



Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

Monthly March Board Meeting Minutes

1 Date of Meeting: 03/27/2026 | 10:00 AM

2 Location of Meeting: Navajo Preparatory School

3 Present at the Meeting: Attendees (48): 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; Bradley Redhouse, Ad Hoc Member;  
7 Shawna Becenti, Head of School; Keith Neil, Associate Head of  
8 School for Academics & Operations; Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate  
9 Head of School for Advancement & Outreach; Roderick Denetso,  
10 Division Director of Student Life & Wellness; Manuel Watchman,  
11 Division Director of Business & Human Services; Kevin Belin,  
12 Director of the Diné Bizaad Institute; Jerrold Platero, Facilities &  
13 Operations Manager; April Chee, Executive Assistant to the Head  
14 of School; Sean Bekis, Director of Technology; Yvette Escojeda,  
15 Advocacy & Outreach Coordinator; Jocelyn Jones, Human  
16 Resource Manager; Diane Dembowski, Accounts Payable  
17 Technician; Shawna Eaton, Lead IT Specialist; Terri Yazzie-  
18 Bochinclonny, Senior Accountant; Eve Bluehouse, Accounts  
19 Receivable Technician; Dustin Begay, Navajo Language Teacher;  
20 Jonathan Cushman, CPA; Alvina Begay; Leland Becenti; Gregory  
21 Redhouse; Sylvia Smith; Jeroy Charley; LaPrincess Kady; Marcus  
22 Nahalea; Wanda Long; Katelynn Long; Rochelle Redhouse;  
23 Brenda Martin; Latonia Curley; Kim Becenti; Robert Torres;  
24 Thelma Osman; Domm Yazzie; Heidi Scott; Erika Begay; Latoya  
25 Platero; Delilah Brown; Norman P. Brown; Alanna Chee; Clara  
26 Goodluck; Vern Lee

27 The March Board Meeting of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc. was convened at 10:08 AM on  
28 March 27, 2026, with Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President, presiding. All elected board  
29 members were present, establishing a quorum, and the recording secretary announced the  
30 roll call.

31 **INVOCATION**

32 Ernestine Begay, Member At Large, provided the invocation.

33 **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

34 The Land Acknowledgement was read by Student Ad-Hoc Bradley Redhouse.

35 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

36 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, proposed to move Items D, E, and F under New Business  
37 to Item IX. Consent Agenda. The proposed agenda for March 27, 2026 was accepted with  
38 recommended changes.

39 Motion to approve agenda made by Jennifer Redhouse and seconded by Ernestine Begay.  
40 Vote: 5-0-0

41 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

42 The February Board Meeting minutes from February 20, 2026 were approved with no edits or  
43 modifications.

44 Motion to approve February Board Meeting minutes made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded  
45 by Jennifer Redhouse. Vote: 5-0-0

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

47 Dr. Darah Tabrum, Associate Head of School for Advancement & Outreach, introduced Navajo  
48 Prep staff present at the meeting. The Board of Trustees introduced themselves to guests



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1 present at the meeting. Navajo Prep parents present at the Board of Trustees meeting  
2 introduced themselves to the Board of Trustees, including Alvina Begay; Leland Becenti;  
3 Gregory Redhouse; Sylvia Smith; Jeroy Charley; LaPrincess Kady; Marcus Nahalea; Wanda  
4 Long; Katelynn Long; Rochelle Redhouse; Brenda Martin; Latonia Curley; Kim Becenti; Robert  
5 Torres; Thelma Osman; Domm Yazzie; Heidi Scott; Erika Begay; Latoya Platero; Delilah  
6 Brown; Norman P. Brown; Alanna Chee; Clara Goodluck; and Vern Lee.

7 **REPORTS**

8 A. Classroom Without Walls Leadership Program – Washington D.C., Keith Neil and Katayan  
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10 Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics & Operations, introduced the  
11 students who participated in the Classroom Without Walls Leadership Program trip to  
12 Washington, D.C. and gave an overview of the program. Each student shared three  
13 highlights and takeaways from their experience in Washington D.C. most notably  
14 meeting with legislators including Senator Heinrich, visiting the Navajo Nation  
15 Washington Office, and the opportunity to see the Navajo Nation Treaty of 1868. The  
16 Board of Trustees thanked the students for sharing their experiences and for the  
17 support of Senator Heinrich and his impact on this program through the Congressional  
18 Direct Spending award.

19 B. COGNIA Accreditation, Keith Neil

20 Mr. Neil reviewed the COGNIA Accreditation Engagement Review with the Board of  
21 Trustees, highlighting the performance standards ratings and evaluations.

22 C. Student Life Fishbowl Program, Roderick Denetso

23 Dr. Joseph Claunch, Student Life Coordinator, presented on behalf of Roderick  
24 Denetso who could not attend due to a conflicting event. Dr. Claunch shared a  
25 presentation on the Student Life Fishbowl Program that recognizes and celebrates  
26 positive choices and actions that Navajo Prep students make. The Board of Trustees  
27 praised the Student Life & Wellness department for creating this program and  
28 expressed excitement to hear of outcomes.

29 D. 2025-2026 SY Navajo Nation Seal of Bilingual Proficiency

30 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, recognized Navajo Prep students who earned the  
31 Navajo Nation Seal of Bilingual Proficiency with Board of Trustees Certificates for their  
32 high fluency in the Diné language and dedication to preserving cultural heritage. The  
33 Board of Trustees were honored to recognize 11 Navajo Prep students who have  
34 achieved the Navajo Nation Seal of Bilingual Proficiency.

35 E. Administrative Team

36 The Administrative Team provided an update on campus development progress,  
37 academic achievements, and operational initiatives. Key highlights included advances  
38 in facility projects, growth in student programs and dual-credit participation, ongoing  
39 funding and outreach efforts, and improvements in internal operations and student  
40 services, reflecting continued progress toward strategic priorities and institutional  
41 goals.

42 F. Student Senate, Bradley Redhouse

43 Daykiin Draper, Vice President of Student Senate, provided the Student Senate Report  
44 on behalf of Bradley Redhouse. The report highlighted student-led initiatives, events,  
45 and ongoing planning efforts across grade levels. Key updates included participation  
46 in leadership events, school-wide activities, fundraising efforts, and collaboration with  
47 peer institutions, as well as preparation for upcoming elections, prom, graduation, and  
48 future student engagement initiatives.



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1 G. Board of Trustees

2 Jennifer Redhouse provided an update on recently attending the NIEA Hill Week in  
3 Washington, D.C. alongside Ernestine Begay. Mrs. Redhouse and Ms. Begay shared  
4 reflections on the professional development opportunity that included training in federal  
5 advocacy, budget requests, and federal and tribal alignment. Dr. Bernadette  
6 Todacheene shared insight on a meeting with the State of New Mexico regarding the  
7 Navajo Code Talker Museum that took place on March 10, 2026. Dr. Todacheene  
8 emphasized that the focus of this project is alignment with Navajo Prep's focus of  
9 legacy, leadership, and language.

10 **CONSENT AGENDA**

11 D. Resolution Approval: Memorandum of Agreement MC2 Education

12 E. Resolution Approval: 2026-2027 SY Academic Calendar

13 F. Resolution Approval: Class of 2026 Technology Purchase

14 Motion to move Item C, Item D, and Item F under XI. New Business to Consent Agenda  
15 made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Jennifer Redhouse. Vote: 5-0-0

16 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

17 A. Resolution Approval: State of New Mexico Agreement – Navajo Code Talker Museum

18 Motion to continue negotiations, allow for legal review, and move Item A to a Special Board  
19 Meeting made by Charley Long, Sr. and seconded by Jennifer Redhouse. Vote: 5-0-0

20 **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

21 A. Resolution Approval: Fiscal Year 2025 Audit

22 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution and turned over to Manuel  
23 Watchman, Division Director of Business & Human Services for the presentation of the  
24 audit. Mr. Watchman introduced Jonathan Cushman, CPA to review the Fiscal Year  
25 2025 Audit. The Fiscal Year 2025 Audit obtained an unmodified opinion with no  
26 findings.

27 Motion to approve Item A made by Jennifer Redhouse and seconded by Ernestine Begay.  
28 Vote: 5-0-0

29 B. Resolution Approval: 2026-2027 SY Student Senate Constitution

30 Keith Neil, Associate Head of School for Academics & Operations, reviewed the 2026-  
31 2027 SY Student Senate Constitution with recommended revisions in Student Senate  
32 Cabinet positions, Class positions, and Residential Home positions.

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

35 C. Resolution Approval: New Student Home Name

36 Shawna Becenti, Head of School, reviewed the resolution to formally re-name the new  
37 student home to Long Home in recognition of Charley Long, Sr., Secretary/Treasurer,  
38 founding board member of Navajo Preparatory School, Inc.

39 Motion to approve Item C made by Ernestine Begay and seconded by Jennifer Redhouse.  
40 Vote: 5-0-0

41 **AGENDA AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

42 The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on April 17, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Navajo  
43 Preparatory School. A special session date is forthcoming.

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1 **ADJOURNMENT**

2 The meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM by Dr. Bernadette Todacheene, President

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4 M/S: Charley Long, Sr / Ernestine Begay

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. B. Todacheene".

Dr. Bernadette Todacheene  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charley Long, Sr.".

Charley Long, Sr.,  
Secretary/Treasurer