

# Graham County Community College District Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m.  
Student Services Building Governing Board Room - 244

Roll Call: Present: Jeff Larson, Chair  
Brad Montierth, Secretary  
Tina McMaster, Member  
Vince Kieffer, Member

Absent: Lois Ann Moody, Member

Also Present: Todd Haynie, President; Heston Welker, Vice President of Administration; Susan Wood, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Phil McBride, Senior Dean of Gila County Campuses; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Keith Alexander, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Kenny Smith, Dean of Student Services; Brad Lines, Information Technology Services Technician; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM; David Udall, Executive Director of the Foundation; Gary Sorensen, Dean of Students; Nathan Smith, Director of Budgets and Purchasing; Troy Ainsworth, Director of Fiscal Control/Controller; Pete Chidester, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Kevin Peck, Dean of Business, Computers, & ITE; Joel Robinson, Director of Small Business Development Center; Lydia Newkirk, Director of Human Resources; and Jodi Keim, Executive Assistant to the President and District Governing Board/Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Those present at the meeting recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Chair Larson welcomed all attendees. Guests included Mr. Jeff Gott, community member; Mr. Vance Bryce, Executive Director of the Graham County Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. David Borofsky, Executive Director of the Arizona Community College Coordinating Council.

Truth in Taxation Hearing: In compliance with ARS §15-1461.01(A)(4), a Truth in Taxation Hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 budget was conducted. (Report attached and made a part of the official minutes.)

Comments from the audience were received. Mr. Jeff Gott expressed concern about the impact of tax increases on individuals with fixed incomes and asked the Board to protect those community members. He urged the Board to be mindful during periods of rising property valuations and to consider the economic challenges that arise when valuations decline. He also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share his views.

Vance Bryce, representing the Graham County Chamber of Commerce, voiced strong support for Eastern Arizona College's proposed property tax levy. He emphasized the College's vital role in workforce development, cultural enrichment, and economic growth, calling the levy a responsible investment in the community's future.

Chair Larson noted that Board members received two letters opposing the proposed 2% tax levy increase and one letter in support.

Special Board Meeting  
on the Proposed 2025-2026  
Property Tax Levy:

Chair Larson called a Special Meeting on the 2025-2026 Proposed Property Tax Levy as mandated by ARS §15-1461.01.

Dr. Montierth moved to approve the District's proposed 2025-2026 property tax levy increase of 2%.

Chair Larson called for a roll call vote to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 property tax levy increase. Mr. Kieffer voted "yes," Mrs. McMaster voted "yes," Dr. Montierth voted "yes," and Chair Larson voted "yes." The property tax levy increase passed by a majority vote.

Public Budget Hearing: Chair Larson announced the Public Budget Hearing for 2025-2026 as mandated by ARS §15-1461(I). (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

There were no comments from the public regarding the proposed budget.



Special Board Meeting  
to Adopt the 2025-2026  
GCCCD Budget:

Chair Larson called a Special Meeting to adopt the 2025-2026 Graham County Community College District Budget as mandated by ARS §15-1461(J).

Mr. Kieffer moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to adopt the 2025-2026 Graham County Community College District Budget as presented. The 2025-2026 GCCCD Budget was adopted by a majority vote.

Adjournment:

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mr. Kieffer seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Kieffer, McMaster, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jodi Keim

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Jodi Keim  
Recording Secretary

Attest:

/s/ Jeff Larson

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Jeff Larson, Chair

/s/ Brad Montierth

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Brad Montierth, Secretary