Graham County Community College District
Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Student Services Building - District Governing Board Room – 244

Roll Call:	Present:	Jeff Larson, Chair Brad Montierth, Secretary Lois Ann Moody, Member Tina McMaster, Member Vince Kieffer, Member
	Absent:	None

Also Present: Todd Haynie, President; Heston Welker, Vice President of Administration; Susan Wood, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Aaron Westerfield, Director of Accreditation and Effectiveness; Kenny Smith, Dean of Student Services; Keith Alexander, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Craig O'Donnal, Director of Support Services and Learning Technology, Information Resources; Gary Sorensen, Dean of Students; Pete Chidester, Dean of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences; Kevin Peck, Dean of Business, Computers, & ITE; Nathan Smith, Director of Budgets and Purchasing; Travis Catt, Professor of Social Sciences and President of Faculty Association; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM and Health Sciences; Lydia Newkirk, Director of Human Resources; David Udall, Executive Director of the Foundation; Troy Ainsworth, Director of Fiscal Control/Controller; Jodi Keim, Executive Assistant to the President and District Governing Board/Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Chair Larson welcomed all attendees. Guests included Ms. Taryn Stangle, Financial Audit Manager with the Arizona Auditor General's Office, and Eric Bejarano, Safford City Manager.

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

Minutes: Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to approve the recorded minutes of the Regular and Executive Session meetings held on April 9, 2026. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. (Minutes are attached and incorporated into the official record.)

Financial Vouchers: Vice President Welker presented the Expense and Payroll Vouchers for the period of March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

Mr. Kieffer moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to accept the following vouchers:

PAYROLL		EXPENSE	
March	$2,620,958.24	March	$2,793,083.38

The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson 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

Legal Publication 2026-2027 Budget: Vice President Welker requested approval of the 2026-2027 Graham County Community College District (GCCCD) Budget documents for legal publication. In congruence with the 2026-2027 Budget Schedule, and in compliance with ARS §15-1461, the tentative 2026-2027 Budget will be published on the District website and a Notice of Public Hearing and Special Board Meeting will be published in the ***Eastern Arizona Courier*** on May 27. On June 3, the Notice of Public Hearings and Special Board Meeting, and the tentative 2026-2027 Budget will be published in the ***Eastern Arizona Courier***. Also, as prescribed by ARS §15-1461.01, Truth in Taxation notices will be published in the ***Eastern Arizona Courier*** on May 27, and June 3, 2026. The College will conduct a Truth in Taxation Hearing followed by a Special Board Meeting on the Truth in Taxation Proposal, and a Public Budget Hearing, followed by a Special Board Meeting to adopt the 2026-2027 Budget on June 11, 2026. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mrs. McMaster moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to approve the 2026-2027 GCCCD Budget documents for legal publication. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

New Business

District Financial Audit: Taryn Stangle, Financial Audit Manager with the Arizona Auditor General's Office, joined the meeting via Zoom to deliver Eastern Arizona College's Financial Audit Report for the period ending June 30, 2025. She reported that the District received an "unmodified" financial audit opinion, confirming that the financial statements were accurate and reliable. She noted that the audit experience was positive and professional. Vice President Welker reported that it was a pleasure working directly with the Auditor General's Office this year and that the two audit findings resulted, in part, from the implementation of the new ERP system. Vice President Welker commended Troy Ainsworth and his team. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Program Portfolios: Vice President Wood provided background on the Program Portfolio process, explaining that the process ensures continuous improvement. Director Aaron Westerfield presented a comprehensive review of the instructional program portfolios for 2026, which included Sciences, Nursing, and Prison Programs. In compliance with Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Criterion Four, Eastern Arizona College engages in ongoing evaluation of its instructional, instructional-support, and co-curricular programs. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Consider 2026-2027 Salary Schedules, Benefits, Employee-Related Policies and Regulations and Issuance of Contracts: Vice President Welker presented the proposed 2026–2027 Salary Schedules, Benefit Information, and Employee-Related Policies and Regulations and requested approval to issue employment contracts. He noted that the benefit changes will not be made until January 2027. (The Salary Schedules, Benefit Information, and Policies and Regulations are attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mr. Kieffer moved, and Mrs. McMaster seconded, to approve the 2026-2027 Salary Schedules, Benefits, Employee-related Policies and Regulations, and authorize the issuance of 2026-2027 Employee Contracts. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Consider Mark Allen Restroom Remodel: Vice President Welker explained that the Administration is seeking approval for renovations and repairs to the restrooms and shower facilities in the Mark Allen Dorm. He noted that two bids were recently received and came back very high. Because of this, he recommended that the Board approve an in-house renovation instead; however, the Maintenance crew would not be able to start the project until next year. He stated that completing the work in-house would enable the College to do it for less than half of the lowest bid. The project will require some adjustments for summer 2027 to accommodate summer camps. Mr. Kieffer pointed out that the cost of materials could change significantly in a year's time and expressed a desire to have the cost brought back to the Board for consideration next year. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to table the item. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Consider Designation of Chief Fiscal Officer: President Haynie provided the Board with background information and recommended that Vice President Heston Welker be designated as the Chief Fiscal Officer for the District to submit the Fiscal Year 2027 Expenditure Limitation Report. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Mr. Kieffer moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to appoint Heston Welker as the Chief Fiscal Officer designated to officially submit the Fiscal Year 2027 annual budgeted Expenditure Limitation Report to the Arizona Auditor General and to authorize Chair Larson to execute a Resolution regarding the same. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Consider Name Change to Campus Building: President Haynie indicated that the Administration is seeking approval to rename the Gila Hank Pavilion to the Arden J. Palmer Gila Hank Pavilion at the request of the Eastern Arizona College Booster Club. Mr. Palmer was one of the College's most ardent supporters of EAC Athletics. The Booster Club has contributed $20,000 toward the renaming of the pavilion. (Report attached and made part of the official minutes.)

Mrs. Moody moved, and Mr. Kieffer seconded, to approve the renaming of the Gila Hank Pavilion to the Arden J. Palmer Gila Hank Pavilion on the Eastern Arizona College South Campus. The motion passed, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, and Montierth voting in favor. Chair Larson recused himself due to a family connection.

Standing Business

Courses/Curricula: There were no courses or curricula presented for consideration.

Contracts: There were no contracts presented for consideration.

Regulations: President Haynie presented Regulation 5010.02, "Accommodations for Students and Prospective Students with Disabilities," for informational purposes only. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Personnel: President Haynie provided an update on personnel openings and noted that Chris Martin has been hired as the new Head Men's Basketball Coach. (Report attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Consider Out-of-Country Travel: President Haynie presented the proposed 2026–2027 out-of-country travel for the Board's consideration. These trips are requested through the budget process, and additional requests may arise throughout the year. (The report is attached and incorporated into the official minutes.)

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded the motion to approve the out-of-country travel as presented. The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

General Information Chair Larson announced that the next District Governing Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 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:

- The Eastern Arizona College 137th Annual Commencement will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. This ceremony is historically significant, as it will recognize the College's first graduates receiving bachelor's degrees, with four candidates expected. The commencement speaker will be Katherine Haley, President of the Arizona State Board of Education and an Arizona native, who previously served as a chief policy advisor to a former U.S. Speaker of the House.
- The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will take place on May 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., with a graduation dinner scheduled prior to commencement at 5:30 p.m.
- Commencement will be held on the College's new turf field, which features a newly installed lighting system and refreshed stadium seating.
- The new cosmetology building is nearing completion, with the program expected to move in within the coming weeks. The program will begin accepting appointments on May 29, 2026, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is tentatively planned for August.

- The Annual End-of-Year Luncheon will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the Activities Center.
- Fall enrollment projections are strong, with current headcount up 18.4% and estimated FTSE up 22% compared to the same time last year.
- President Haynie noted that it has been a successful year for the College, highlighted by the Women's Basketball National Championship, completion of the new cosmetology building, establishment of a new partnership with the hospital and medical clinic, installation of the new turf field and stadium improvements, increased enrollment, and the awarding of the College's first bachelor's degrees.

Executive Session

Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to convene into Executive Session at 2:09 p.m. for discussion, consultation, and consideration of its position to instruct representatives regarding negotiations concerning the purchase, sale, or lease of real property, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(7). The motion passed unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Reconvened to the Public:

The meeting was reopened to the public at 2:43 p.m.

Board Direction to the Administration Re: the Purchase of Property:

In the Executive Session, the Board held a discussion regarding the potential purchase of real property and was asked to direct the Administration accordingly.

Mrs. Moody moved, and Mr. Kieffer seconded, to direct the Administration to follow the Board's direction, as discussed in Executive Session, regarding the purchase of certain real property and to approve a resolution regarding the same. (Resolution attached and made a part of the official minutes.) The motion carried unanimously, with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Kieffer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Montierth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jodi Keim

Jodi Keim
Recording Secretary

Attest:

/s/ Jeff Larson

Jeff Larson, Chair

/s/ Brad Montierth

Brad Montierth, Secretary