

# C4SE Meeting 1-27-2026

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## Action Items

- ] Submit nominations for open positions (Secretary, Directors at Large, Fundraiser) to the organization's email.
- Write contact information and desired bill inclusion statements on the provided note cards during the workshop session.
- Determine Tom Butler's availability for a strategic meeting.
- Schedule the meeting with Tom Butler for approximately one to two weeks out, based on his availability.

## Key Decisions

- **Prosecution Threshold** - The mandate for DA acceptance will apply specifically to physical assault that causes injury (evidenced by harm like bruising or lacerations); simple assaults or verbal altercations may remain as citations.
- **Inclusion of Threats** - Written death threats (via social media or physical notes) are classified as terroristic threats and must be included in the mandatory acceptance mandate.
- **Legislative Phrasing** - The legislation will utilize the phrase "Notwithstanding those specifications and classifications" to override existing restrictions (such as Special Education or "fragile student" status) that currently prevent the removal of dangerous students.
- **Mandatory Language** - The bill must state that the DA is "required" to run assault charges through the criminal justice system, prohibiting discretion based on workload.

## Detailed Minutes

### [00:00-00:26] Meeting called to order for Citizens for Strong Education.

- Jessie commenced the first annual meeting of 2026 at 6:13 p.m.
- The group formally identified as "Citizens for Strong Education."

### [00:33-01:33] Overview of officer structure and open nominations.

- Current officers identified: Jessie Hardin (President), Brian Miller (Treasurer), and Mike (Vice Treasurer).
- Vacancies announced: Secretary (previous officer relocated), Directors at Large, and a newly created Fundraiser position to support state lobbying.
- Attendees were instructed to submit nominations via email.

### [01:35-02:39] Establishment of organizational mission, goals, and dues.

- The mission focuses on transparency, honesty, and integrity in public education initiatives.
- Strategic goals include lobbying for state funding, community education, and supporting education bonds.
- Procedures follow Robert's Rules of Order.
- Membership dues are set at \$100 per family or \$10 for individual students, which confers voting rights.

**[02:39-03:49] Introduction of "Andrew's Law" legislative proposal.**

- The primary agenda is drafting state legislation to mandate that the District Attorney (DA) accept specific assault charges occurring on campuses.
- The objective is to prevent the dismissal of charges based on age or classification to ensure district safety.
- Student attendees validated the importance of this initiative.

**[03:51-05:49] Collaboration with the School Board on safety policies.**

- The group is assisting the School Board with a safety policy and proposed an interim local policy while awaiting state legislation.
- Proposals move through the Executive Council (GPAC) to Dr. Rodriguez before reaching the School Board.

**[05:56-07:35] Transition to workshop format for bill drafting.**

- The meeting moved to an informal session to gather input on supporting the Goose Creek Police Department.
- Context provided: The DA currently accepts less than 2% of requested charges despite the prevalence of hostile assaults.

**[07:56-09:30] Discussion on Harris County enforcement challenges.**

- Charge rejection was identified as a specific issue within Harris County districts.
- Speaker 5 noted that cases are often diverted to Justice of the Peace courts due to DA workload.
- Data on acceptance rates under the new DA has been requested.

**[10:15-14:02] Defining the physical injury threshold for prosecution.**

- Consensus reached: The law must mandate prosecution for physical assaults resulting in specific evidence of harm (e.g., bruising, lacerations).
- Simple assaults (pushing without injury) may remain as citations, but physical injury demands DA acceptance.

**[14:03-14:27] Inclusion of terroristic threats in the mandate.**

- The group agreed that written death threats and terroristic threats (social media or notes) must be included in the mandatory acceptance language.
- It was noted that while these technically fall under FBI jurisdiction, local DAs have rejected them in the past.

**[15:01-18:17] Strategic rationale: Comparison to bond reform and visual prioritization.**

- The core argument asserts that physical harm and stabbings are crimes, not educational issues, and must be handled by the justice system to stop teacher attrition.
- Speaker 5 drew an analogy to recent bond reform laws: just as judges were forced to set appropriate bail for violent felonies, this law must force the DA to enforce the law rather than dismissing cases due to a “busy” workload.
- The group reviewed priorities, confirming the alignment of these legislative goals with the organization’s focus.

**[18:33-19:19] Finalizing scope: Physical assault with injury.**

- The group reaffirmed that the legislation targets “physical assault with an injury” and terroristic threats.
- It was clarified that the law is not intended for minor “tit for tat” altercations.

**[19:23-20:44] Review of legal obstacles regarding special student classifications.**

- Current lenient discipline (ISS or short suspensions) was discussed.
- Legal hurdles identified: Special Education laws and protections for “fragile students” (homeless/foster care) currently prevent removal from home campuses, which the legislation aims to address.

**[20:44-22:06] Legislative drafting strategy to override existing restrictions.**

- Consensus to use the phrase “Notwithstanding those specifications and classifications” to ensure the law applies regardless of student status.
- The language will explicitly “require” DA action rather than suggesting they “strongly consider” it, removing the option to dismiss based on an “overflowing plate.”

**[22:10-23:08] Requirement for judicial access to disciplinary records.**

- It was agreed that the school district must be legally permitted to share discipline records with the justice system once a charge is accepted.
- Establishing the requirement for charge acceptance is the first step to unlocking these records for judicial review.

[23:20-23:41] **Administrative housekeeping.**

- Attendees exchanged contact information to facilitate future correspondence.

[23:45-24:17] **Strategic planning for Tom Butler meeting.**

- Tom Butler was identified as a key stakeholder interested in the initiative.
- The group agreed to schedule a meeting with him in one to two weeks.

[24:47-26:37] **Preparation for student testimony in Austin.**

- The team plans to bring students to Austin to testify before a legislative committee about their personal experiences.
- Students were reassured that lawmakers are receptive to youth participation.
- Speaker 5 clarified their role in the discussion, noting they are participating as a private individual/citizen, though they bring knowledge from their elected experience.