

Graham County Community College District

Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Student Services Building 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; 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; Kris McBride, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Aaron Burk, Dean of STEM and Health Sciences; 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 recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Chair Larson welcomed all attendees. Guests included Vance Bryce, Executive Director of the Graham County Chamber of Commerce; Eric Bejarano, Safford City Manager; and Brooke Curley of the Eastern Arizona Courier.

Truth in Taxation Hearing: In compliance with ARS §15-1461.01(A)(4), a Truth in Taxation Hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 budget was conducted. (Report attached and made a part of the official minutes.)

Comments from the audience were received.

Vance Bryce, representing the Graham County Chamber of Commerce, voiced strong support for Eastern Arizona College's proposed property tax levy. He noted that the Chamber represents 420 members and highlighted the College's \$345 million economic impact on the community. He described EAC as a driver of jobs and the local economy, emphasizing that its educational value is priceless. Mr. Bryce acknowledged that the current tax base cannot fully support the College's expenses and stressed the importance of demonstrating community support. 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 one letter opposing the proposed 2% tax levy increase.

Special Board Meeting
on the Proposed 2026-2027
Property Tax Levy:

Chair Larson called a Special Meeting on the 2026-2027 Proposed Property Tax Levy as mandated by ARS §15-1461.01.

Mrs. McMaster moved and Mr. Kieffer seconded to approve the District's proposed 2026-2027 property tax levy increase of 2%.

Chair Larson called for a roll call vote to consider the District's proposed 2026-2027 property tax levy increase. Mr. Kieffer voted "yes," Mrs. McMaster voted "yes," Mrs. Moody voted "yes," Dr. Montierth voted "yes," and Chair Larson voted "yes." The property tax levy increase passed unanimously.

Public Budget Hearing: Chair Larson announced the Public Budget Hearing for 2026-2027 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 2026-2027
GCCCD Budget:

Chair Larson called a Special Meeting to adopt the 2026-2027 Graham County Community College District Budget as mandated by ARS §15-1461(J).

Dr. Montierth moved, and Mrs. Moody seconded, to adopt the 2026-2027 Graham County Community College District Budget as presented. The 2026-2027 GCCCD Budget was adopted by a majority vote.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Moody moved, and Dr. Montierth seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Kieffer, McMaster, Moody, Montierth, and Larson voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jodi Keim

Jodi Keim
Recording Secretary

Attest:

/s/ Jeff Larson

Jeff Larson, Chair

/s/ Brad Montierth

Brad Montierth, Secretary