

MINUTES

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – GILA INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT #2

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Safford High School

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:

Mr. B.K. Merriman, President
Mr. Eddie Bowman, Member
Mrs. Christie Brown, Member
Mrs. Sherry Carbajal, Member-Conf. call-6:20 pm
Mr. Mark Claridge, Member
Mrs. Tamara Melton, Member
Mrs. Kim Waters, Member-Conf. call-6:20 pm

Mr. Clay Emery, Superintendent
Mrs. Brenda Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Public: Kelsey Talgo-student, Talia Pike-student, Larry Black-Teacher, Chris Murphy-Teacher, Heath Maxwell-Teacher, A.J. Taylor-SHS Superintendent, Ed Taylor-Teacher, Kim Graham-CTE Secretary, Heather Klajda-Teacher, Travis Stephenson-CFA staff, Steve Tilton-Teacher

1. Adoption of the Agenda -The Governing Board reserves the right to reschedule, delete, or arrange items on the agenda, to efficiently conduct its business. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to adopt the agenda as presented by the administration.
Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 5/0.

Item #1				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal				X
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters				X

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – None

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

2. Superintendent's Summary- **Mr. Emery gave an informative report to the board.**

CONSENT AGENDA – Action

- Approval of routine payroll and expense vouchers/routine matters.
3. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Recommendation to approve/ratify financial matters.

A. Payroll and expense vouchers.

B. Cash balance reports.

Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Claridge. Motion carried 5/0.

Item #3				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal				X
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters				X

LEGAL/FINANCIAL

New Business

4. Discussion and approval of funding for Fort Thomas FFA nationals travel. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve funding for Fort Thomas FFA nationals travel in the amount of \$3,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 7/0.

Item #4				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal- Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

5. Discussion and approval of the FY24-25 Annual Audit Report. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Brown to approve the FY24-25 Annual Audit Report. Motion seconded by Mrs. Melton. Motion carried 7/0.

Item #5				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal- Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			

B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

6. Discussion and approval of GIFT calendar for 2026-2027 school year. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve GIFT calendar for 2026-2027 school year.
Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 7/0.

Item #6				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal-Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

7. Discussion of proposed board policies, first reading. **(Discussion Only)**
8. Discussion and approval of GIFT legislative priorities. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve GIFT legislative priorities. Motion seconded by Mr. Claridge. Motion carried 7/0.

Item #8				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal-Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

9. Move to recess to executive session. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to recess to executive session. Motion seconded by Brown. Motion carried 7/0. Time 7:01 pm.

Item #9				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal-Conf. Call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			

Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

10. The Governing Board to meet in executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (1)

a. A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A) (1)
-to discuss superintendent contract

All persons present are hereby reminded that it is unlawful to disclose or otherwise divulge to any person who is not now present, other than a current member of the Board, anything that has transpired or has been discussed during this executive session. To do so is a violation of A.R.S. § 38-431.03 A.2, A.3 unless pursuant to a specific statutory exception.

11. Reconvene in open session. **Time: 7:16 pm.**

12. Discussion and possible action to approve superintendent's contract. **(Action) Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve superintendent's contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 7/0.**

Item #12				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal-Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

13. Discussion and approval of Erate Agreement with Yavapai County. **(Action) Motion made by Mrs. Brown to approve Erate Agreement with Yavapai County. Motion seconded by Mrs. Melton. Motion carried 7/0.**

Item #13				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal-Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

BUSINESS/PERSONNEL

New Business

14. Discussion/Action to renew employment of district personnel for the 2026-2027 school year. **(Action)**

Motion made by Mr. Claridge to renew employment of district personnel for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 7/0.

Item #14				
Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown	X			
Sherry Carbajal-Conf. call	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters-Conf. call	X			

15. Review/confirm board meeting schedule.
Regular/Special Meetings for 2025-2026 School Year

- Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office
- Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office
- Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at: 7:50 pm.

Chairman Signature

Date