MINUTES

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – GILA INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT #2

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
GIFT Office

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. Sherry Carbajal, Member
Mr. Mark Claridge, Member
Mrs. Tamara Melton, Member

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

Absent:

Mrs. Christie Brown, Member
Mrs. Kim Waters, Member

Public: Lance Fite-teacher, Megan Whitehead-teacher, Ed Taylor-teacher, Treisa Taylor, Don Goodman-MHS Principal, Ms. Brown-teacher, Avery Wiltbank-student

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 Mrs. Carbajal to adopt the agenda as presented by the administration. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. 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 – Mrs. Carbajal will abstain from voting on items #6 and Item #8.

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 July 14, 2026, Regular Meeting and Adopted Budget Hearing.

Recommendation to approve/ratify financial matters**.**

A. Payroll and expense vouchers.

B. Cash balance reports.

C. Superintendent Settlement Agreement

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			X
Sherry Carbajal	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters				X

LEGAL/FINANCIAL

New Business

4. Discussion and consideration to approve funding for Morenci High School Graphic Design – large format printer and supplies. (**Action**)

Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve funding for Morenci High School Graphic Design up to $32,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Claridge. Motion carried 4/0. Mrs. Carbajal abstained from voting on item #4.

Item #4				
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

5. Discussion and consideration to approve funding for Safford High School Automotive Program – alignment rack update. **(Action)**

Motion made by Mrs. Carbajal to approve funding for Safford High School Automotive Program – alignment rack update up to $57,000. Motion seconded by

Mrs. Claridge. Motion carried 5/0.

Item #5				
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

6. Discussion and consideration to approve funding for Safford High School Agriscience Program – tractor upgrade. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve funding for Safford High School Agriscience Program – tractor upgrade up to $99,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 5/0.

Item #6				
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

7. Discussion and consideration to approve funding for Safford High School Early Childhood Education Program – security wall and door. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve funding for Safford High School Early Childhood Education Program up to $20,000. Motion seconded by Mrs. Carbajal. Motion carried 5/0.

Item #7				
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

8. Discussion and approval of IGA with EAC and MUSD. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve IGA with EAC and MUSD. Motion seconded by Mrs. Melton. Motion carried 4/0. Mrs. Carbajal abstained from voting on item #8.

Item #8				
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

9. Discussion and possible action to participate and help fund an amicus brief relating to the Apache Junction Unified School District #42 v the East Valley Institute of Technology #401 (EVIT) ruling seeking to clarify statute, solidify practices and provide background knowledge related to CTED operations. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to participate and help fund an amicus brief relating to the Apache Junction Unified School District #42 v the East Valley Institute of Technology #401 (EVIT) ruling seeking to clarify statue, solidify practices and provide background knowledge related to CTED operations. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 5/0.

Item #9				
Name	**Aye**	**Nay**	**Abstain**	**Absent**
Eddie Bowman	X			
Christie Brown				X
Sherry Carbajal	X			
Mark Claridge	X			
Tamara Melton	X			X
B.K. Merriman	X			
Kim Waters				

10. Discussion of proposed board policies, first reading. **(Discussion Only)**
Policy BEDB – Agenda Policy Advisory No. 1048
Policy CBA – Qualifications and Duties of The Superintendent Policy
Policy DJ – Purchasing Ethics
Policy DJE – Bidding / Purchasing Procedures
Policy IHA – Basic Instructional Program
Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements
Policy KFA – Public Conduct on School Property
Policy DGD – Credit Cards

BUSINESS/PERSONNEL

New Business

11.. Review/confirm board meeting schedule.

Regular/Special Meetings for 2026-2027 School Year

--- Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 6 pm at Morenci High School
--- Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at: 7:29 pm.

Chairman Signature **Date**