



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly May 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 05/17/2024 | 9:00 AM – (Mountain Time)

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (19): Anderson Yazzie, Jr, Board President; Sherrick
4 Roanhorse, Board Vice President; Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
5 Board Secretary; Craig Sandoval, Board Member At Large; Marcus
6 Nahalea, Ad-Hoc Member; Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School;
7 Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and
8 Outreach; Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics and
9 Operations; Roderick Denetso, Division Director for Student Life
10 and Wellness; Manuel Watchman, Division Director for Business
11 and Human Services; Kevin Belin, Director of the Diné Bizaad
12 Institute; Sean Bekis (virtual), Director of Technology; April Chee,
13 Executive Assistant to the Head of School; Shawna Sandoval, IT
14 Specialist; Walter Collins, Security Officer; Ronica Becenti, Parent;
15 Darryl Becenti, Parent; Melvina Lake, Parent; Seth Damon, Deputy
16 Secretary for NM Indian Affairs Department

17 The regular May board meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 9:05 am
18 on May 17, 2024, with the board president, Anderson Yazzie, Jr. presiding. All four elected
19 board members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary announced
20 the roll call.

21 **INVOCATION**

22 Craig Sandoval provided the invocation.

23 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

25 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

26 The proposed agenda for Friday, May 17, 2024, has been approved with request to move Item
27 E in Reports to Item A made by Marcus Nahalea, Ad-Hoc Member.

28 Motion to approve agenda by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Craig Sandoval

29 Vote: 4-0-0

30 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

31 The minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2024, were reviewed and approved with no
32 modifications.

33 Motion to approve minutes by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Craig Sandoval

34 Vote: 4-0-0

35 **CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ISSUES**

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

37 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, introduced present Navajo Prep administrative members;
38 Dr. Darah Tabrum, Roderick Denetso, Manuel Watchman, Kevin Belin. Shawna Sandoval, IT
39 Specialist, introduced herself. Navajo Prep student, Landon Succo, introduced himself. Navajo
40 Prep parents, Ronica Becenti, Darryl Becenti, and Melvina Lake introduced themselves. Darryl
41 Becenti shared during public comment their daughter's experience in signing up for Navajo
42 culture classes on campus. Mr. Becenti expressed thanks to the Navajo Prep board, faculty
43 and staff for their hard work in helping students but would like more focus to be made on the
44 accessibility of Navajo culture classes to students.

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Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.
Monthly May 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 **REPORTS**

2 A. Marcus Nahalea, Student Senate

3 Mr. Nahalea thanked the Board of Trustees for their support and guidance during the
4 school year. Mr. Nahalea shared the Senior, Junior, and Student Senate highlights
5 from the year.

6 B. Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School

7 Mrs. Becenti gave updates on HVAC project for residential buildings and overview of
8 testimony from American Indian and Alaska Native Days Testimony. Mrs. Becenti gave
9 compliments to the advocacy team and Board Vice President on their assistance in
10 creating the written and verbal testimonies. Mrs. Becenti introduced the topic of
11 Brenda's House and gave updates on the upcoming Farmington City Council Meeting
12 when it was decided a Board of Trustees Work Session was needed to further discuss
13 this topic.

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

15 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, presented the Class of 2024 Graduation schedule
16 on behalf of Mr. Neil.

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

18 Mr. Watchman reviewed current financial statements.

19 E. Board Reports, Board of Trustees

20 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, Board Secretary, thanked Board Vice President and
21 Head of School for their efforts advocating in D.C. at American Indian and Alaska
22 Native Days testimony. Craig Sandoval, Board Member At Large, gave an overview of
23 the recent trip to Albuquerque, NM to assist in the booth at Gathering of Nations Pow
24 Wow. Mr. Sandoval expressed that this was a great opportunity for outreach with
25 community members, organizations, and various agencies. Sherrick Roanhorse,
26 Board Vice President, shared insight on American Indian and Alaska Native Days
27 testimony in Washington D.C. Mr. Roanhorse thanked Dr. Wendy Greyeyes, Navajo
28 Nation Washington Office, Cecilia Firethunder and Navajo Prep advocacy team in their
29 assistance with the verbal and written testimony. Mr. Roanhorse shared that during
30 their trip, they were able to meet with subcommittees and congressional members to
31 share insight into the Navajo Preparatory School and tribally controlled schools.
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33 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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35 ***CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS***

36 A. Resolution Approval: Community Handbook

37 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed suggested revisions and updates to the
38 2024-2025 SY Community Handbook.

39 B. Resolution Approval: Personnel Handbook

40 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed suggested revisions and updates to the
41 2024-2025 SY Personnel Handbook.

42 Motion to table Items A and B made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene.

43 C. Resolution Approval: 2024-2025 SY Medical Insurance Rates



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly May 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, reviewed the
2 suggested increase in insurance rates. The administration recommended a 5%
3 increase and a one-time payment.

4 D. Resolution Approval: HVAC Project

5 Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School, reviewed resolution for Navajo Prep to request to
6 exercise its PL 100-297 designation to manage the HVAC project and request
7 additional Tribal Grant Support costs to administer this project.

8 E. Resolution Approval: Advancement and Outreach Scholarships

9 Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach,
10 reviewed the resolution to award the Nááts'íilid, Sult-Crable, and Kevin Littlehat
11 Memorial scholarships to 16 graduating seniors.

12 F. Resolution Approval: Scholarships of Excellence

13 Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School, reviewed resolution to award the Academic
14 Excellence, William Tso Memorial, Ernesteen Bates Memorial, Academic Merit, and
15 Louise M. Tah scholarships to 12 graduating seniors.

16 G. Resolution Approval: Confirming the Graduating Class of 2024

17 Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution to confirm and
18 congratulate the graduating Class of 2024.

19 H. Resolution Approval: Student Ad-Hoc Gift

20 Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution to approve a gift to the
21 Student Ad-Hoc Board Member for their service and dedication to Navajo Preparatory
22 School, Inc.

23 Motion to approve items C – H made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Craig Sandoval

24 Vote 4-0-0

25 **PERSONNEL**

26 A. Approval Personnel Memo: Resignations

27 B. Approval Personnel Memo: New Hires

28 C. Approval Memo: Stipend Request

29 Manuel Watchman, Director of Business and Human Services, reviewed Items A –
30 C.

31 Motion to approve Items A - C was made by Sherrick Roanhorse and seconded by Dr.
32 Bernadette Todacheene Vote: 4-0-0

33 **TRAVEL**

34 A. Approval: Aiglon College Visit: Chesières, Switzerland, October 25-November 2, 2024

35 Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach,
36 reviewed travel to Aiglon College for two staff members and one board member.

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

39 ***Future Business***

40 Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President, requested that the Board of Trustees review and
41 prepare for the Summer Work Session and June Board Meeting. Sherrick Roanhorse, Board
42 Vice President, shared details on Summer Work Session and the importance of holding an
43 annual meeting in preparation for upcoming school year. The next Regular Board Meeting will
44 be held on June 13, 2024 at 2:00 pm in Telluride, CO.



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.
Monthly May 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 **ADJOURNMENT**

2 The meeting adjourned at 12:21 pm by Anderson Yazzie Jr., Board President.

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4 M/S: none taken

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5 Anderson Yazzie, Jr.,
6 President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Bernadette Todacheene", written over a horizontal line.

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8 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
9 Secretary/Treasurer
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