



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly February Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 02/20/2026 | 2:00 PM

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (32): Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President; Jennifer  
4 Redhouse, Vice President; Charley Long, Sr.,  
5 Secretary/Treasurer; Marlene Laughter, Member At Large;  
6 Ernestine Begay, Member At Large; Bradley Redhouse, Ad Hoc  
7 Member; Shawna A. Becenti, Head of School; Keith Neil,  
8 Associate Head of School for Academics & Operations; Dr. Darah  
9 Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement & Outreach;  
10 Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business & Human  
11 Services; Roderick Denetso, Division Director of Student Life &  
12 Wellness; Jerrold Platero, Facility & Operations Manager; April  
13 Chee, Executive Assistant to the Head of School; Sean Bekis,  
14 Director of Technology; Paul Martinez, Jaynes Corporation; Tim  
15 Broeren, Jaynes Corporation; Neil Dolder, Jaynes Corporation;  
16 Gerald Skeets, community member; Yolanda Skeets, community  
17 member; Christine Benally, community member; Etta Arviso,  
18 community member; Justin Chee, community member; Donovan  
19 Quintero, Freelance Reporter with the Navajo Times; Brenda  
20 Martin, Navajo Prep Parent; Mike Salabiye, community member;  
21 Anthony Allison, Former NM State Representative; Sharon Eluska,  
22 community member; Marcus Yazzie, community member; Clara  
23 Goodluck, community member; Larry Foster, community member;  
24 Barbara Billey, community member; Norman P. Brown, community  
25 member

26 The February Board Meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 2:16 PM  
27 on February 20, 2026, with the President, Dr. Bernadette Todacheene presiding. All  
28 elected board members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary  
29 announced the roll call.

30 **INVOCATION**

31 Charley Long, Sr., Secretary/Treasurer, provided the invocation.

32 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

33 The Land Acknowledgement was read by Ad-Hoc Member Bradley Redhouse.

34 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

35 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, requested to strike Item C under XI. New Business from the  
36 agenda making note that this item will require a special session or be included on the next  
37 regular board meeting agenda. Mrs. Becenti also made a recommendation to add Item E  
38 under New Business for Resolution Approval: Navajo Preparatory School Public Law 100-297  
39 Grant Re-Authorization Application. The amended agenda was approved with no further edits  
40 or modifications.

41 Motion to approve the agenda made by Ernestine Begay and seconded by Charley Long, Sr..  
42 Vote: 5-0-0

43 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

44 The January Board Meeting minutes from January 16, 2026 were approved with no edits or  
45 modifications.

46 Motion to approve the January Board Meeting minutes made by Jennifer Redhouse and  
47 seconded by Marlene Laughter. Vote: 5-0-0

48 **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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1 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, introduced herself and the Navajo Prep staff present at the  
2 meeting both in person and online. The Board of Trustees introduced themselves for guests  
3 present both in person and virtually. Jennifer Redhouse, Vice President, requested a moment  
4 of silence in remembrance of Dr. Larry Holman in recognition of his service to Tribally  
5 Controlled Schools and To'haajiilee' Community School. In person guests introduced  
6 themselves to the Board of Trustees: Jerrold Skeets, community member and Navajo Code  
7 Talker descendent; Yolanda Skeets, community member; Donovan Quintero, freelance  
8 reporter with the Navajo Times. Virtual guests introduced themselves to the Board of Trustees:  
9 Mike Salabiye, community member and Navajo Code Talker descendent; Anthony Allison,  
10 community member and member of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum Inc.; Sharon Eluska,  
11 community member; Marcus Yazzie, community member and Navajo Code Talker  
12 descendent; Clara Goodluck, community member and Navajo Code Talker descendent; Larry  
13 Foster, community member and Navajo Code Talker descendent; Barbara Billey, community  
14 member and Navajo Code Talker descendent; Norman P. Brown, community member and  
15 Navajo Code Talker descendent.

16 Christine Benally, Navajo Code Talker descendent, provided public comment making  
17 regarding the Navajo Code Talker museum project and made recommendations that  
18 descendants of the Navajo Code Talker's be a part of the project process and any future  
19 commemorations.

20 Etta Arviso, Navajo Code Talker descendent, provided public comment on the proposed  
21 Navajo Code Talker museum project and encouraged the project to remain focused on the  
22 Navajo language and it's impacts. Ms. Arviso also expressed thanks to the Navajo Nation for  
23 establishing Navajo Prep for education of Navajo students.

24 Mrs. Becenti shared an update on the Classroom Without Walls Leadership Program that took  
25 ten students to Washington D.C. Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics &  
26 Operations, gave an update on the upcoming district tournament games that the Eagles and  
27 Lady Eagles basketball teams would be hosting. Mr. Neil also gave an update on Navajo Prep  
28 hosting the New Mexico IB Schools Network event on campus. Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate  
29 Head of School for Advancement & Outreach, announced that the New Mexico Indian  
30 Education Department awarded Navajo Prep a grant to continue the development of the NPS  
31 Navajo Language App.

32 **REPORTS**

33 A. Student Home HVAC Upgrades and Kitchen Renovations, Jaynes Corporation

34 Neil Dolder, Tim Broeren, and Paul Martinez from Jaynes Corporation provided an  
35 update on the student home HVAC upgrades and kitchen renovations including a  
36 schedule overview, phasing plan, and design.  
37

38 B. Indigenous STEAM Facility, FCI Construction and FBT Architects

39 Matt Aupperle and Bryan Gadd from FCI Construction and Sanjay Engineer, Jeremy  
40 Trumble, and Diana Duran from FBT Architects provided an update on the Indigenous  
41 STEAM Facility project sharing updated renderings, landscape plan, and construction  
42 schedule.

43 C. Master Plan Re-Design, FBT Architects

44 Sanjay Engineer, Jeremy Trumble and Diana Duran from FBT Architects shared an  
45 update on the Master Plan Re-Design project with a focus on the Master Plan survey  
46 results, security & access controls, and Master Plan Re-Design project goals.

47 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President, called for a break in the meeting at 4:11 PM. The  
48 meeting resumed at 4:21 PM.



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1 D. Navajo Preparatory School Grant Application for Re-Authorization, Department of Diné  
2 Education

3 Lavidia Maestas, Senior Education Specialist – DODE, provided a training to the  
4 Navajo Prep Board of Trustees on the re-authorization grant application process for  
5 Navajo Preparatory School.

6 E. Residential Cell Phone Pilot Program

7 Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics & Operations, and Roderick  
8 Denetso, Division Director of Student Life & Wellness presented the residential home  
9 cell phone pilot program to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees  
10 recommended that the letter to parents and stakeholders be further refined with input  
11 from the Residential Home Core Team. Mr. Neil shared that the cell phone pilot  
12 program would be discussed again at the upcoming Parent Guardian Advisory Council  
13 Meeting.

14 F. Navajo Prep Inaugural Gala, Dr. Darah Tabrum

15 Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement & Outreach, presented  
16 the proposal for Navajo Prep's inaugural gala, A Night of Brilliance. Dr. Tabrum shared  
17 event details including date, time, location, and draft agenda. Proceeds of the gala will  
18 go directly towards Navajo Prep student scholarships.

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

20 Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters made by Dr. Bernadette  
21 Todacheene, President. Executive Session began at 6:02 PM and concluded at 6:50 PM. No  
22 formal action was taken.

23 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

24 A. Resolution Approval: Tribal Infrastructure Fund Application

25 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution for Navajo Preparatory  
26 School to submit a 2026 New Mexico Tribal Infrastructure Fund application for  
27 campus development projects.

28 B. Resolution Approval: Navajo Nation Request for Funds for Student Home HVAC Upgrades

29 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution outlining the request to the  
30 Navajo Nation to support the student home HVAC upgrades and kitchen renovations  
31 project.

32 Motion to approve Item A and Item B made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Jennifer  
33 Redhouse. Vote: 5-0-0

34 D. Resolution Approval: Navajo Code Talker Museum Proposal

35 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the proposal from the New Mexico  
36 Governor to construct a Navajo Code Talker Museum in Farmington, NM at Navajo  
37 Preparatory School. Mrs. Becenti shared that at this time no formal documentation has  
38 been shared with Navajo Preparatory School and request that the Board of Trustees  
39 table this agenda item until the proposal is formalized. The Board of Trustees noted  
40 that this is a great opportunity for Navajo Preparatory School and an honor to be  
41 considered for this historic project. The Board of Trustees thanked the Navajo Code  
42 Talkers for their service to the United States and Navajo Nation and creating a lasting  
43 legacy that continues to impact generations.

44 Community members were given the opportunity to share comments on the Navajo  
45 Code Talker Museum proposal and touched on topics such as involvement of  
46 stakeholders, history of New Mexico funds for the Navajo Code Talker Museum, and  
47 importance of honoring the Navajo Code Talker's leadership.



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- 1 Motion to table Item D made by Jennifer Redhouse and seconded by Charley Long, Sr.
- 2 Vote 5-0-0
- 3 E. Resolution Approval: Navajo Preparatory School Public Law 100-297 Grant Re-
- 4 Authorization Application
- 5 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution and the grant re-
- 6 authorization application for Navajo Preparatory School due to the Department of Diné
- 7 Education by March 13, 2026.
- 8 Motion to approve Item E made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Ernestine Begay.
- 9 Vote: 5-0-0

**AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

11 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 27, 2026 at Navajo Preparatory  
12 School.

**ADJOURNMENT**

14 The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President.

15  
16 M/S: Charley Long, Sr./Jennifer Redhouse

Dr. Bernadette Todacheene  
President

Charley Long, Sr.  
Secretary/Treasurer

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