



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 25, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HIGH TECH HIGH**

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: The Forum, 2150 Cushing Rd. San Diego, CA 92106
 Village-based Zoom accessibility:
 Conference Room, High Tech High Mesa, 5331 Mt Alifan Dr, Bldg. 900 San Diego, CA 92111
 Conference Room, High Tech Middle North County, 1460 W San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos, CA 92078
 Conference Room, High Tech High Chula Vista, 1945 Discovery Falls Dr, Chula Vista, CA 91915

Zoom(Video):
<https://hightechhigh-org.zoom.us/j/81750144425?pwd=r2emW8avbKv95PnXWP4QmqgB27GQd3.1&jst=2>

Trustees present: Gary Jacobs, Chairman; Christine McComish, Secretary; Lida Rafia, Trustee; Randolph Ward, Trustee; Hadassah Avila, Student Board Member; Diego Harris, Student Board Member

Board Member	Present
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X
Christine McComish, Secretary	X
Albert Lin, Trustee	
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X
Randolph Ward, Trustee	X
Hadassah Avila, Student Trustee	X
Diego Harris, Student Trustee	X

Staff Present: Diana Cornejo-Sanchez, CEO; Isaac Jones, COO; Bobbi Norris, CFO; Patrick Frost, GC; Janie Griswold, CLO; Elizabeth Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Officers

Others present: Kathy Figueroa, interpreter
 Michelle Vera, interpreter
 High Tech High staff
 Members of HTH community

CALL TO ORDER at 5:08 p.m. by Gary Jacobs, Chairman. A roll call of trustees confirmed a quorum.

1.0 BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

1.1 Approve the February 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

1.1.1 Discussion: Staff members provided the Board an opportunity to review and discuss the Board consent agenda items.

1.1.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Randolph Ward and seconded by Christine McComish, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee				X
*Lida Rafia, Trustee				X
Randolph Ward, Trustee	X			
Hadassah Avila, Student Trustee	X			
Diego Harris, Student Trustee	X			

*Trustee Lida Rafia joined the meeting at 5:13PM

2.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

2.1 Report of the Officers

Officer comments included the following:

- CEO Cornejo-Sanchez introduced two High Tech High educators who recently partnered with UNESCO schools in Shanghai to advance interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Montse Kevan (HTH North County) and Lexi Wiggins (HTH Mesa) collaborated closely with Chinese educators, sharing the High Tech High approach to Project Based Learning (PBL). Part of the teacher collaboration work focused on interdisciplinary lesson design which included pre-work observations, lesson design, redesign, and feedback sessions. Teachers focused on 4 projects: Bridge Project, Cat Project, City of Shanghai Project, & Huangpu River Project. Lessons were adjusted after feedback to strengthen project designs. Chinese educators responded positively to feedback on project designs, stating these were practical and realistic adjustments. The partnership fostered a strong sense of enthusiasm for teaching. Chairman Jacobs inquired how Chinese educators responded to the implementation of the PBL approach, particularly in light of the high-stakes nature of the Chinese education system. Lexi reported that educators demonstrated strong enthusiasm for adopting PBL practices. Montse added that the approach did not disrupt their existing instructional framework; rather, it served to enrich and

strengthen the learning process. Secretary McComish asked whether, given the emphasis on project development, there had been discussion regarding parent and community buy-in. Montse confirmed that teachers were highly receptive to involving parents and community members in the projects. She noted that educators expressed particular excitement upon recognizing the meaningful ways families could contribute to and support student learning.

- Director of Admissions and Community Engagement Veronica Grajeda provided an update on the department's efforts that focused on three primary groups: prospective families new to HTH, families already familiar with HTH, and current HTH families transitioning to the next grade level within the organization. To expand outreach to new families, the Admissions team has strengthened its marketing and advertising efforts. This included the development of a short commercial produced in partnership with Target River. The commercial aired on Fox 5 and KUSI for six weeks, generating more than 800,000 impressions. Radio advertisements resulted in approximately 700,000 impressions. Additionally, KPBS Kids advertising targeted families with young children, producing over 25,000 impressions. Outreach efforts also included a banner placement on the KPBS website. Since October 2025, Admissions has held several outreach events with the support of HTH staff members, including hosting booths and representing HTH at charter school fairs, community festivals, and other events. For families who have expressed interest, the Admissions team is focused on cultivating ongoing engagement through newsletters, monthly campus tours, and invitations to exhibition nights. Discovery Days and campus tours continue to be among the most well-attended events, averaging between 20 and 50 families per tour.
- Currently, a focused area of growth is student transition rates with particular attention on the Point Loma schools. Trustee Rafia inquired about the lower transition rate at High Tech Middle North County (HTMNC). COO Jones explained that this has been a recurring trend, largely due to the number of school options available to families in the North County region. To strengthen transition rates, the Admissions team partners closely with school directors and facilitates student ambassador visits, during which current students share their school experiences. College advisors and the Career Technical Education (CTE) Director also provide information to families and students about the transition process. Additionally, surveys have been distributed to current 5th- and 8th-grade families to better understand parent perspectives and identify factors influencing decisions not to continue at HTH schools. Feedback indicates that parents prioritize teacher quality and academic programming, while students' primary interest is sports. Overall, the majority of students and families continue to express interest in remaining within HTH. Chairman Jacobs asked about the 13.5% of families who indicated they do not plan to return. Veronica

explained that these decisions are often based on individualized circumstances and that the team continues to engage with families in an effort to improve these rates. In some instances, families have already made the decision to not return. Although open enrollment has closed, applications continue to be accepted. Overall enrollment numbers are similar to those from the previous year, with Chula Vista, North County, and Mesa campuses reflecting similar trends. Middle schools, however, are experiencing a decline in applications. Chairman Jacobs also inquired whether marketing efforts include Spanish-language outreach. Veronica shared that Spanish-language marketing materials are not currently being produced. Trustee Rafia highlighted that capacity constraints within admissions and marketing represent an opportunity for growth.

- CLO Griswold presented the Mid-Year LCAP update. She explained that the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) outlines the organization's annual goals, as well as the specific actions and metrics used to measure progress toward those goals. The mid-year update provides an opportunity to assess implementation and review progress to date. Expenditure data reflected in the report are drawn from the interim financial reports. Overall, spending is on pace with projections, with minor variances related to stipends and shared-role allocations. Any necessary adjustments will be updated at year-end. Key metrics reviewed included California School Dashboard indicators such as CAASPP performance, chronic absenteeism, and YouthTruth survey data. Of the nine LCAPs submitted across the schools, all but two demonstrated growth in mathematics. A consistent trend across sites is a reduction in chronic absenteeism. While rates have improved, chronic absenteeism continues to remain above pre-pandemic rates. To address this, Deans continue to collaborate on restorative practices, and schools are expanding targeted literacy supports for students. The organization is also exploring the extension of academic programming for elementary students. Trustee Ward inquired about the criteria used to determine student participation in the extended learning program. CLO Griswold explained that the program is funded through the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) and is available to all students. Students who qualify for Free and Reduced Price Lunch may participate at no cost and those who do not qualify are still offered competitive pricing. Trustee Rafia acknowledged the staff's focused efforts to address chronic absenteeism and noted the positive impact reflected in improved data. Secretary McComish expressed appreciation to CLO Griswold for her thorough tracking, analysis, and thoughtful implementation of strategies designed to support and uplift all students. Trustee Rafia also requested disaggregated data related to restorative practices, noting that reviewing systemwide trends would be informative for the Board.

3.0 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- 3.1 Members of the public were provided time to address the board.

4.0 BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS

4.1 Chairman’s Report

4.2 Board Member Comment

Chairman and Board Member comments included the following:

- None.

5.0 PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

5.1 High Tech High Initial Proposals for Collective Bargaining

Officer comments included the following:

- General Counsel Frost shared that prior to beginning the bargaining process, we need to sunshine the collective bargaining proposals. The first Classified Bargaining session is currently scheduled to take place on March 27, 2026.

6.0 CEO CONSENT ITEMS

6.1 Approve the 2026-2027 High Tech High Comprehensive School Safety Plan and Confidential Site Emergency Response Plan for the Point Loma, Chula Vista, North County and Mesa Campuses

6.2 Approve the Purchase Order from AVI-SPL for AV System Upgrades in the Forum

6.1.1-6.2.1 Discussion: Staff members provided the Board an opportunity to review and discuss the CEO consent agenda items.

6.1.2-6.2.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Randolph Ward and seconded by Diego Harris, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee				X
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee	X			
Hadassah Avila, Student Trustee	X			
Diego Harris, Student Trustee	X			

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approve the Annual Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

7.1.1 Discussion: Staff recommends the Board Approve the Annual Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Secretary McComish inquired if CFO Norris anticipated anything that might stand in the way of resolving the findings identified during the 2024-25 audit. CFO Norris confirmed that all findings have been resolved.

7.1.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Randolph Ward and seconded by Diego Harris, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee				X
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee	X			
Hadassah Avila, Student Trustee	X			
Diego Harris, Student Trustee	X			

7.2 Approve the Immigration Enforcement Policy at School Sites

7.2.1 Discussion: Staff recommends the Board Approve the Immigration Enforcement Policy at School Sites. CEO Cornejo-Sanchez emphasized that the CDE requires all local educational agencies to adopt this policy. Part of this process will include informing families if ICE is on campus. Trustee Rafia wondered if there were other protocols aside from just emailing families. CEO Cornejo-Sanchez confirmed that there are additional steps the school would follow.

7.2.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Christine McComish and seconded by Hadassah Avila, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee				X
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee	X			
Hadassah Avila, Student Trustee	X			
Diego Harris, Student Trustee	X			

8.0 CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

8.1 No closed session was held.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, it was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 pm.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

Signed by:
Christine McComish
Respectfully submitted by: Christine McComish, Secretary, High Tech High Board