



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

March 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 03/29/2024 | 2:00 PM – (Mountain Time)

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School, Farmington, NM

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (18): Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President, Sherrick
4 Roanhorse, Vice President, Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
5 Secretary, Craig Lee Sandoval (virtual), Member At Large, Marcus
6 Nahalea (virtual), Student Ad-Hoc Member, Shawna A. Becenti,
7 Head 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, Roderick Denetso,
10 Division Director of Student Life and Wellness, Manuel Watchman
11 (virtual), Division Director of Business and Human Services, Kevin
12 Belin (virtual), Director of Dine Bizaad Center, Sean Bekis, Director
13 of Technology, Rainy Crisp, Dean of Students & Athletic Director,
14 Violet Kelley, Human Resources Director, Yolanda Flores, Science
15 Teacher, John Russell, English Teacher, Terri Yazzie-
16 Bochinlonny (virtual), Senior Accountant, April Chee, Executive
17 Assistant to the Head of School

18 The regular March board meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 2:02
19 pm on March 29, 2024, with the Board President, Anderson Yazzie, Jr., presiding. All four
20 elected board members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary
21 announced the roll call.

22 **INVOCATION**

23 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene provided the invocation.

24 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

25 Student Ad-Hoc Marcus Nahalea read the Land Acknowledgement.

26 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

27 The proposed agenda for Friday, March 29, 2024, has been approved with the following
28 modifications: Board Vice President Sherrick Roanhorse requested to hear action items under
29 New Business, Personnel, and Travel prior to Reports. Mr. Roanhorse requested to add Item
30 L under Travel, Approval Pending Selection: House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
31 Public Witness Hearings: Washington, D.C., May 6-9, 2024. Head of School, Shawna A.
32 Becenti, requested that items C and D under New Business move to be Discussion/Approval.

33 Motion to approve agenda made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr. Bernadette
34 Todacheene Vote: 4-0-0

35 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

36 The minutes of the meeting held on February 16, 2024, were reviewed and approved with
37 some modifications. Board President, Anderson Yazzie requested clarification of February 16,
38 2024, Resolution: 2024 Technology Purchase amount to be set at \$50.00. Head of School,
39 Shawna A. Becenti, clarified that Item B under New Business: Discussion/Approval: Dine Bi
40 Olta School Board Association (DBOSBA) Letter notes that the decision to make verbal
41 comments would suffice in place of a written letter. The minutes of the meeting held on March
42 8, 2024, were reviewed, and approved with no modifications.

43 Motion to approve previous minutes made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr.
44 Bernadette Todacheene Vote: 4-0-0

45 **CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ISSUES**

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



1 Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach Darah Tabrum announced that the
2 Free Application for Federal Student Aide (FAFSA) is experiencing delays with the new system
3 and, therefore, must consider an extended timeline for senior students on college final
4 decisions. Board Members and the Head of School highlighted the successful Parade of
5 Champions event and noted the smooth process of relaying information during the
6 preventative lockdown incident.
7

8 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

10 A. Resolution Approval: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Policy

11 Head of School Shawna A. Becenti presented the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and
12 Belonging Policy, which includes standard language and was reviewed by the
13 Administrative team and school lawyer for recommended definitions.

14 B. Resolution Approval: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); San Juan College and
15 Farmington Police Department

16 Head of School, Shawna A. Becenti presented San Juan College MOU. San Juan
17 College MOU continues the standard relationship between SJC and Navajo
18 Preparatory School. Ms. Becenti presented the Farmington Police Department MOU,
19 which continues to support safety plans and offers real-time response during emergent
20 situations only.

21 Motion to approve Items A and B was made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by
22 Sherrick Roanhorse Vote: 4-0-0

23 C. Discussion/Approval: Student Senate Constitution

24 Student Ad-Hoc Member Marcus Nahalea reviewed the Student Senate Constitution,
25 highlighting changes with language updates and articles regarding vacancy protocols.
26 Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations Keith Neil discussed that the
27 student body was given the opportunity to review edits and a final review was made
28 by the Student Senate and Student Senate Sponsor.

29 D. Discussion: 7-Day Program Fee Increase

30 The Administrative Team reviewed the 7-Day Program Fee Increase presentation.
31 Recommendations were made to table the item to the June Board Meeting to ensure
32 requested items were reviewed and discussion points were added.

33 Motion to approve Item C was made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr. Bernadette
34 Todacheene. Vote 4-0-0

35 **PERSONNEL**

36 A. Approval Personnel Memo: Resignations (2)

37 B. Approval Personnel Memo: New Hires (10)

38 C. Approval Personnel Memo: Amendment to Job Description (1)

39 Motion to approve Items A-C was made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Craig
40 Sandoval Vote: 4-0-0

41 **TRAVEL**

42 A. Approval: Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF): Los Angeles,
43 CA, May 11-17, 2024

44 B. Approval: International Baccalaureate (IB) Professional Development: Pittsburgh, PA,
45 May 31-June 4, 2024
46



- 1 C. Approval: International Baccalaureate (IB) Professional Development: Atlanta, GA,
2 June 10-14, 2024
- 3 D. Approval: National Speech & Debate Tournament: Des Moines, IA, June 15-22, 2024
4 Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations, Keith Neil, discussed two
5 options for students and chaperones to fly or drive to the event.
- 6 E. Approval: International Baccalaureate (IB) Professional Development: St. Pete's
7 Beach, FL, June 17-23, 2024
- 8 F. Approval: International Baccalaureate (IB) Professional Development: Tahoe City, CA,
9 June 18-23, 2024
- 10 G. Approval: 2024 National UNITY Conference: Portland, OR, June 28-July 4, 2024
11 Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach, Darah Tabrum, relayed
12 that Nataanii Youth Council has decided not to attend the 2024 National UNITY
13 Conference, and the sponsor has submitted a statement to Mr. Neil.
- 14 H. Approval: Gifted Education Research & Resource Institute Program: Lafayette, IN, June
15 30-July 13, 2024
- 16 I. Approval: College Reading and Learning Association (CLRA) Summer Institute: Grand
17 Rapids, MI, July 13-17, 2024
- 18 J. Approval: CASE Summit for Leaders in Advancement 2024: New York, NY, July 21-
19 25, 2024
- 20 K. Approval: International Baccalaureate (IB) Global Conference 2024: Washington,
21 D.C., July 24-29, 2024
- 22 L. Approval *Pending Selection*: House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Public
23 Witness Hearings: Washington, D.C., May 6-9, 2024
24 Head of School, Shawna A. Becenti and Board Vice President Sherrick
25 Roanhorse will attend in-person public witness hearings pending selection.
26
- 27 Motion to approve Items A-L was made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr.
28 Bernadette Todacheene Vote: 4-0-0

29 REPORTS

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

31 Ms. Becenti highlighted that Navajo Preparatory School received funding from Senator
32 Heinrich through the Congressional Direct Spending program. Additional funds are to
33 be requested from all NM congressional leaders. Ms. Becenti gave an update on the
34 new residential home and will note further updates on campus development in the April
35 Board Report.

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

37 Mr. Neil and Rainy Crisp answered questions regarding athletics improvements and
38 the need for additional funding. Highlighted that there is currently a process for campus
39 development depending on budget and additional information breakdowns.

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

41 No questions were presented for Ms. Tabrum. Board President Anderson Yazzie
42 relayed thanks to Yvette Escojeda for putting together a breakdown of amounts
43 allocated from the past five years from sponsor contributions.

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

45 No questions were presented for Mr. Watchman. Board Secretary Dr. Bernadette
46 Todacheene expressed thanks for completing the 2023 audit report.

47 F. Roderick Denetso, Director of Student Life and Wellness

48 Mr. Denetso gave updates on the new gator for security and provided updates on
49 training to operate it appropriately. Ms. Becenti added that the use of this gator would



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1 provide additional comfort for the security team as they work year-round, and there
2 can be low temperatures in the winter.

3 G. Kevin Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad Institute

4 Mr. Belin provided updates that the Navajo language teacher position has been filled.
5 He highlighted that the first IB Dine mock exam was conducted, and there have been
6 great comments and feedback.

7 H. Marcus Nahalea, Student Senate

8 No questions were presented to Mr. Nahalea on the board report. Board President
9 Anderson Yazzie requested that 2024 graduation information be relayed to Board
10 Members at the April Board Meeting. Board Vice President Sherrick Roanhorse
11 additionally requested that a focus on honoring alumni be considered in graduation
12 events moving forward, keeping in mind the goal of advancing alumni engagement.

13 I. Board Reports, Board of Trustees

14 Member At Large, Craig Sandoval, discussed a successful trip to Washington D.C. to
15 partake at NIEA on the Hill. Mr. Sandoval met with legislators to discuss topics of
16 Navajo language and behavioral health for Indigenous students. Mr. Sandoval also
17 relayed his experience thus far at the National Association for Bilingual Education
18 conference in New Orleans, LA. Mr. Sandoval met with the President of NABE, who
19 requested that Navajo Preparatory School submit to present at the 2025 conference
20 and highlighted that the history of Indian education needs to be shared.

21 Board Secretary Dr. Bernadette Todacheene gave an update on attending the RES
22 2024 conference in Las Vegas, NV. Dr. Todacheene discussed great opportunities to
23 network and connect with businesses and individuals that have the potential to provide
24 funding for students. Additionally, the conference proved to be an invaluable event in
25 recruiting efforts for Navajo Preparatory School as well. Dr. Todacheene highlighted
26 the great success of the Parade of Champions event on campus and was happy to
27 attend and walk with the students.

28 Board Vice President Sherrick Roanhorse relayed information gathered from visits in
29 Washington D.C. during NIEA on the Hill, where language, culture, and BIE funding
30 topics were discussed. Mr. Roanhorse also attended the Tribal Interior Budget Council
31 meetings in Washington D.C. in support of Shawna Becenti and Yvette Escojeda
32 where they met with several congressional leaders outside of NM, AZ, CO, and UT to
33 discuss funding opportunities. Mr. Roanhorse also attended the celebration of
34 Representative Allison's retirement and thanked him for his long-time support of
35 Navajo Preparatory School.

36 Board President, Anderson Yazzie Jr. attended the RES 2024 Conference to provide
37 advocacy and outreach support with Yvette Escojeda. This event proved to be an
38 invaluable networking opportunity for Navajo Prep and Mr. Yazzie was able to gain
39 more insight on looking at Indigenous businesses to support funding opportunities for
40 the school. Mr. Yazzie also attended the Parade of Champions and offered feedback
41 to ensure that the Navajo language and culture are embedded into all aspects of
42 upcoming events. Lastly, Mr. Yazzie has continued 1:1 visits with the Head of School
43 to ensure that ongoing and new topics are being addressed.

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AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

47 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on April 26, 2024, at 1:00pm. at Navajo
48 Preparatory School.

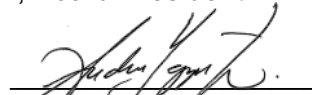


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1 **ADJOURNMENT**

2 The meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm by Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President.

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4 M/S: none taken


Anderson Yazzie, Jr.,

President



Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
Secretary/Treasurer

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