



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.
Monthly April Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 04/17/26 | 2:00 PM

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (21): Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President; Jennifer
4 Redhouse, Vice President; Charley Long, Sr.,
5 Secretary/Treasurer; Ernestine Begay, Member At Large; Marlene
6 Laughter, Member At Large; Shawna Becenti, Head of School;
7 Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics & Operations;
8 Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement &
9 Outreach; Roderick Denetso, Division Director of Student Life &
10 Wellness; Manuel Watchman, Division Director of Business &
11 Human Services; Jerrold Platero, Facilities Manager; April Chee,
12 Executive Assistant to the Head of School; Sean Bekis, Director of
13 Technology; Jocelyn Jones, Human Resources Manager; Abrea
14 Miller, Student; Payton Frazier, Student; Tehya Begay, Student;
15 Denise Jensen, Navajo History & Government Teacher; Christina
16 Mescal, Parent; Danielle Burbank, Parent; Gordon Brady, Parent

17 The April Board Meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 2:00 PM on April
18 17, 2026, with the Board Vice President, Jennifer Redhouse presiding. Three elected board
19 members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary announced the
20 roll call. Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and Marlene Laughter absent at the meeting at the time
21 of roll call.

22 **INVOCATION**

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

24 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

25 The Land Acknowledgement was read by Kaleb Jones, Student Senate Secretary, provided
26 the invocation in place of Ad Hoc Member, Bradley Redhouse. Marlene Laughter, Member
27 At Large, joined the meeting virtually.

28 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

29 The proposed agenda for the April 17, 2026 meeting was approved with no edits or
30 modifications.

31 Motion to approve the agenda made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Ernestine Begay.
32 Vote: 4-0-0

33 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

34 The March Board Meeting minutes from March 27, 2026 and April Special Board Meeting
35 minutes from April 6, 2026 were approved with no edits or modifications.

36 Motion to approve minutes made by Ernestine Begay and seconded by Charley Long, Sr.
37 Vote: 4-0-0

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

39 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President, joined the meeting in person. Shawna A. Becenti,
40 Head of School introduced herself and members of Navajo Prep staff present at the meeting.
41 Three junior students running for Student Senate President were present at the board
42 meeting and introduced themselves to the board. Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for
43 Academics & Operations, shared an update on the pilot tribal food program through the
44 State of New Mexico where local food is delivered to our food service department every five
45 weeks for student meals. Kevin Belin, Director of the Diné Bizaad Institute, gave an update
46 on the success of Hozho Naasha week activities and expressed thanks to Jeffrey Tome for



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1 capturing photos throughout the week. Roderick Denetso, Division Director of Student Life &
2 Wellness, announced that the residential home HVAC and kitchen upgrades project will
3 begin in the month of April. Board of Trustees introduced themselves to guests present at
4 the meeting. Virtual guests Christina Mescal, Danielle Burbank, and Gordon Brady, Navajo
5 Prep parents, were in attendance and introduced themselves to the Board of Trustees.

6 **REPORTS**

7 A. New Zealand Cultural Immersion Tour

8 Students and Navajo Prep teachers that attended the New Zealand Cultural Immersion
9 Tour shared their experience with the Board of Trustees. Each student reflected on
10 what they hope to bring back to Navajo Prep and communities from this experience.

11 B. Student Senate, Kaleb Jones

12 Kaleb reviewed the Student Senate report highlighting student senate elections,
13 handbook discussions, senate constitution amendments, Hozho Naasha week, senate
14 committees, and preparations for the next school year.

15 D. Board of Trustees

16 Charley Long, Sr. shared a letter with the Board of Trustees and administration team
17 on behalf of the Long family expressing their thanks and gratitude for naming the new
18 student home, Long Home, in his honor. Ernestine Begay gave an update on
19 community events she is coordinating. Jennifer Redhouse shared that she will be
20 attending Navajo Prep's inaugural gala alongside Dr. Bernadette Todacheene and
21 Charley Long, Sr. but no official board business or action will take place. Dr. Bernadette
22 Todacheene also shared about upcoming community events she will take part in.

23 **CONSENT AGENDA**

24 A. Resolution Approval: Raptor Technologies Agreement

25 B. Personnel

26 i. Approval Memo: 2026-2027 School Year Administrative Team Contract
27 Renewal

28 ii. Approval Memo: 2026-2027 School Year Job Descriptions

29 iii. Approval Memo: Stipends

30 Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Jennifer Redhouse and seconded by
31 Ernestine Begay. Vote: 5-0-0

32 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

33 A. Resolution Approval: 2026-2027 School Year Organizational Chart

34 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution and recommended updates
35 for the 26-27 SY Organizational Chart and provided clarification on new proposed
36 positions in the Advancement & Outreach department.

37 Motion to approve Item A made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Jennifer Redhouse.

38 Vote: 5-0-0

39 B. Resolution Approval: 2026-2027 School Year Community Handbook

40 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, read the resolution and turned over to Keith Neil to
41 review the proposed changes and updates for the upcoming school year.

42 Motion to table Item B and approve at the June Board Meeting after legal review made by
43 Jennifer Redhouse and seconded by Charley Long, Sr. Vote: 5-0-0

44 C. Resolution Approval: Memorandum of Agreement Kinteel Residential Program

45 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, read the resolution and reviewed the proposed MOA
46 with Kinteel Residential to allow select students from Navajo Prep to stay at Kinteel over the



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1 weekend should they not have the opportunity to return home on the weekends due to
2 extenuating circumstances. Mrs. Becenti shared that this agreement is a pilot program only
3 and will serve as an immediate solution to students requiring a weekend stay.

4 Motion to approve Item C made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Jennifer Redhouse.
5 Vote: 5-0-0

6 **AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

7 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on May 15, 2026 at Navajo Preparatory School.

8 **ADJOURNMENT**

9 The meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM.

10
11 M/S: Jennifer Redhouse/ Ernestine Begay

12 Vote: 5-0-0

Handwritten signature of Dr. Bernadette Todacheene in blue ink, underlined.

14 Dr. Bernadette Todacheene,
15 President

Handwritten signature of Charley Long, Sr. in blue ink, underlined.

17 Charley Long, Sr.,
18 Secretary/Treasurer
19