ranking released today, UHS is #55 in the country. BASIS schools have all fallen out of top 10. It's not a perfect report, but we are very proud. AP scores in from last year, administered 2400 tests, thank you Flores and Nieves. Raised passing rate from 91% to 96% across the entire school.
 - 1. Daniell-Asking about attendance changes hinted at in Penguin
 - 2. Ranjel-Will bring polished version to school council, just wanted people to know changes might be coming

b. Policy Review Committee

- i. Constitution mission statement is still technically under review from TUSD.

c. Tax Credit & Budget Committee

- i. \$45,410 -
- ii. \$8,600 pledged today
- iii. \$36,810 remaining

d. Recruitment and Retention

- i. TUSD 8th grade testing window coming up next month
- ii. OOD 8th grade applications will be open in October
- iii. Prospective Penguin Information Night will be the last Tuesday of September and October 9/29 and 10/27

e. Instructional Council – Cassidy

- i. Big issues were facilities issues, scheduling issues are being addressed

f. UHS Foundation and Alumni Association

- i. Lost Tellez and Guthrie from board, internal discussion about who is willing to be on board. Renewed focus after 50th on promoting the organization visibility and Pilote Scholarship, valued at \$10,000.

g. UHS Parent Association - Daniell

- i. First meeting this Thursday at 6pm in RUHS Library

h. UHS Student Council- Al-Kinani

- i. Organizing, a lot of incoming newbies. Officers are very new, only 2 students have had 4 years. Have been able to accomplish a lot. Finalizing votes for class chairs. Getting settled in.

IX. Agenda proposals for the next meeting

- a. **Draft agenda for the next meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting date**
 - i. **Any school council member can request a discussion or action item by sending an email to the facilitator (Robert.schmidt@tusd1.org) before the agenda is finalized.**

X. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Daniell
- b. Second: Al-Kinani
- c. Unanimous voice vote-Passes