



Board of Trustees
MINUTES – Regular Meeting
Date: September 22, 2023 @ 2:00 P.M.
Location: NPS Campus

Board Members Present: Anderson Yazzie, Jr., Sherrick Roanhorse, Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
Craig Lee Sandoval, and Student Ad Hoc-Marcus Nahalea

I-III. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 2:11. P.M. by the Board President, Anderson Yazzie, Jr. All four elected Board members were present for a quorum, and recording secretary announced the roll call. Board member Craig Lee Sandoval provided the invocation.

IV. Land Acknowledgement

Student Ad-Hoc Marcus Nahalea read the Land Acknowledgement.

V. Approval of Agenda

The proposed agenda for Friday, September 22, 2023, was approved without any changes.

It was Motioned/Second by: Sherrick Roanhorse/Dr. Bernadette Todacheene Vote 4-0-0

VI. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 18, 2023, regular Board Meeting were approved with a minor name change.

It was Motioned/Second by Sherrick Roanhorse/Craig Sandoval Vote 4-0-0

VII. Introduction of Guests, Public Comments & Announcements

The Head of School, Shawna A. Becenti, introduced the Admin Team members in attendance followed by the Board of Trustees introductions.

Public Comments:

- A. Two Navajo Prep. students gave an overview of two upcoming events: Speech and Debate Tournament; Culture Night of local schools participation.
- B. Homecoming announcements and invitations for both board members and alumni participation were reported on.
- C. A request for students and staff to attend the San Juan Solar Project Groundbreaking Ceremony on October 5th was shared.
- D. Navajo Prep was selected, along with nineteen other Bureau of Indian Education schools, the Stronger Connections Grant in support of our safety and security initiatives.

VIII. Reports

A. Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School

Mrs. Becenti shared the highlights from her August board report, which included updates, plans, and school accomplishments from the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, advocacy and outreach efforts positive feedback from the Student Senate meetings was shared.

B. Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations

Rainy Crisp reported on behalf of Keith Neil and reported on the success of the recent student exchange program. Ms. Crisp shared the outcomes of Parent/Guardian Day and Senior Day. The food service department continues to provide tasty and nutritious meals to students. Building improvements resume and school activities are ongoing.

C. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach

Ms. Tabrum highlighted the award from BIE Safer Schools and updated on carry overs. The Technology Department continues to do a tremendous job while advocacy work is ongoing. The recent conference in Las Vegas provided a great deal of knowledge on admissions. Participation in Navajo Nation Youth Day events and parades was deemed successful. Updates on current enrollment was also mentioned and upcoming events were shared.

D. Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services

1 Division Director of Business and Human Services informed the board of the financial audit, ongoing projects,
2 and financial updates.

3 **E.** Roderick Denetso, Division Director of Student Life and Wellness

4 Mr. Denetso provided updates on residential enrollment, student health and safety platforms, upcoming count
5 week, and department reports within the residential program. Upcoming training opportunities was also
6 mentioned.

7 **E.** Devin Belin, Director of Dine Bizaad Center

8 Mr. Belin, reported on participation and presentations at cultural learning conferences along with onsite visits.
9 The training will extend and support monthly culture nights. The technology department continues to develop
10 the Dine Language and Culture app with a completion date of April 2024. Mr. Belin shared field trip and ongoing
11 task updates.

12 **F.** Marcus Nahalea, Student Senate Ad Hoc

13 Nahalea provided updates on upcoming events and how the combined efforts of all the grade levels benefitted
14 to successful outcomes. The new senate officers should be selected by October 5th. Fundraising and planning
15 for future events is ongoing. Reoccurring monthly senate cabinet meetings with Mrs. Becenti will help maintain
16 open communication between student life, interests and objectives. Focus is now directed on accomplishing
17 items on the event calendar.

18 **G.** Board Reports, Board of Trustees

19 Travel updates were given by the board President, Anderson Yazzie, Jr., in which he supported advocacy,
20 Navajo Nation projects, prospective students, community members and commended Navajo Prep staff in all
21 departments. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene reported on an event in which she promoted the school and
22 suggested on a possible outdoor excursion to the same site. Craig Sandoval shared his experience at an agency
23 council meeting in support of Navajo Preparatory School and the positive outcome of this visit. The Vice-
24 President, Sherrick Roanhorse, continues to advocate, at the Navajo Nation Council Meetings, and ask for their
25 support.
26

27 **IX. Unfinished Business**

28 **A.** Board Bylaws SY 2023-2024 were reviewed and approved with grammatical statements and defined roles
29 of members. It is the intention of the Board to continue to meet every third Friday of the calendar month,
30 unless a rescheduling is agreed upon by all parties. Travel amendments for mileage was established.

31 It was Motioned/Second by: Sherrick Roanhorse/Craig Lee Sandoval

Vote 4-0-0

32
33 **X. New Business**

34 **A.** Approval MOA: NTU Dual Credit Agreement

35 **B.** Approval: MOA BIE Narratives

36 **C.** Approval MOA NAISH and NNMC SY 23-25

37 **D.** Resolution Approval: Budget Modification

38 **E.** Approval: MOU House of the Sun

39 **F.** Resolution Approval: Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for NM Capital Outlay

40 **(A, B, C, D, F)** The Head of School gave a brief description of the NTU Dual Credit Agreement, BIE
41 Narratives, NAIHS and NNMC Collaborative Agreement, budget modifications for student support,
42 and the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan.

43 It was Motioned/Second by: Sherrick Roanhorse/Craig Lee Sandoval to approve items A, B, C, D, F

Vote 4-0-0

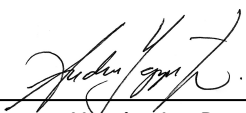
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45 **E.** Daryl Begay presented the House of the Sun project with a proposal to partner with Navajo
46 Preparatory School as its fiscal agent. Navajo Preparatory students will partake in certain aspects of
47 the production.

48 It was Motioned/Second by: Sherrick Roanhorse/Craig Lee Sandoval

Vote 4-0-0

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- 1 **XI. Personnel**
- 2 **A.** Approval Memo: Resignations and Discharges (2)
- 3 **B.** Approval Memo: New Hires (3)
- 4 Director of Human Resources Violet Kelley summarized resignations, discharges, and new hires.
- 5 It was Motioned/Second by: Dr. Todacheene/Sherrick Roanhorse Vote 4-0-0
- 6
- 7 **XII. Travel**
- 8 **A.** Approval: AISES National Conference, Spokane WA, Oct. 19-21, 2023
- 9 Six students and two chaperones will attend this conference.
- 10 **B.** Approval: Business Office PD, Las Vegas NV, Nov. 11-16, 2023
- 11 Accounts receivable staff will attend this session.
- 12 **C.** Approval: NCAI-80th Annual Convention, New Orleans LA, Nov. 12-17, 2023
- 13 **D.** Approval: NCAI Supporting Documents
- 14 The HOS will host a table along with the advancement team and three board members.
- 15 **E.** Approval: PoCC NAIS Conference, St. Louis MO, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2023
- 16 Mrs. Becenti will attend this conference.
- 17 **F.** Approval: HR Law Leadership, Temecula CA, Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2024
- 18 Ms. Kelley spoke on the multi-course seminar and how it would benefit the human resources
- 19 department.
- 20 **G.** Approval: 2024 NAIS Conference, St. Louis MO, Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2024
- 21 It was Motioned/Second by: Sherrick Roanhorse/Craig Lee Sandoval Vote 4-0-0
- 22
- 23 **XIII. Future Business, Next Meeting Date & Adjournment**
- 24 **A.** Winter Retreat dates: November 30-December 3, 2023.
- 25 The admin team and board of trustees will attend. Details are forthcoming.
- 26 Next Regular Board Meeting Date: October 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.
- 27 Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.
- 28 NPS Motion: All board members. Vote 4-0-0
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- 30 **Minutes approved on 09/22/2023**
- 31 **M/S:** Sherrick Roanhorse/Craig Sandoval
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Anderson Yazzie, Jr., President

Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
Secretary/Treasurer