



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly August 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 08/16/2024 | 2:00 PM MST

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (17): Anderson Yazzie, Jr., President; Sherrick
4 Roanhorse, Vice President; Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
5 Secretary; Craig Lee Sandoval, Member At Large; Haylei
6 Redhouse, Student Ad Hoc; Shawna Becenti, Head of School;
7 Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics and
8 Operations; Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for
9 Advancement and Outreach; Roderick Denetso, Division Director
10 of Student Life and Wellness; Manuel Watchman, Division Director
11 of Business and Human Services; Kevin Belin, Director of the Diné
12 Bizaad Institute; April Chee, Executive Assistant to the Head of
13 School; Lynwandowski Filfred, Human Resource Manager; Sean
14 Bekis, Director of Technology; Jerrold Platero, Facilities Manager;
15 Brenda Martin, Navajo Prep Parent; Andrea Thomas, Navajo Prep
16 Parent

17 The regular August board meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 2:08
18 pm on August 16, 2024, with Board Vice-President, Sherrick Roanhorse, presiding. Three
19 elected board members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary
20 announced the roll call.

21 **INVOCATION**

22 Kevin Belin, Director of the Diné Bizaad Institute, provided the invocation.

23 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

24 The Land Acknowledgement was read by Student Ad-Hoc Haylei Redhouse.

25 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

26 The proposed agenda for Friday, August 16, 2024, was approved with two new agenda items
27 under New Business. Head of School, Shawna Becenti, requested that Item D. Navajo
28 Preparatory School Bank Authorization and Item E. National Indian Education Association
29 Board Nomination be included under New Business.

30 Motion to approve agenda made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Craig
31 Sandoval Vote: 3-0-0

32 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

33 The minutes of the meeting held on July 24, 2024, were reviewed and approved with no
34 modifications.

35 Motion to approve previous minutes made by Craig Sandoval and seconded by Dr.
36 Bernadette Todacheene. Vote: 3-0-0

37 **CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ISSUES**

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

39 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, introduced Navajo Prep staff present at board meeting in
40 person and online. Jerrold Platero, Facilities Manager, and Lynwandowski Filfred, Human
41 Resource Manager, introduced themselves. Board of Trustees provided an introduction to
42 present attendees. Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations,
43 provided an update on Parent/Guardian Day. Shawna Becenti, Head of School announced
44 that Navajo Prep had a booth at the San Juan County Fair. Kevin Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad
45 Institute, provided report on booth at the Central Agency Fair Youth Day. Darah Tabrum,
46 Associate Head of School for Advancement and Outreach, provided details on upcoming



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1 Central Agency Fair Parade. Mrs. Becenti gave an update on the first week of school and
2 reminded staff of required online trainings.

3 **REPORTS**

4 A. Administrative Team

5 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, presented the Administrative Team report focused
6 on quick wins, impact, demographics, events, campus development, professional
7 development, and aspirations. Manuel Watchman, Division Director for Business and
8 Human Services, reviewed financials and Board of Trustees budget breakdown for the
9 2023-2024 SY.

10 B. Board Reports, Board of Trustees

11 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, Board Secretary, attended the New Student Home Grand
12 Opening event and noted the event had a good turnout and received positive feedback.
13 Craig Sandoval, Member at Large, attended the New Student Home Grand Opening
14 and All Staff Back to School Meeting and noted that both events were great to attend
15 and productive. Mr. Sandoval also traveled to San Francisco, CA to attend the 21st
16 CCLC Summer Symposium. Mr. Sandoval noted that 21st Century is not just an after-
17 school program and is evolving and working to align with school priorities and activities.
18 Sherrick Roanhorse, Vice President, attended the Indian Affairs Committee
19 presentation and received great feedback on Navajo Prep. Anderson Yazzie Jr.,
20 President, noted that he also attended the New Student Home Grand Opening and all
21 board members were in attendance at the IB Global Conference 2024 in Washington
22 D.C.

23

24 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

25 A. Resolution Approval: 24-25 SY Board of Trustees By-Laws

26 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the revised Board of Trustees By-Laws
27 and noted that the school lawyer had no suggested revisions. Sherrick Roanhorse,
28 Vice President, and Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, Secretary, suggested that the Board
29 of Trustees By-Laws go through an additional revision process at the December Board
30 Meeting.

31 B. Approval: Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation

32 Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, reviewed the
33 overall score of the Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
34 Secretary, requested that copies of feedback be made available to each voting board
35 member.

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

38

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

39 A. Approval: Board of Trustees Elections

40 Anderson Yazzie Jr. nominated Craig Sandoval for Board President and requested to
41 be the Member At Large. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene nominated Sherrick Roanhorse
42 for Board President. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, moved to cease nominations.

43 Sherrick Roanhorse made a motion to move to Executive Session. Board of Trustees
44 entered Executive Session at 3:25 PM and concluded at 3:48 PM.

45 Craig Sandoval and Sherrick Roanhorse accepted the nomination for Board President.
46 The Board of Trustees proceeded with a verbal vote for Board President with 3 votes
47 for Sherrick Roanhorse and 0 votes for Craig Sandoval. Craig Sandoval was



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1 nominated for Board Vice President by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and requested that
2 nominations cease and put forward Craig Sandoval as Board Vice President by
3 unanimous vote. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene was nominated for Board Secretary by
4 Anderson Yazzie Jr. and requested that nominations cease and put forward Dr.
5 Bernadette Todacheene as Board Secretary by unanimous vote.

6 B. Resolution Approval: Memorandum of Understanding New Mexico Public Education
7 Department

8 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution and made note that the MOU
9 was reviewed by the school lawyer and approved with suggested revisions. Keith Neil,
10 Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations, reviewed details of the MOU
11 with NMPED and noted that this will be sent to the Bureau of Indian Education for final
12 approval.

13 C. Resolution Approval: New Mexico Peer-to-Peer Helper Program

14 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution and noted that this is a
15 continued agreement between Navajo Preparatory School and the NM Peer-to-Peer
16 Helper Program.

17 D. Resolution Approval: Navajo Preparatory School Bank Account Authorization

18 Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, authorizing Mr.
19 Watchman to covert non-interest bearing accounts to interest bearing checking
20 accounts as needed.

21 E. Resolution Approval: National Indian Education Association Board Member Nomination

22 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution to nominate herself as a
23 board member of the National Association Indian Education Association. Dr. Darah
24 Tabrum, Associate Head of the School for Advancement and Outreach, noted that this
25 nomination would benefit Navajo Preparatory School and other Tribally Controlled
26 Schools and that the school has worked closely with NIEA.

27 Motion to approve Items A-E made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by Craig
28 Sandoval. Vote 3-0-0

29 **PERSONNEL**

30 A. Approval Personnel Memo: Resignations

31 B. Approval Personnel Memo: New Hires

32 Lynwandowski Filfred, Human Resource Manager, reviewed resignations and new
33 hires.

34 Motion to approve Items A-B was made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by
35 Craig Sandoval Vote: 3-0-0

36 **TRAVEL**

37 A. Approval: National Indian Education Association Convention and Trade Show 2024 -
38 Palm Springs, CA, October 9-12,2024

39 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed travel packet requesting that Head of
40 School travel to the NIEA Convention and Trade Show to fulfill duties as a member
41 of the Tribal Interior Budget Council Education Subcommittee member and NIEA
42 Board Nominee.

43 B. Approval: CASE National Association of Independent Schools Conference 2025:
44 Washington D.C., January 26-28, 2025

45
46 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed travel packet requesting that the Head
47 of School, Dr. Darah Tabrum, and staff members from the Advancement and



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1 Outreach department attend the CASE NAIS Conference 2025. Request made that
2 an additional day be added for advocacy meetings while in Washington D.C.
3

4 Motion to approve Items A-B was made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by
5 Craig Sandoval. Vote: 3-0-0

6 **AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

7 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on September 20, 2024 at 1:00 PM at Navajo
8 Preparatory School - Hogan.

9 **ADJOURNMENT**

10 The meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM by Sherrick Roanhorse, Board President.

11
12 M/S: none taken

13 Sherrick Roanhorse,
14 President

15
16 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
17 Secretary/Treasurer
18