



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly April 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 04/26/24 | 2:00 PM – (Mountain Time)

2 Location of Meeting: Hotel Chaco, Albuquerque, NM

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (15): Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President; Sherrick  
4 Roanhorse, Board Vice President; Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,  
5 Board Secretary; Craig Lee Sandoval, Member-At-Large; Marcus  
6 Nahalea (virtual), Student Ad-Hoc Member; Shawna Becenti, Head  
7 of School; Keith Neil (virtual), Associate Head of School for  
8 Academics and Operations; Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of  
9 School for Advancement and Outreach; Manuel Watchman,  
10 Division Director for Business and Human Services; Roderick  
11 Denetso, Division Director of Student Life and Wellness; Kevin  
12 Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad Institute; Sean Bekis, Director of  
13 Technology; April Chee, Executive Assistant to the Head of  
14 School; Shawna Eaton, Technology Specialist, Patti Williams,  
15 School Lawyer

16 The regular April Board Meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 2:10 pm  
17 on April 26, 2024, with the board president, Anderson Yazzie, Jr., presiding. All four elected  
18 board members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary announced  
19 the roll call.

20 **INVOCATION**

21 Kevin Belin provided the invocation.

22 **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL, LITIGATION, OR OTHER RELATED ISSUES**

23 Motion to enter Executive Session by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Sherrick  
24 Roanhorse.

25 Board entered the Executive Session at 2:13 pm.

26 No decisions or approvals were made during the executive session.

27 Board returned to the regular session at 3:26 pm.

28 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

30 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

31 The proposed agenda for Friday, April 26, 2024, was approved with the following  
32 modifications: Item XI. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, or Other Related Issues  
33 has been conducted. Head of School, Shawna Becenti recommended that Item VIII. Reports  
34 stand for questions only.

35 Motion to approve agenda made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Craig  
36 Sandoval Vote: 4-0-0

37 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

38 The minutes of the meeting held on March 29, 2024, were reviewed, and approved with no  
39 modifications.

40 Motion to approve previous minutes made by Craig Sandoval and seconded by Sherrick  
41 Roanhorse. Vote: 4-0-0

42 **CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ISSUES**

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

44 Head of School, Shawna Becenti introduced Shawna Eaton, IT Specialist attending via Zoom.  
45 Mrs. Becenti announced a donation made on behalf of Navajo Preparatory School to the



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1 Nizhoní Days Pow Wow and relayed Dr. Wendy Greyeyes gratitude for that donation. Mrs.  
2 Becenti expressed gratitude to Board Vice President, Sherrick Roanhorse in supporting the  
3 in-person testimony at the American Indian & Alaska Native Public Witness Days. Sherrick  
4 shared that the testimony is in progress but will be outlined by fact sheets to relay main points  
5 to congressional leaders. Mrs. Becenti shared congratulations to Kevin Belin, Director of Diné  
6 Bizaad Institute, on coordinating Hózhó Naashá on campus. Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate  
7 Head of School for Advancement and Outreach, announced that admission selection has  
8 concluded and relayed data of incoming students.

9 **REPORTS**

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

11 Mrs. Becenti highlighted the 4CED Luncheon, which provided cultural awareness  
12 training and insight on the relationship between the Navajo Nation and the Four  
13 Corners area. Mrs. Becenti also gave an update on the upcoming event, College  
14 Horizon Jumpstart at Navajo Preparatory School.

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

16 Mr. Neil highlighted Project Presentation day and shared the interest of community  
17 members to judge at upcoming Project Presentation days. Mr. Neil also relayed the  
18 events of boys and girls basketball teams receiving special recognition at the Navajo  
19 Nation Council Spring Session and luncheon with Navajo Nation President, Buu  
20 Nyugren.

21 D. Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach

22 Ms. Tabrum shared updates on grant applications and Congressional Direct Spending  
23 requests. Ms. Tabrum highlighted the team effort to obtain two new suburbans for  
24 student activities and shared that Navajo Prep student advocates were the first to be  
25 transported in the new vehicle.

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

27 Mr. Watchman shared that Concur is close to going live with Navajo Prep and shared  
28 further updates on grant funding obtained.

29 F. Kevin Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad Institute

30 Mr. Belin highlighted the 7 Navajo Nation Bilingual Seal awardees from Navajo Prep  
31 and that they were 7 of 12 recognized across the Navajo Nation. Mr. Belin also shared  
32 the experience with Douglas Indian Association Cultural Exchange Program and  
33 events from Hózhó Naashá.

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

35 Mr. Denetso highlighted the tour given to residential aides at the new residential home  
36 and the excitement expressed in it's progress. Mr. Denetso also congratulated  
37 Teahonna James-Belin on receiving national recognition as an after-school activities  
38 coordinator. Mr. Denetso expressed thanks to Sean Bekis and Dr. Darah Tabrum in  
39 their assistance in completing the new gator for Navajo Prep security.

40 H. Marcus Nahalea, Student Senate

41 Mr. Nahalea highlighted accomplishments from the senior and junior class in  
42 coordinating the Senior Class Trip and Prom. Mr. Nahalea also relayed information on  
43 upcoming Student Election date.

44 H. Board Reports, Board of Trustees

45 No report was given.

46 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**



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**CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

A. Resolution Approval: Organizational Chart SY 2024-2025

Head of School, Shawna Becenti, read through resolution. Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, gave overview to changes on organizational chart.

Motion to approve Item A made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Sherrick Roanhorse. Vote 4-0-0

B. Resolution Approval: Proposed Operating Budget SY 2024-2025

Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services gave overview of budget breakdown. Division directors were consulted on budgetary needs and included planned expenditures, grant funds, and unrestricted funds.

Motion to approve Item B made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene Vote 4-0-0

C. Resolution Approval: Pay Increase for 2024-2025 Faculty and Staff

Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, gave an overview of potential pay increase options in relation to the proposed operating budget. The recommended increase was set at 5% and will be re-evaluated if necessary, depending on New Mexico State's proposed pay increases.

Motion to approve Item C made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Craig Sandoval Vote 4-0-0

D. Resolution Approval: Purchasing Card Addendum

Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, outlined the terms of the new purchasing card agreement in the resolution.

Motion to approve Item D made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene. Vote 4-0-0

E. Resolution Approval: Amendment to the Return to School Plan

Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed amendments to the Return to School Plan following guidelines established by the New Mexico Department of Health, New Mexico Public Education Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Motion to approve Item E made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Sherrick Roanhorse. Vote 4-0-0

F. Resolution Approval: Technology Purchase for Class of 2024

Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution for the Class of 2024 graduating class to purchase school laptops at a price of \$50.00.

Motion to approve Item F made by Craig Sandoval and seconded by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene. Vote 4-0-0

**PERSONNEL**

- A. Approval Personnel Memo: Resignations
- B. Approval Personnel Memo: New Hires
- C. Personnel Memo: Amendment to Job Descriptions
- D. Approval Memo: Contract and Stipend Renewals



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1 Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, gave an overview of  
2 Items A-D.

3 Motion to approve Items A-D made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Craig  
4 Sandoval. Vote 4-0-0

5 **TRAVEL**

6 A. Approval: Northwestern Counselor Advisory Board: May 19-21, 2024, Evanston, IL

7 B. Approval: International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Teacher Training: July 9-13, 2024,  
8 New York City, NY

9 C. Approval: Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Summer  
10 Symposium: July 31-August 1, 2024, San Francisco, CA

11 D. Approval: National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACA): September  
12 24-29, 2024, Los Angeles, CA  
13

14 Motion to approve Items A-D made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Craig  
15 Sandoval Vote: 4-0-0

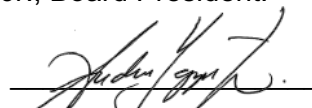
16 **AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

17 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on May 17, 2024 at 9:00 am at Navajo  
18 Preparatory School.

19 **ADJOURNMENT**

20 The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m. by Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President.

21  
22 M/S: none taken

  
Anderson Yazzie, Jr.,

President



Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,  
Secretary/Treasurer