MINUTES

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – GILA INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT #2

Tuesday, July 14, 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. Christie Brown, Member
Mrs. Sherry Carbajal, Member
Mr. Mark Claridge, Member
Mrs. Kim Waters, Member- Conf. call

Mr. Clay Emery, Superintendent
Mrs. Michele Johnson, Business Manager
Mrs. Brenda Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Mrs. Tamara Melton, Member

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. Claridge. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	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 June 23, 2026, Regular Meeting and Proposed Budget Hearing.
   Recommendation to approve/ratify financial matters**.**
   A. Payroll and expense vouchers.

B. Cash balance reports.
Motion made by Mrs. Brown to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	X			

LEGAL/FINANCIAL

New Business

4. Discussion and consideration of a motion to convene a public hearing pursuant to A.R.S. §15-905.
The purpose of this Hearing is to Provide the Public the Opportunity for Questions and Discussion for the Proposed Maintenance and Operations and Capital Outlay Budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. (**Action**)
Motion made by Mrs. Brown to convene a public hearing pursuant to A.R.S. §15-905. Motion seconded by Mrs. Carbajal. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	X			

5. Discussion and consideration of a motion to close the Public Hearing and return to Regular Session. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve a motion to close the Public Hearing and return to Regular Session. Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	X			

6. Discussion and consideration of a motion to adopt the Maintenance and Operations and Capital Outlay Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to adopt the Maintenance and Operations and Capital Outlay Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	X			

7. Discussion and approval of IGA with Eastern Arizona College. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Carbajal to approve IGA with Eastern Arizona College. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	X			

8. Review, discussion and approval of GIFT Special Projects/Reserve Fund policy. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve GIFT Special Projects/Reserve Fund policy. Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 6/0.

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-Conf. call	X			

9. Review and possible action to allocate $15,000 as start up funding for Fort Thomas High School Early Childhood Education Program. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Carbajal to allocate $15,000 as start up funding for Fort Thomas High School Early Childhood Education Program. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 6/0.

Item #9				
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-Conf. call	X			

10. Discussion and approval of GIFT board meeting dates FY 2027. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Bowman to approve GIFT board meeting dates FY 2027. Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 6/0.

Item #10				
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-Conf. call	X			

11. Discussion and approval of IGA for lobbying services. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve IGA for lobbying services. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 6/0.

Item #11				
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-Conf. call	X			

BUSINESS/PERSONNEL

New Business

12.. Review/confirm board meeting schedule.

Regular/Special Meetings for 2026-2027 School Year

--- Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office
--- Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office
--- Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at: 6:52 pm.

Chairman Signature **Date**