

# Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Work Session Minutes

August 20, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.  
Painted Desert Campus, Tiponi Community Center  
2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona

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**Governing Board Member Present:** Ms. Kristine Laughter; Mr. Frank Lucero; Mr. Everett Robinson; Ms. Rosabel Sekayumptewa.

**Governing Board Member Absent:** Mr. Derrick Leslie

**Others Present:** President Michael Solomonson; Farah Bughio; VPAS Ellison; Director Justin White; Matt Weber; Frank Pinnell; Colleen Marsh; Ruth Zimmerman.

## Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## Agenda Item 3: Discussion

### 3.A. Master Facilities Plan

Director Justin White gave an overview of the Master Facilities Plan.

Mr. Lucero stated that he is concerned that things are moved from Holbrook. Mr. Lucero continued that there was plenty of space to build more buildings at the Holbrook campus.

Ms. Laughter added that local economies needed to be considered and asked where the first NPC campus was. Mr. Lucero responded Holbrook. Chair Robinson stated he disagreed because there were sites in Show Low, Winslow, Snowflake, Hopi and Kayenta.

Ms. Laughter expressed that jobs should stay in Holbrook. Mr. Lucero added that people wanted to live in Show Low because there were trees and that was the climate of the college.

Director White continued with the presentation discussing the automotive program in Holbrook. Mr. Lucero stated that the automotive program used to be in Holbrook but then was moved to Show Low. Director White responded that is why it is exciting that it is returning to Holbrook.

Ms. Laughter expressed that there should be student housing. Mr. Lucero responded that there used to be student housing and elaborated on the issues that both NPC and other community colleges face with this.

Director White continued with his presentation. Mr. Lucero asked where the general education building would be. Director White replied with the location at WMC. Mr. Lucero asked what the square footage would be. Director White responded 'big'. Chair Robinson added that there was discussion of a second and even third floor in this building. Mr. Lucero asked if there would be



an elevator. Director White responded that there would have to be. Chair Robinson added that this building would eliminate the need for the modular buildings at WMC.

Ms. Laughter expressed her gratitude that NPC was building for the future.

Director White continued. Chair Robinson expressed the need for parking at the Winslow campus.

Ms. Laughter asked if there were areas for students to study and eat. VPAS Ellison responded with what was available to students.

Mr. Lucero asked about the growth at Snowflake High School. Mr. Weber responded that they are currently just under 1,000 students compared to 800 two years ago. Mr. Lucero asked about how these students were being recruited to NPC. Mr. Weber responded with some challenges regarding available space in high demand classes like welding. Mr. Weber continued that they owned the welding building in the Show Low Industrial Park which could be refurbished to allow for more students.

Mr. Lucero asked how many hours a week NAVIT welding courses ran in Show Low. Mr. Weber responded 3 hours, five days a week. Mr. Lucero asked if multiple classes could be run a day. Mr. Weber responded that there were. Additional welding classes are offered in the evenings, but those are not paid for by NAVIT.

Ms. Laughter asked how long the drive was from Snowflake to Show Low. Mr. Lucero responded 16 miles. Mr. Weber stated that on a school bus it was about 25 minutes. Ms. Laughter responded that the drive was not that long and students could certainly drive to Show Low.

VPAS Ellison stated that if there was a high demand then a bus system should be established. Mr. Weber responded that there was room on the bus. VPAS Ellison stated that it was her understanding that due to lack of transportation last year, NPC had to provide transportation. Mr. Weber responded that there was not a dedicated bus system but there was room on the bus to WMC.

VPAS Ellison expanded on the move to bring all programs back to campus. Mr. Lucero stated that they needed to know how much it would cost to refurbish the building under Mr. Weber. NAVIT would cover the refurbishing costs, Mr. Weber added, NPC would need to provide the instructor.

Ms. Laughter stated that if students from Kayenta could commute three hours and have to stay over night in Holbrook, certainly these students could drive 16 miles and then asked if the class was five days a week. Chair Robinson responded yes, but that the problem was capacity of classes and not the commute.



Ms. Laughter asked if there were courses other than welding that these students could take or if their mind was set on welding. VPAS Ellison responded that she wasn't sure but that students who were unable to enroll in NAVIT could come back as paying students. Mr. Lucero responded that these students didn't want to pay and that they didn't want to come to Holbrook they wanted to go to Show Low. Ms. Laughter responded that perhaps NAVIT should be shifted so that students come to Holbrook instead of going to Show Low, especially if capacity is an issue. Ms. Laughter asked what the capacity for welding was in Holbrook. VPAS Ellison stated 40. Ms. Laughter asked if it was always maxed out. Mr. Weber responded that some years it was and other years it was not. Ms. Laughter continued that Holbrook should be utilized. Mr. Weber responded that it would be a matter of commitment from Snowflake.

Ms. Laughter asked how long the drive from Snowflake to Holbrook was. Mr. Lucero responded 30 minutes.

Ms. Laughter suggested using the budget to find an incentive to get students to drive to Holbrook. Mr. Lucero suggested reducing tuition. VPAS Ellison stated that perhaps students who were not able to attend the high school program could return after graduation at a reduced cost.

Ms. Laughter asked how many students who went through the paid program were employed five years after completing. Chair Robinson replied probably 97%.

Ms. Sekayumtewa asked if there could be food trucks why couldn't there be mobile skill center units. VPAS Ellison stated that this had been in practice a long time ago and it could be brought back. VPAS Ellison continued that there had been talk of a mobile welding unit but that there were many questions about the strategy NPC wanted to take. Mr. Lucero asked how much a mobile welding unit would cost. VPAS Ellison responded that at the time it was estimated to be a couple thousand dollars and gave a break down of what would be required.

Ms. Laughter asked who Mr. Weber was. Mr. Weber responded that he was the Snowflake Superintendent.

Mr. Lucero asked how much it would be to remodel the Snowflake welding building. Mr. Weber stated that they could pay for the remodeling at no cost to NPC.

Ms. Laughter asked how long the NAVIT welding program was in existence. Mr. Weber stated since 2000.

Ms. Laughter asked if it has always been a success. Mr. Weber stated yes.

Ms. Laughter asked what the average age of retirement for welders was. Mr. Weber said he didn't know.

Director White finished his presentation.



**Agenda Item 4: Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm*

Respectfully submitted,



Farah Bughio  
Recording Secretary to the Board

APPROVED

