

MINUTES

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING – GILA INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT #2

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

GIFT Office

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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. Tamara Melton, Member

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

Absent:

Mrs. Kim Waters, Member

Public: Troy Stanley-student, Talia Pike-student, Kyle Elthie-student, Mark Nino-student, Ally Finch-student, Robby Martindell-teacher, Larry Black-teacher, Tony Aguinaga-teacher, Don Goodman-MHS Principal.

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 Mrs. Melton. 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				X

CALL TO THE PUBLIC – None

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Mrs. Carbajal will abstain from voting on items #6, item #7, and item #9.

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 February 10, 2026, Regular Meeting.

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 Watersl				X

LEGAL/FINANCIAL

New Business

- 4. Discussion and approval of funding for turbo sawmill project for Fort Thomas High School Carpentry Programs. **(Action)**

Motion made by Mr. Claridge to table until next board meeting. Motioned died to lack of a second. Motion made by Mrs. Carbajal to approve funding for turbo sawmill project for Fort Thomas High School in the amount of \$52,000 with the conditions of assurance of insurance at the school. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. 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				X

- 5. Discussion and approval of funding for welding trailer for Fort Thomas High School – Agriscience. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Carbajal to approve funding for welding trailer for Fort Thomas High School – Agriscience up to \$18,000. Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 5/1.

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 approval of funding for updates and upgrades to welding facility for Morenci High School Welding Program. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve funding for updates and upgrades to welding facility for Morenci High School Welding Program up to \$155,000. Motion seconded by Mrs. Brown. Motion carried 5/0. Mrs. Carbajal abstained from voting on item #6.

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

7. Discussion and approval of continuing to fund the member districts for central campus students at \$500 per student for FY2026. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Brown to approve continuing to fund the member districts for central campus students at \$500 per student for FY2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 5/0. Mrs. Carbajal abstained from voting on item #7.

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 proposed sustainability funding for programs in member districts at \$15,000/year per program for FY2026. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Melton to approve sustainability funding for programs in member districts at \$15,000/year per program for FY2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. 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				X

9. Discussion and approval of continuation funding for middle school CTE programs. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve continuation funding for middle school CTE programs. Motion seconded by Mrs. Melton. Motion carried 5/0. Mrs. Carbajal abstained from voting on item #9.

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				X

10. Move to recess to executive session. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mrs. Brown recess to executive session. Motion seconded by Mrs. Melton. Motion carried 6/0. Time: 7:35 pm.

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				X

11. 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 district salaries, district benefits

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.

12. Reconvene in open session. **Time: 8:10 pm.**
13. Discussion and possible action to approve district salaries and other compensation. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve district salaries and other compensation.
Motion seconded by Mr. Bowman. Motion carried 6/0.

Item #13				
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

14. Discussion and possible action to approve insurance for GIFT employees. **(Action)**
Motion made by Mr. Claridge to approve insurance for GIFT employees. Motion seconded by Mrs. Melton. Motion carried 6/0.

Item #14				
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

BUSINESS/PERSONNEL

New Business

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

- Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6 pm at SHS-CFA
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office
- Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6 pm at GIFT Office

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Chairman Signature

Date