



1 Date of Meeting: 09/20/2024 | 1:00 PM MDT

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (19): Sherrick Roanhorse, President; Craig Lee
4 Sandoval, Vice President; Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, Secretary;
5 Anderson Yazzie Jr., Member At Large; Haylei Redhouse, Ad-Hoc
6 Member; Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School; Keith Neil,
7 Associate Head of School for Academics and Operations; Dr.
8 Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and
9 Outreach; Roderick Denetso, Division Director of Student Life and
10 Wellness; Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business and
11 Human Services; Kevin Belin, Director of Diné Bizaad; April Chee,
12 Executive Assistant to the Head of School; Sean Bekis, Director of
13 Technology; Lynwandowski Filfred, Human Resource Manager;
14 Victoria Acosta, Student Life Coordinator; Brent Garcia, Visual Arts
15 Teacher; Kevin Keeley, Science Teacher; Shawna Eaton, IT Tech;
16 Joshua PrettynonTop, IT Tech

17 The regular September board meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at
18 1:00 PM on September 20, 2024, with the Board President, Sherrick Roanhorse, presiding.
19 Three elected members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary
20 announced the roll call.

21 **INVOCATION**

22 Craig Lee Sandoval, Vice President, 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 September 20, 2024 was approved with a request from the Head of
27 School for an Executive Session following IX. New Business.

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

30 **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

31 The minutes of the meeting held on August 16, 2024, were reviewed and approved with no
32 modifications.

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

35 **CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ISSUES**

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

37 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, introduced Navajo Preparatory School staff present at the
38 meeting both in person and virtually. Board of Trustees members introduced themselves. Mrs.
39 Becenti shared an update on the UN Peace Day school assembly that took place on
40 September 20th as well as the recent celebration of the Navajo Preparatory School Southwest
41 Studies Collection. Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement and
42 Outreach, shared that Navajo Preparatory School was selected for the third time to receive
43 the Native American Language grant and the committee has point to Navajo Prep as an expert
44 that could offer support to other grantees. Mrs. Becenti recognized Haylei Redhouse, Ad Hoc
45 Member, for completing the Student Senate oath of office at a school assembly in English and
46 Navajo.

47



1 **REPORTS**

2 A. Administrative Team

3 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed Administrative Team report and
4 requested Admin Team members highlight their wins and accomplishments from the
5 last month. Kevin Belin, Director of the Diné Bizaad Institute, shared a draft of Navajo
6 Preparatory School Guiding Principles and will provide a more detailed
7 implementation schedule and framework at the Winter Work Session. Manuel
8 Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services, shared that the
9 process for audit has begun, and accounts have been updated to be interest-bearing.
10 Victoria Acosta, Student Life Coordinator, shared that residential intakes have been
11 completed, and all student homes are filled. Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of
12 the School for Advancement and Outreach, coordinated meetings with New Mexico
13 legislative staffers and had productive meetings where positive relationships
14 continued to be built. Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics and
15 Operations, shared that the new Facility Manager has done well in bringing facilities
16 team together for shared Navajo Prep mission. Mr. Neil also shared that the DP and
17 MYP visits have been scheduled and requested that the Board of Trustees be
18 present for visits. Mr. Watchman gave an update on financial statements and will put
19 together a Board of Trustees financials training for the next regular board meeting.

20 H. Haylei Redhouse, Student Senate

21 Haylei Redhouse, Student Ad-Hoc, gave an update on Student Senate initiatives and
22 highlights. Ms. Redhouse coordinated the Student Senate professional development
23 event that had great success with Mr. Belin, Ms. Henry, and Mrs. Becenti's assistance.

24 H. Board Reports, Board of Trustees

25 No reports from the Board of Trustees.

26 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

27 A. Resolution Approval: Bureau of Indian Education Native American Language Immersion
28 Opportunity

29 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution and turned presentation
30 over to Brent Garcia. Mr. Garcia and Kevin Belin shared the proposal that would be
31 one of the ways to give students the opportunity to view sacred sites that they would
32 otherwise be unable to visit utilizing VR technology and documentary series. Dr.
33 Tabrum reviewed where the funding would be pulled from for the project.

34 B. Resolution Approval: Budget Adjustment

35 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution and turned over to Manuel
36 Watchman, Division Director of Business and Human Services. Mr. Watchman gave
37 an update on the budget adjustment from Johnson O'Malley funding.

38 C. Resolution Approval: New Mexico Public Education Department Indian Education Division
39 Funds Discontinuation

40 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution requesting support from the
41 Board of Trustees that Navajo Preparatory School disagrees with the discontinuation
42 of funding.

43 D. Resolution Approval: Bureau of Indian Education Narratives

44 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution requesting approval of
45 Navajo Preparatory School's BIE Narratives.

46 E. Resolution Approval: Personnel Handbook Amendments



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly September 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 Head of School, Shawna Becenti, reviewed the resolution and proposed Personnel
2 Handbook amendments correcting contract numbers and holiday dates.

3 Motion to approve Items A-E was made by Anderson Yazzie Jr. and seconded by Craig
4 Sandoval. Vote: 4-0-0

5 Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters made by Dr. Bernadette
6 Todacheene and seconded by Craig Sandoval. Board of Trustees moved to Executive
7 Session at 2:37 PM and exited at 3:12 PM.

8 **PERSONNEL**

9 A. Approval Memo: Resignations

10 B. Approval Memo: New Hires

11 C. Approval Memo: Stipends

12 D. Approval Memo: Job Description Amendment

13 Lynwandowski Filfred, Human Resources Manager, reviewed Personnel items A-D.

14 Motion to approve Items A-D was made by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and seconded by
15 Craig Sandoval. Vote: 3-0-0

16 **TRAVEL**

17 A. Approval: National Native American Human Resources Association Conference 2024
18 – September 22-26, 2024, Durant, OK

19
20 Manuel Watchman reviewed travel for Lynwandowski Filfred to attend professional
21 development conference.
22

23 B. Approval: American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference and
24 Poster Competition – October 2-5, 2024, San Antonio, TX

25
26 Keith Neil reviewed travel for 8 students and 1 teacher chaperone to the AISES
27 Conference 2024.
28

29 C. Approval: International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge Workshop – November 22-
30 26, 2024, Seattle, WA

31
32 Keith Neil reviewed travel for teacher, David Riser, to attend IB professional
33 development conference.
34

35 D. Approval: National Association for Independent Schools THRIVE Conference –
36 February 26-28, 2025, Nashville, TN

37
38 Shawna Becenti reviewed travel for Keith Neil, Lesley Tohtsoni, Rebecca Werth,
39 Shawna Becenti, and one board member to attend NAIS THRIVE Conference 2025.
40

41 E. Approval: United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference 2025 – June 27-July 1, 2025,
42 San Diego, CA

43
44 Keith Neil reviewed travel for Naataanii Youth Council to attend the UNITY
45 Conference 2025.
46

47 Motion to approve Items A-E was made by Craig Sandoval and seconded by Dr. Bernadette
48 Todacheene. Vote: 3-0-0

49 **AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly September 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

1 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on October 18, 2024 at 1:00 PM at Navajo
2 Preparatory School - Hogan.

3 **ADJOURNMENT**

4 The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM by Sherrick Roanhorse, Board President.

5
6 M/S: none taken

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Roanhorse', written over a horizontal line.

7 Sherrick Roanhorse,
8 President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. B. Todacheene', written over a horizontal line.

9
10 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
11 Secretary/Treasurer
12