



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly February 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 02/16/2024 | 5:06 PM – 08:05 PM – (Mountain Time)

2 Location of Meeting: Hilton Garden Inn, Gallup, NM

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (12): Anderson Yazzie Jr, School Board President;
4 Sherrick Roanhorse (Zoom), School Board Vice President;
5 Bernadette Todacheene, School Board Secretary; Craig L
6 Sandoval (Zoom), School Board Member at Large and Student Ad-
7 Hoc Marcus Nahalea, Shawna Becenti, Head of School; Keith Neil,
8 Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations; Darah
9 Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach
10 (Zoom); Manuel Watchman, Division Director for Business and
11 Human Services (Zoom); Roderick Denetso, Division Director of
12 Student Life and Wellness; Kevin Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad
13 Institute; Sean Bekis, Director of Technology; Violet Kelly, Human
14 Resources Director; Yvette Escojeda, Advocacy and Outreach
15 Coordinator

16 The regular February board meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at
17 5:06pm on February 16, 2024, with the board president, Anderson Yazzie, Jr. presiding. All
18 four elected board members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary
19 announced the roll call.

20 **INVOCATION**

21 Kevin Belin provided the invocation.

22 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

23 The Land Acknowledgement was read by Student Ad-Hoc Marcus Nahalea.

24 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

25 The proposed agenda for Friday, February 16, 2024 was approved with some minor
26 adjustments indicating the DBOSBA approval was highlighted as a priority for Navajo
27 Preparatory School.

28 It was motioned by Craig Sandoval and second by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene Vote: 4-0-0

29 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

30 The minutes of the meeting held on January 19, 2024, were reviewed and approved with no
31 modifications.

32 It was motioned by Craig Sandoval and second by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene Vote: 4-0-0

33 **CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ISSUES**

34 **INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

35 Shawna A. Becenti introduced present administration team; Kevin Belin, Roderick Denetso,
36 Sean Bekis, Keith Neil, Manuel Watchman, Violet Kelley (Zoom), and Lynette Billie. Alx Lee,
37 a reporter from Tri-City Record introduced herself. Winnie Morgan student presented on
38 upcoming Navajo Preparatory trip to Science Gifted and Talented NASA and Stanford and
39 requested approval for changes to itinerary and support with funding.

40 **REPORTS**

41 B. Shawna A. Becenti, the Head of School

42 Ms. Becenti provided updates on advocacy efforts and complimented hard work of the
43 staff and students at Navajo Prep for their support during such events. She spoke on
44 the recent trip with ambassadors and students to advocate for additional funding for
45 tribal education and their departments at the state level. The administration team were



1 in the process of reviewing budgets, organization charts, calendar, and staffing needs
2 for upcoming 2024-2025 SY.

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

4 Mr. Neil highlighted on the large number of honor roll students and 118 students on
5 the Dean's List at Navajo Prep. Mr. Neil provided updates on grant and state funding
6 that will add two new suburbans to the current fleet of vehicles to be utilized by School
7 Based Health Center, 7-Day Program, After-School Program, Classroom Without
8 Walls, and Extra Curricular activities. Navajo Prep teachers have shown they are
9 utilizing IB terminology and challenging students in their curriculum to push
10 development and having well-informed instruction. Mr. Neil shared the great success
11 of Annual Snow Day trip with students where they also had the opportunity to visit Fort
12 Lewis College & key aspects for Senior graduation day.

13 D. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach Report

14 Head of School, Ms. Becenti presented on behalf of Ms. Tabrum. She gave requested
15 updates as discussed during Winter Work Session on Blackbaud, alumni academic
16 support, website updates and storytelling presence, and donor report. Highlighted
17 advocacy efforts in Santa Fe for Legislative Outreach and was impressed on
18 engagement efforts and relationship building with legislators.

19 E. Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services

20 Mr. Watchman shared that the federal income tax forms, 1099 and W-9's, were sent
21 out on time with no issues. Updates were given on new Clover machines and reviewed
22 operating statement with P Card and improved credit card service fees. Mr. Watchman
23 shared that the credit card fees and rewards program was renegotiated with Vectra
24 and expressed a priority in being proactive in the business process.

25 G. Roderick Denetso, Director of Student Life and Wellness

26 Mr. Denetso shared that RUVNA was onboarded and a test run was complete with a
27 debriefing with teachers and staff to provide updates. Listed priorities for BIE Safety
28 inspection, the need for substitute RA's, reunification, and Narcan training, resources
29 for security threats and incidents, Discovery Days, and purchase of lockdown supplies.
30 Also noted on clothing donations being taken. Indicated concerns for students on
31 various matters.

32 F. Kevin Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad Institute

33 Mr. Belin shared updates on Navajo Nation State of the Nation address attended and
34 after school student lead shoe game events. Mr. Belin was also in attendance during
35 the Santa Fe legislative advocacy efforts and coached students on their interactions
36 with legislators as how to advocate on behalf of Navajo Prep and the nation. Discussed
37 release date for 2024-2025 SY for Dine Language and Culture app and upcoming
38 Hozho Naasha spring events. Indicated concernse for need of teachers for
39 department.

40 H. Marcus Nahalea, Student Senate

41 Mr. Nahalea discussed fundraising efforts for graduation and senior trip. Upcoming
42 events and advocacy highlighted; Black History Month, basketball tournament, and
43 ongoing fundraisers.

44 H. Board Reports, Board of Trustees

45 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, Northern Agency elected, attended Santa Fe Indian Day
46 and Legislative sessions, expressed the favorable time for Navajo Prep Schools as for
47 the continued growth and success for additional funding by the Advocacy team and
48 leadership for better understanding with BIE/BIA. Thanked Head of School, Ms.



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1 Becenti, Ms. Tabrum, and Ms. Escojedo. Indicated that the reports were in good form
2 and more financial board training for board and parents be done. Suggested to
3 approach local stores for more clothing donations for students.

4 Craig Sandoval- Eastern Agency Elected- Thanked team for advocating on behalf of
5 the school while attending the Santa Fe legislative sessions as he was unable to
6 attend. Appreciated the online coverage and students voices. Question to Mr.
7 Denetso on counseling, giving his suggestion on accommodating students'
8 needs. Also indicated his concern for attracting Dine' Language Teachers.

9 Sherrick Roahhorse, Ft. Defiance Agency Elected. Made a comment on researchers
10 as per IB. Also on books in Navajo for students and from the San Juan School District.
11 Response to his question was that the students are not proficient for some books. The
12 Bilingual testing assessment for a seal was explained as well as the requirements for
13 IB and that more research is required. This will be on going to match the IB language
14 program requirements as per Navajo/Dine' language. Mr. Roanhorse also commented
15 on the positive learning experience in Santa Fe and tribal government for the school
16 and students. Reflected on the HB134 and its progress. Thanked the staff for there
17 efforts in attaining the funding for NPS.

18 Anderson Yazzie, Jr. received more board reflections on future priorities for the next
19 legislative session. Thanked Mr. Roanhorse for his knowledge and efforts as well as
20 other board members assistance. Also commented on allocations and pay increases
21 for improvements possibly information for next board meeting.
22
23

24 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

25 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

26 A. Resolution Approval: 2024 Technology Purchase

27 Shawna Becenti reviewed resolution to purchase iPads and discussed laptop buyback
28 program.

29 B. Discussion/Approval: Dine Bi Olta School Board Association (DBOSBA) Letter

30 Shawna Becenti recommended a support letter for the Dine Bi' Olta School Board
31 Association to be presented at the NIEA Conference 2024. It was decided that verbal
32 comments would suffice in lieu of a written letter.

33 Motion to approve items A and B by Sherrick Roanhorse and second by Dr. Bernadette
34 Todacheene. Vote 4-0-0

35 **PERSONNEL**

36 A. Personnel Memo: Resignations (2)

37 B. Approval Personnel Memo: New Hires (5)

38 Motion to approve items A and B by Sherrick Roanhorse and second by Craig Sandoval

39 Vote 4-0-0

40 **TRAVEL**

41 A. Approval: Reservation Economic Summit (RES), Las Vegas, NV, March 10-15, 2024

42 B. Approval: My School Bucks Connect 2024, Durham, NC, March 18-21, 2024

43 C. Approval: SAP Concur Fusion 2024 Conference, Las Vegas, NV, March 18-22, 2024

44 D. Approval: Science Gifted and Talented NASA and Stanford Trip, Los Angeles, CA, March
45 20-24, 2024



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- 1 E. Approval: Promising Future Conference, Ithaca, NY, March 21-23, 2024
- 2 F. Approval: American School Counseling Association (ASCA) 2024 National Conference,
- 3 Kansas City, MO July 12-17, 2024
- 4 Motion to approve Items A-F was made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by
- 5 Sherrick Roanhorse Vote: 4-0-0


AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

7 The next Special Session Board Meeting will be held on March 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at Navajo
8 Preparatory School. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on March 29, 2024 at 2:00pm
9 at Navajo Preparatory School.

ADJOURNMENT

11 The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President.

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13 M/S: none taken



 Anderson Yazzie, Jr.,
 President

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 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
 Secretary/Treasurer