

Graham County Community College District

Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Student Services Building - District Governing Board Room – 244

Roll Call: Present: Brad Montierth, Secretary
Lois Ann Moody, Member
Tina McMaster, Member
Vince Kieffer, Member

Absent: Jeff Larson, Chair

Also Present: Todd Haynie, President; Heston Welker, Vice President of Administration; Susan Wood, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Keith Alexander, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Craig O'Donnal, Director of Support Services and Learning Technology, Information Resources; Aaron Westerfield, Director of Accreditation and Effectiveness; Kenny Smith, Dean of Student Services; Gary Sorensen, Dean of Students; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM; Pete Chidester, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Joel Robinson, Director of Small Business Development Center; and Jodi Keim, Executive Assistant to the President and District Governing Board/Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Dr. Montierth called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Those present at the meeting stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Dr. Montierth welcomed all in attendance. There were no guests from the community.

Election of Board Officers: In compliance with A.R.S. §15-1443, officers of the District Governing Board were elected for 2026. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mr. Kieffer nominated and moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, that Mr. Larson remain as Chair and Dr. Montierth remain as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

AACCT Representative: The Board was asked to consider designating a member to serve as the District's representative on the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT) for 2026. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mrs. McMaster nominated and moved that Mrs. Moody serve as the AACCT representative for 2026, with Mr. Kieffer seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth all voting in favor.

Call to The Public: There were no comments from the public.

Minutes: Mrs. Moody moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, to approve the recorded minutes of the Regular meeting held on November 20, 2025. The motion passed unanimously with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor. (Minutes attached and incorporated into the official record.)

Financial Vouchers: Vice President Welker presented the Expense and Payroll Vouchers for the period of October 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025.



Mrs. Moody moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, to accept the following vouchers:

<u>PAYROLL</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
October	\$2,908,860.94	October	\$2,914,027.92
November	\$2,698,386.72	November	\$1,794,123.00

The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

Reports

Greenlee County Advisory Committee:

The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.

Foundation/Alumni:

The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.

Old Business

There were no Old Business items presented for consideration.

New Business

Consider Baccalaureate Degrees:

President Haynie presented information to the Board regarding two proposed baccalaureate degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education, and requested the Board's approval to offer the degrees at Eastern Arizona College. These programs would become the College's fifth and sixth baccalaureate offerings. President Haynie also requested authorization for the Board Chair to sign the program feasibility study and execute a resolution to offer the degrees.

Pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the anticipated start date for the programs would be Spring or Fall 2027. In response to a Board inquiry regarding the possibility of offering additional baccalaureate programs in the future, President Haynie stated that the College would build its existing bachelor's degree programs before adding more and emphasized the need to ensure the success of the six current programs. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mrs. Moody moved, and Mr. Kieffer seconded, to approve the baccalaureate degree programs for the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education as presented and to authorize the Chair to sign the program feasibility study and execute a resolution regarding the same. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

Consider Housing Proposal:

Vice President Welker reported that Eastern Arizona College received a \$1,000,000 FY2026 housing appropriation from the Arizona State Legislature to support student housing development. Renderings will be shared with the Board as they become available. Preparations on the property have begun, and discussions with adjacent property owners are ongoing.

The College proposes constructing apartment-style housing on designated parcels and recommends engaging SPS+ Architects and proceeding with engineering, permitting, and infrastructure work, with total project costs not to exceed \$3,000,000. The College plans to serve as the general contractor for the project and utilize local subcontractors. Students residing in the apartments would not be required to purchase a meal plan. Construction is planned one building at a time, and the proposed funding would cover the construction of one building. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mrs. McMaster moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to authorize the President, or personnel designated by the President, to execute all contracts and sign any and all agreements or documents necessary for the housing construction project in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

Standing Business

Courses/Curricula:



Vice President Wood presented one new Health Care Education (HCE) course proposal for the Board's consideration. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mr. Kieffer moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, to approve the new course as presented. The motion was unanimously approved, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

Contracts:

Vice President Welker presented an intergovernmental agreement with the Pima Unified School District for a concurrent enrollment program for the Board's consideration. The agreement would expand the district's financial support for students taking classes at Eastern Arizona College and would be offered in participation with the College's TRACC Grant. Vice President Welker noted that the College currently has concurrent enrollment agreements with Morenci and Safford school districts, and that most classes under this agreement would be offered online or on campus. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mrs. Moody moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, to authorize the President, or the President's designee, to negotiate and execute the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Pima Unified School District, as presented. The motion was unanimously approved, with Trustees Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

Policies & Regulations:

President Haynie presented the following policies for Board approval: 3730.00, *Insurance*, and 3740.00, *Reporting Insurance Claims*. Regulation 4340.01, *Insurance for Employees – Guidelines*, was presented for review only. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mrs. McMaster moved, and Mr. Kieffer seconded, to approve Policies 3730.00, *Insurance*, and 3740.00, *Reporting Insurance Claims*, as presented. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor.

Personnel:

President Haynie provided an update to the Board on personnel. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

General Information

Dr. Montierth announced that the next District Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

As permitted by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K), President Haynie provided a brief summary of current events and updates:

- Classes for the spring semester began on Monday, January 12, 2026. Enrollment is down, with headcount decreasing by just over 6% year over year and estimated FTSE down approximately 5%. The recent LDS missionary age change may be affecting enrollment, particularly with a slight decrease in the female population. Additionally, changes in the soccer coaching staff may also be impacting enrollment.
- On January 12, 2026, President Haynie attended the opening session of the Arizona Legislative Session. The Eastern Arizona College Marching Band was present to kick off the session. The College was honored to be guests of Representative Gail Griffin. While at the Arizona Capitol, President Haynie also testified at the AZ WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) bill sunset review hearing, which proposed to continue WICHE's operations in Arizona. The Education Committee voted to extend their participation for ten more years.
- Installation of the artificial turf is scheduled to begin after this weekend, with completion anticipated by commencement in May 2026.
- The College is excited about the new housing proposal, which demonstrates to the state that funds are being used wisely.
- The Cosmetology Building is progressing well and is expected to be completed this summer, with the program moving in at that time.
- There will be no classes on Monday, January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Mrs. Moody added that an All-Trustee Meeting is scheduled for April 22–23, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa Hotel for all board members, in conjunction with the Arizona Community College Coordinating Council. An agenda will be forthcoming.



Adjournment

Mrs. Moody moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mrs. McMaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jodi Keim

Jodi Keim
Recording Secretary

Attest:

/s/ Jeff Larson

Jeff Larson, Chair

/s/ Brad Montierth

Brad Montierth, Secretary