



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly January Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 01/16/2026 | 2:00 PM

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (20): 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; Kevin Belin, Director of the Diné Bizaad Institute; Jerrold
13 Platero, Facility & Operations Manager; April Chee, Executive
14 Assistant to the Head of School; Sean Bekis, Director of
15 Technology; Jocelyn Jones, Human Resource Manager; Dr.
16 Joseph Claunch, Student Life Coordinator; Dustin Begay, Navajo
17 Language Teacher; Byron Begay, Maintenance; Ty Plater,
18 Community Member

19 The January Board Meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 2:01 PM on
20 January 16, 2026, with the Vice President, Jennifer Redhouse presiding. Four elected board
21 members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary announced the
22 roll call.

23 **INVOCATION**

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

25 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

27 ***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

28 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, recommended to strike Item A under X. New Business from
29 the agenda noting that this item will be addressed at the time of re-authorization with the
30 Navajo Nation School Board and Department of Diné Education in June 2026. The amended
31 agenda was approved with no further edits or modifications.

32 Motion to approve the agenda made by Ernestine Begay and seconded by Marlene Laughter.
33 Vote: 4-0-0

34 ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

35 The December Board Meeting minutes from December 10, 2025 were approved with no edits
36 or modifications.

37 Motion to approve the December Board Meeting minutes made by Charley Long, Sr. and
38 seconded by Ernestine Begay. Vote: 4-0-0

39 ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

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

41 The Board of Trustees introduced themselves for guests present both in person and virtually.
42 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, introduced herself and the Navajo Prep staff present at the
43 meeting both in person and online. Ty Platero, community member, introduced himself to the
44 Board of Trustees and those present at the meeting. No public comments or announcements
45 were made.

46 **REPORTS**

47 A. World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, Dustin Begay & Sam Bader



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1 Dustin Begay, Navajo Language Teacher, and Sam Bader, College Success
2 Teacher, provided a presentation to the Board of Trustees on their experience at the
3 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
4 President, made note that opportunities like this allow for Navajo Prep to learn from
5 other institutions globally and see where we have space for growth and improvement.
6 Charley Long, Sr., Secretary/Treasurer, shared that Navajo Prep should take
7 advantage of the opportunities for teachers and leaders of the school to attend future
8 conferences such as this.
9

10 B. Administrative Team

11 Administrative team members shared 2025 highlights from each department focusing
12 on strategic goals, campus development, testing performance, relationship building,
13 facility improvements, compliance, and student support. Shawna Becenti, Head of
14 School also reviewed upcoming events and priorities for the Board of Trustees
15 including proposed travel to the New Mexico Legislative Session in Santa Fe, NM.
16 Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business & Human Services, gave an update
17 to the Board of Trustees on the annual audit status and shared that the audit will be
18 completed ahead of the posted deadline of March 30th. Jocelyn Jones, Human
19 Resource Manager, reviewed the resignations and new hires.

20 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President, called for a break in the meeting at 3:58 PM. The
21 meeting resumed at 4:08 PM.

22 C. New Mexico Legislative Session 2026, Dr. Darah Tabrum & Shawna A. Becenti

23 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, and Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School
24 for Advancement & Outreach, reviewed the Navajo Prep one pager, talking points, and
25 scheduled for the upcoming New Mexico Legislative Session. Dr. Bernadette
26 Todacheene, President, expressed her gratitude to the San Juan Delegation and State
27 of New Mexico leadership who have supported Navajo Preparatory School.

28 D. Student Senate, Bradley Redhouse

29 Bradley Redhouse, Ad Hoc Member, gave an update on Student Senate professional
30 development opportunities and initiatives. Mr. Redhouse also highlighted that a key
31 theme from the Fall 2025 semester for Student Senate was student service and
32 community outreach.

33 E. Board of Trustees

34 Ernestine Begay, Member at Large, assisted with organizing the Christmas Giveaway
35 in Blue Gap and participated in the Chinle Christmas Parade. Charley Long, Sr.,
36 Secretary/Treasurer, attended a chapter meeting where NM Representative Michelle
37 Abeyta provided updates and shared information on funding opportunities. Board
38 members emphasized the importance of consistently engaging with leadership
39 whenever opportunities arise. Jennifer Redhouse, Vice President, and Dr. Bernadette
40 Todacheene, President, attended the DBOSBA Winter Conference in Las Vegas,
41 where discussions highlighted the national shortage of teachers and principals and
42 reinforced that Navajo Prep is moving in a positive direction through collaboration with
43 other Indigenous education institutions and a focus on staff retention. Marlene
44 Laughter, Member at Large, also shared a holiday update and noted appreciation for
45 the reports provided.

46 **CONSENT AGENDA**

47 C. Resolution Approval: Indian School Equalization Program Student Membership
48 Certification

49 D. Resolution Approval: 2026 Staff Technology Auction



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1 Motion to move Item C and Item D under X. New Business made by Charley Long, Sr. and
2 seconded by Jennifer Redhouse. Vote: 5-0-0

3 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

4 B. Resolution Approval: Application for Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance
5 Act Section 105(l) Facility Lease Agreements

6 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution and offered guidance to the
7 Board of Trustees on the next steps for the 105(l) application for the New Student
8 Home, Wauneka Building, and the Hogan.

9 Motion to approve Item B made by Ernestine Begay and seconded by Jennifer Redhouse.
10 Vote: 5-0-0

11 **AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

12 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on February 20, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Navajo
13 Preparatory School.

14 **ADJOURNMENT**

15 The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President.

16
17 M/S: none taken

Dr. Bernadette Todacheene
President

Charley Long, Sr.
Secretary/Treasurer