

GEORGE GERVIN PREP ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD
2801 E. Southern Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85042

The George Gervin Prep Academy Governing Board's Mission is to provide resources, which support student growth and development as well as preparation of the administrative staff and teachers that will allow them to successfully compete in the educational arena.

MINUTES
September 17, 2026

Members Present:

- Herb Jackson, Chairman
- Michael Williams
- Dr. Robert Pipkins
- Dr. Amina Simmons
- Dr. Tamala Harris

Members Absent:

Norman Darkwa

Staff Present:

- Barbara Hawkins, Superintendent
- Katlin Hewson, Principal

Staff Absent:

None

Call to Order – Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm

Pledge of Allegiance – all present participated

Call to the public - This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Governing Board. Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01 and in compliance with the Open Meeting Law, the Governing Board will neither discuss nor act on issues raised during this portion of the agenda. When necessary, issues will be taken into consideration and placed on a subsequent agenda.

No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes – August 2026 minutes - Motion *to approve* minutes

Dr. Pipkins moved and Michael Williams seconded, unanimously approved 5-0.

Principals Report – Principal Hewson introduced a grade band merger strategy that would move high performing kinder students to first grade and high performing first graders to 2nd grade. Dr. Pipkin and board member Williams wanted to ensure parents as well as staff was made aware of what to expect with the new instructional model. Ms. Hawkins assured the board that no changes would be made until after parents and staff was informed and in agreement. *Dr. Harris moved to approve the grade band merger plan stating this is common practice when students are performing at various levels. Motion seconded by Dr. Pipkins, unanimously approved 5-0.*

Ms. Hewson introduced a new Instructional Time Model (ITM) plan and made a recommendation for the board to adopt a flexible schedule so students can make-up instructional time to accommodate challenges expressed by some parents. Dr. Pipkins moved to approve the ITM plan and Dr. Harris seconded the motion to approve the ITM program, *unanimously approved 5-0*.

Ms. Hewson announced spring break was October 12th to October 19th and no changes to the ITM instructional model would change until after spring break. Principal Hewson gave the highlights of her attached report that included a staffing pattern change by creating a middle school team and assignment of rotating admin late nights. Challenges include lack of subs, number of staff absences, development of transportation routes and rotation of technology. Current enroll sits at 157 students, current withdrawals and new enrollments due to families moving. Ms. Hewson also shared the ESS caseload, gave a breakdown of student performance by grade with a plan of action for improving. Building repair updates were explained and upcoming community events. The report is attached for review. Dr. Harris moved to accept the principal report, Dr. Pipkin seconded report *unanimously approved 5-0*

Superintendents Reports: Ms. Hawkins gave an overview of the 2025-2026 preliminary A-F Letter grade and expressed concerns regarding changes in the EL scoring domain as well as the low student enrollment numbers. Ms. Hawkins discussed staff offer letters that need to be adjusted. All present reviewed the financial statements. In addition, Ms. Hawkins highlighted concerns about the possible impact federal issues may have on public schools overall. Dr. Robert Pipkins moved to accept the superintendent report, seconded by Michael Williams *unanimously approved 5-0*.

Committee Reports – None

Additional Action Items – The board voted to remove board member Norma Darkwa effectively immediately due to lack of participation and contact. Dr. Harris moved to remove Norma Darkwa from the board, seconded by Michael Williams, *unanimously approved 5-0*.

Other Business – None

Executive Session* - None

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

GGYC004