

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024 – 10:00a.m.

Painted Desert Campus, Tiponi Community Center Board Room
2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, AZ 86025

Governing Board Member Present: Chair. Everett Robinson, Ms. Kristine Laughter (arrived at 1002); Mr. Frank Lucero; Mr. Derrick Leslie; Ms. Rosie Sekayumptewa

Governing Board Member Absent:

Others Present: Interim President Michael Solomonson; CIO Michael Jacobs; Betsy Wilson; Judy Yip-Reyes; Norvita Charleston; Tabitha Stickel; VPAS Maderia Ellison; AVPHR Christine Schafer; Alexander Henderson; Amanda Sutter; Charles DiCarlo; Colleen Marsh; Dawayne Bahe; Desirae Silvers; Frank Pinnell; Katie Matott; Josh Rogers; Justin White; Russell Kupfer; Allison Landy; Melody Niesen; Michael Broyles; Michael Jacob; Natalie Kee; Maria Jaquez; Paul Hempsey; Rebecca Hunt; Ruth Zimmerman; Ryan Jones; Talaina Fisher; Farah Bughio

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

Chair Robinson asked for the agenda to be rearranged to allow for action items and the consent agenda to be presented first as Mr. Leslie needed to leave the meeting early.

Chair Robinson asked if there was a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion.

The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

Agenda Item 3: Call for Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 9: For Discussion and Possible Action

9.A. Old Business

9.B. New Business

9.B.1. Request to Approve Presidential Finalist Site Visit

Mr. Lucero stated that if we went with five day visits we would lose candidates. Chair Robinson clarified that we might but we already have several candidates that have applied.



Ms. Laughter asked why Hopi would receive a visit and not Kayenta and expressed the importance of candidates visiting the Kayenta Center.

Ms. Sekayumtewa agreed with Ms. Laughter.

Mr. Leslie expressed his support for the two-day visit.

Mr. Lucero expressed that he liked the two day visit as he didn't want to reduce the candidate pool.

Chair Robinson asked Ms. Laughter how long the drive from Kayenta took. Ms. Laughter responded that it was three hours. Chair Robinson expressed that a trip to Kayenta would be 7 hours out of a twelve-hour day and that candidates were only here for two days. Chair Robinson reviewed the two day visit schedule and how to work in Kayenta while not excluding any other groups.

Ms. Laughter asked if candidates were going to visit the Whiteriver Campus. Chair Robinson responded that they would not be going to Whiteriver.

Ms. Laughter requested that there be a presentation on the communities served by NPC so that the candidates understand the diversity.

Mr. Lucero stated that the candidates would do research and know what they were getting into. Ms. Laughter responded that she was told that during a previous search someone applied from the deep south and had no idea what they were getting themselves into.

Mr. Lucero said that he believed driving through Winslow and Holbrook would be sufficient to understand the region and that people would not know until they got here.

Chair Robinson stated that Dr. Caldwell is very experienced with rural colleges and Native communities and that she understood the importance of informing candidates about the region NPC serves. Chair Robinson continued that he would look at the schedule again and see if he could work in a visit to Kayenta. Ms. Laughter responded that she didn't want to lose candidates because of a longer trip but that she would like someone to put together a presentation and that she would like to review it beforehand.

VPAS Ellison asked if the candidates would be flying into Phoenix. She continued that they could fly into Gallop, NM and visit Kayenta on the way to Winslow.

Chair Robinson stated that a point has already been made to house candidates in Winslow. Chair Robinson continued that the profile further stated that residence could only be in Winslow, Holbrook, Joseph City or adjacent Tribal lands.

Chair Robinson stated that there would be two public forums for each candidate.



Mr. Lucero made a motion to approve the Presidential Finalist Site Visit. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. Ms. Laughter voted against.

9.B.2. Request to Approve the 2025-30 Strategic Directions

Leadership Council asked the Board to approve the 2025-30 Strategic Directions.

Ms. Laughter asked what the indicators and metrics were and where those could be found. Dean Stickel responded that creating the indicators was the next step and had not yet been completed.

Ms. Laughter asked who composed the group making these decisions and where members came from. Dean Stickel responded that this process had been condensed to fall in line with the budget cycle and that Leadership Council would be making these decisions in consultation with Deans and Directors.

Ms. Laughter asked if everyone could give feedback on the website or if it was restricted to staff. Director Matott responded that it was available to anyone who had SharePoint access, which was any employee, but that if there was a need to expand who could offer feedback that could be arranged.

Ms. Laughter asked what was being done to ensure that all employees knew about the opportunity for providing feedback. Director Matott responded that each member of Leadership Council had constituents through which this was communicated.

Ms. Laughter asked if there was some kind of tracking to see who and how much feedback was submitted. Director Matott responded that there was not currently a tracking method and that members communicated this information to their constituents. Josh Rogers elaborated on the communication process. Dean Stickel continued that Leadership Council was ensuring that people were being communicated to multiple times. Dean Stickel continued that the feedback was anonymous to encourage people to be honest.

Ms. Laughter stated that people want to feel valued and heard so that they feel accountable. Director Matott responded that it was important to Leadership Council to make sure goals and initiatives were properly communicated so that people understood how it related to their position and how they could make a difference.

Ms. Laughter made a motion to approve the 2025-30 Strategic Directions. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

9.B.3. Request to Establish a Contingency for the Goldwater Welcome Center Addition.



Chair Robinson asked who approved the use of contingency. VPAS Ellison responded that the first layer would be Director Justin White who will provide guidance to the President who will make the final decision.

Mr. Lucero asked for clarification on the contingency rate of 20% and the final amount. VPAS Ellison clarified the amount of contingency at 20% and a final cost of 5.6 million if all of the contingency was spent.

*Mr. Lucero made a motion to establish a contingency for the Goldwater Welcome Center Addition with the caveat that the Board is informed every time \$50,000 is spent. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.4. Request to Proceed with a Construction Manager at Risk

Ms. Laughter asked if it was more expensive to build on Navajo land. Director White responded yes but continued that they were doing their best to keep costs down.

*Ms. Laughter made a motion to proceed with a Construction Manager at Risk for the Kayenta Center. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.5. Request to Approve Additional Design Fees for the Goldwater Welcome Center

Mr. Lucero asked if this was included in the previous action item regarding the Goldwater Center. VPAS Ellison responded that it will eventually come out of that balance.

Mr. Lucero asked if this was additional money or if it had already been approved. VPAS Ellison clarified that this cost would come out of the contingency.

Mr. Lucero asked why they had this information. VPAS Ellison responded that they bring back any increases to the Board in the interest of transparency.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the additional design fees for the Goldwater Welcome Center in the amount of \$43,645. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.6. Request to Accept the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network Phase 2 Grant

No Questions.



*Ms. Laughter made a motion to accept the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network Phase 2 grant in the amount of \$185,000. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.7. Request to Accept Revision of Policy 1102

No questions.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to accept revision of policy 1102. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.8. Request to Renew Contract with Ellucian

No questions.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to renew contract with Ellucian for \$67,630. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

Agenda Item 8: Consent Agenda

- A. July 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes** (Farah Bughio)
- B. July 27, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes** (Farah Bughio)
- C. 2024-27 TALON Intergovernmental Agreement** between Navajo County Community College District and Shonto Preparatory School.
- D. 2024-27 Intergovernmental Agreement** between Navajo County Community College District and Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy for the City of Holbrook.
- E. 2024-27 Intergovernmental Agreement** between Navajo County Community College District and Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy for the Round Valley Police Department.

No questions.

*Ms. Laughter made a motion to approve items A-E. Mr. Lucero seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

Agenda Item 5: Summer Enrollment Report

Dean Jeremy Raisor presented the summer enrollment report.

Mr. Lucero asked how much of an increase there was for out of state students. Dean Raisor replied that it was 15 students and is now closer to 50 students.



Chair Robinson asked if these were mostly online classes. Dean Raisor responded yes.

Ms. Laughter asked what percentage of classes were online. Dean Raisor responded he did not know those numbers off the top of his head.

Ms. Laughter asked what the plan was to recruit the new students who took classes in the summer but did not return for classes in the fall. Dean Raisor responded that there was a program in place called Target X to track and work with students to assist in continuation of enrollment.

Mr. Lucero asked how many enrolled did not have to continue in the fall. Dean Raisor responded that he did not currently have those numbers.

Agenda Item 6: Assessment of Student Knowledge Committee Report

A report was provided in the packet.

Agenda Item 7: President's Summary of Current Events

Interim President Michael Solomonson gave an update on the VPLSS position and events since the May DGB meeting.

Ms. Laughter asked how much time advisors were making for students and how available they were at the centers. Interim Solomonson responded that an advantage at centers was the cross training of employees allowing for many to be able to help students. Ms. Laughter asked for clarification on the cross training allowing for students to be properly served. Interim Solomonson responded that advisors are also working on a calendar for students to avoid these issues.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion Items

4.A.1. Financial Position

VPAS Ellison expanded on the report provided in the packet.

Ms. Laughter asked what the fund balance was used for. VPAS Ellison clarified what this fund was used for.

Ms. Laughter asked what was being done to ensure 100% of grants were utilized. Interim President Solomonson expanded on those in charge of grants and their efforts to use all the funds. Ms. Laughter asked if any money has had to be returned. VPAS Ellison responded that no money has had to be returned.

4.A.2. NPC Student Government Association (SGA)

No report.

4.A.3. NPC Faculty Association

No report.



4.A.4. Classified and Administrative Staff Organization (CASO)

No questions.

4.A.5. Northland Pioneer College (NPC) Friends and Family

Betsy Wilson, Director of NPC Friends and Family gave an update on scholarships and NPC Friends and Family.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if there could be outreach to young children about NPC in Native communities. Director Wilson responded that there used to be a program (School-to-Work) that did this and it would need to be revived.

4.A.6. Northland Pioneer College (NPC) Friends and Family

Director Betsy Wilson gave an update to the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

No questions.

4.A.7. Human Resources

A report was provided in the packet.

No questions.

4.A.8. Construction Report

Director Justin White gave the Board an update on construction projects.

Chair Robinson asked if there was a CMAR for Winslow. Director White responded that he would like to use a CMAR.

4.A.9. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Implementation Update

Project Manager Colleen Marsh addressed the Board with an update.

Ms. Laughter asked about the ERP not being able to perform all of the tasks like payroll. Ms. Marsh responded with a detailed explanation of what Anthology could and couldn't cover.

Ms. Laughter asked if there were any other issues with Anthology. Ms. Marsh said there have been some other issues but they are being worked out.

4.A.10. Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)

Ms. Sekayumptewa gave an update on her time at the GLI conference.

Agenda Item 10: DGB Agenda Items and Informational Needs for Future Meetings.



Chair Robinson reviewed items for future needs. Ms. Laughter requested more information about IGAs, the relationship between NPC and the participating high schools and whether these high school students were recruited to NPC.

Mr. Lucero requested information on why jobs were moving to Show Low.

Agenda Item 11: Board Report/Summary of Current and Upcoming Events

Ms. Laughter announced the Navajo Tribal Fair.

Agenda Item 12: Announcement of Next Regular Meeting

September 17, 2024

Agenda Item 13: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. upon a motion by Ms. Laughter and a second by Mr. Lucero. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumtewa, Ms. Laughter, Mr. Lucero, and Chair Robinson voting in favor. Mr. Leslie had to leave the meeting before adjournment. There were no votes against.

Respectfully submitted,



Farah Bughio
Recording Secretary to the Board

