

Board Meeting
April 2, 2026

I. Call to Order

Attendance

Present: Jennifer Conoley, Kevin Forehand, Erin Pickard, Robert Schoen, Tyler Towne, Gillian Stewart Gregory

Absent: Joey Ginn, Jessica Carter

II. Notice of Meeting

III. Public Comment

No public comment

IV. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2026

Motion by Board Member Conoley to approve

Seconded by Board Member Gregory

Vote: Passed unanimously

V. Director's Report

Debbi Whitaker, TCS Director

a. Enrollment for 26-27: 400. Current enrollment is 278.

b. At this time, the class of 2027 will graduate more than 60 students with an AA degree. This represents more than 75% of the graduating class. Based on available data, Bay County schools have graduated a total of 20 students with AA degrees from all schools combined in the most recent year. This success reflects many factors, but TCS is particularly grateful to the FSU Panama City faculty, who have been wonderful resources for TCS students.

c. Articulation Agreement: The articulation agreement, which allows for the enrollment of K12 students into post-secondary courses, is under discussion between TCS and FSU.

d. Operations: TCS continues to appreciate and value the space on the FSU Bay campus that is being used by TCS students, faculty, and staff, including the use of administrative offices. TCS administrators alternate between campuses each day ensuring each campus is appropriately staffed.

e. Accreditation: COGNIA, the K12 accrediting agency, has notified TCS that accreditation has been granted. Importantly, TCS was notified that we have received "accreditation with merit."

f. Air Force JROTC: In addition to the current offering of the Sea Cadets organization, the Air Force JROTC may become available as an option for students at TCS. Initial meetings have begun between the Air Force JROTC organization and TCS.

g. SAT scores are being released for students who have recently taken the exam.

h. Commissioning Ceremony: The 4th commissioning ceremony plans are currently being developed.

h. Academic enrichment: 2026 Summer Campus are being developed and will be posted soon for students in secondary grades to enroll. In addition, a rural, title 1 elementary school is interested in pursuing a partnership with TCS so that 4th and

5th-grade students have access to high-quality robotics and STEM programs in summer 2026. More information to follow.

i. Teachers will be participating in continuing education opportunities this summer to continue to refine their instructional practices.

Questions from Board members:

a. Have you been documenting lessons learned? What works?

Yes, we know what works across many areas. We all have these "little black books" that we jot ideas down. We review these regularly and use what is working on both campuses.

b. Two students, J and L were present and shared why they chose TCS for high school. J: "I really loved the opportunities like Yearbook; there are opportunities here that are nowhere else." L: "I really like the type of student here. It's a great opportunity, but the other students really make good choices."

VI. New Business and Updates

a. Board Updates, *Debbi Whitaker, TCS Director*

Information Item: No Action Required

Dr. Irvin Clark, Board Chair, resigned his position. In addition, Jessica Carter has asked to be replaced on the board.

b. Nomination of Board Chairperson

Requested Action: Election of Board Chairperson

Nomination of Dr. Kevin Forehand to Board Chairperson role for remainder of Dr. Clark's term by Board Member Gregory.

Seconded by Board Member Schoen.

Vote: Passed Unanimously.

Gavel passed to Board Member Forehand from Board Member Towne, vice-chair.

c. Financial Reports, *Jennifer Flannagan, Asst Dir PCC C&G and DL Svcs*

Requested Action: Approve Budget Amendment as Presented

i. Third Conference Report:

a. Revenue Increase of approximately \$157,110.00, across multiple categories

1. General Support Services
2. ESE
3. Academic Enrichment
4. Academic Acceleration
5. Class Size Reduction
6. Safe Schools
7. Mental Health

ii. February Budget Summary is provided for action. 2024-25 Budget Summary is provided for informational purposes only.

Questions:

1. Were the funds distributed as categoricals to the school or with flexibility?

The funds are restricted use funds and must be used within the identified

budget line.

Requested Action: Approve Budget Amendment as Presented

Motion to approve budget amendment as presented: Board Member Gregory
Seconded by Board Member Towne

Vote: Passed Unanimously

d. School Safety and Compliance, *Officer Phil Himes, TCS Safe Schools Specialist*

Requested Action: Approve School Safety and Compliance Report

Because of campus obligations, Officer Himes was represented by Director Whitaker. Each year, every school is audited to ensure compliance with state, district, and institutional regulations by the Office of Safe Schools. When the TCS FSU Bay campus was being identified and constructed by FSU Bay, the Office of Safe Schools was solicited in advance of construction to ensure that the facility modifications met the requirements established by the Office of Safe Schools. The Office of Safe Schools provides guidance and expectations to schools regarding school hardening that is meant to optimize student safety. School hardening requirements can include, but is not limited to, locking mechanisms on doors, perimeter fencing, appropriate signage, AED and/or CPR trainings, camera use, and the use of certain technology applications.

Director Whitaker is happy to report that both campuses- FSU Bay and St. Andrews are 100% in compliance with the established requirements.

Requested Action: Approve School Safety and Compliance Report

Motion to approve school safety and compliance report: Board Member
Towne

Seconded by Board Member Gregory

Vote: Passed Unanimously

e. 2026-2027 School Calendar, *Debbi Whitaker, TCS Director*

Requested Action: Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar

The calendar as presented by Director Whitaker reflects the collaboration of teachers, staff, and administration, with a close review ensuring congruence with the local school districts' calendars.

The only date not on the calendar for next year is the graduation ceremony. Final details are being confirmed, and the date will be announced soon. It is anticipated to be within the first two weeks of May.

Questions:

1. Is there a requirement for a multi-year calendar from the state?

No there is no requirement for a multi-year calendar from the state, although some districts choose to create them. Bay County Schools just adopted a calendar for the next two school years.

Requested Action: Approve 2026-2027 School Calendar

Motion to approve by Board Member Chu

Second by Board Member Towne

Vote: Passed Unanimously

f. TCS Procedures, *Debbi Whitaker, TCS Director*

i. Dress Code: No changes

Question:

1. I see that the procedure addresses earbuds. Do we need to expand the language to reflect the different types of earbuds?

Yes, we can do that

2. Has there been any discussion about Metaglasses?

No we haven't really addressed Metaglasses. Although, given their recording functionality, we would treat it as unwelcome filming and discipline it accordingly.

ii. Health and Wellness

Updated to reflect current Bay County Department of Health guidance.

iii. Attendance

Changes to attendance and tardy procedures reflect TCS philosophy and beliefs regarding the importance of regular school attendance. It was developed in collaboration with the teachers and staff and reflects the goal of reducing repeat offenders.

Question: Does our current student information system, FOCUS, provide parents/guardians with information about absences or tardies?

Yes, FOCUS sends parents/guardians a text when a student is absent.

iv. Technology

Edits were made to language in the Acceptable Use Information.

Questions:

1. The acceptable use policy does not address AI. Is this something we need to address?

In general, we use applications like CLOVR to prevent students from accessing these tools. CLOVR curates access to applications. We also can follow students digital footprints so that we know where they go on the Internet when they use our devices.

2. Are there any AI applications that students use?

FSU uses the Grammarly AI application. Our students have access to that tool. We do have ways to take action to ensure that if a student accesses AI, we can monitor and track it.

For the students enrolled in FSU courses, FSU has built in AI-restrictive language within courses. Instructors handle it at the course level.

3. Is there some kind of guidance on AI? Are our students learning about it?

PAEC, an educational consortium we belong to is developing policies to provide districts with guidance on how to meaningfully understand and implement AI in the K12 area.

In addition, the state of Florida has an [AI task force](#).

4. Do students have access to Gemini/Notebook?

Not at this time.

5. Would it be possible to ask for the school community (teachers, admin) to discuss AI and come back to the Board with their position?

6. Do students have input on these kinds of procedures?

While we don't have student committees, we do receive a lot of feedback from our students about dress code. We try not to be too onerous, but our dress code is really about safety measures. We spend a lot of time discussing with them "why" we have a procedure in place so that they understand that it's not arbitrary.

Requested Action: Approve TCS Procedures

Dress Code:

Motion by Board Member Towne,
Seconded by Board Member Conoley,

Passed Unanimously.

Health and Wellness:

Motion by Board Member Towne,
Seconded by Board Member Conoley,

Passed Unanimously.

Attendance and Tardy:

Motion by Board Member Towne,
Seconded by Board Member Conoley,

Passed Unanimously.

Technology Procedures:

Motion by Board Member Conoley,
Seconded by Board Member Towne,

Passed Unanimously.

g. Ethics Commission Filings, *Debbi Whitaker, TCS Director*

Information Item: No Action Required

Director Whitaker will send information, including links, to the Board Members to complete. There will also be a disclosure form due in July.

h. Monthly Meeting Dates, *Debbi Whitaker, TCS Director*

Information Item: No Action Required

There was a discussion during this topic regarding moving the start time of the meeting to a later time in the afternoon to allow for broader community participation in monthly meetings, to meet at a set interval (i.e., the first Thursday of the month/the third

Monday of the month), and to set the 2026-2027 Meeting Calendar at the start of the year. Director Whitaker or her designee will send a Calendly to board members to assist in this process.

VII. Open Forum for Board Members

Board Member Gregory asked for an update on the school start times for reporting purposes. The school start time for the 2026-2027 school year will be 8 am. While this is earlier than the statutorily required 8:30 am, TCS will ask for a waiver of the start time because feedback from parents during the pilot year (2024-2025) reflected a negative position regarding a later start time, including, but not limited to, difficulty for parents dropping their student off at school, supervision, and food services.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 2:59pmEST/1:59pmCST by Board Member Towne.
Seconded by Board Member Gregory.

