

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting Minutes

November 25, 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; Mr. Frank Lucero; Mr. Derrick Leslie; Ms. Rosie Sekayumptewa (arrived at 10:07a.m.)

Governing Board Member Absent:

Others Present:

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 move item 8.B.2 after 8.B.6

Chair Robinson asked if there was a motion to adopt the agenda with modification. Mr. Lucero made a motion to adopt the agenda with modification. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion.

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

Agenda Item 3: Call for Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion Items

4.A.1. Financial Position

VPAS Ellison expanded on the report provided in the packet.

No questions.

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

This presentation was delayed until after the Strategic Planning update due to technical issues. Viki Besinger gave a presentation to the Board.

No questions.

4.A.3. NPC Faculty Association

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting – 11/19/2024 – Page 1 of 6



Northland Pioneer College

Post Office Box 610 • Holbrook, AZ 86025 • (928) 524-7311 • Fax (928) 524-7312 • www.npc.edu

No report.

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

A recording from CASO President Melissa Willis was played followed by an update from CASO Vice President Cynthia Blevins.

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. Laughter asked what the process was for assisting students with essay writing help. Director Wilson responded that there are multiple ways in which students can receive help. She elaborated on some of the resources that are available.

Mr. Leslie commented that this was a ubiquitous problem and a common solution would be beneficial. Director Wilson replied that there was no magic solution but increasing and meeting the goal of student applicants each cycle was a good strategy.

Ms. Sekayumtewa asked if stating the deadline for an application was sooner than it actually was would help. Director Wilson replied that would be teaching students something detrimental in the long run.

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

AVPHR Christine Schaefer elaborated on a report provided in the packet.

Mr. Lucero asked how much money an additional one percent would be for cost of living. AVPHR Schaefer responded with the amount.

Mr. Lucero asked what district the judge was in regarding the Fair Labor and Standards Act decision. AVPHR Schaefer responded it was nationwide.

4.A.8. Construction Report

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

Mr. Lucero asked if there was a footing for the WMC construction project or if it would be paved or gravel. Director White responded that it would be compacted dirt and black millings.



Mr. Lucero asked if the CDL simulator was a real simulator. Director White responded that it was.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked which site had construction. Director White elaborated on which sites had construction.

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

Project Manager Colleen Marsh elaborated on the report provided in the packet.

Ms. Laughter asked where the data regarding available jobs came from. Ms. Marsh responded that she would follow up on what the source data was.

Ms. Laughter said she would like to try out the new software when it went live.

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

Derrick Leslie gave an update.

Agenda Item 5: Fall 2024 FTSE Report

Registrar Hempsey elaborated on a report provided in the packet.

Chair Robinson commented that the overall increase in enrollment was excellent.

Ms. Laughter asked if there was any way to determine where online students were based. Registrar Hempsey responded that he would look into that.

Agenda Item 6: President's Summary of Current Events

Interim President Michael Solomonson gave the Board an update.

Mr. Lucero asked if the legend of the Blue Lady was out of Texas. Interim Solomonson replied that it was a local legend.

Ms. Laughter commented that the term 'Tribal' can be offensive and that it is found throughout the college website and made a request that the term be removed from the website.

Agenda Item 7: Consent Agenda

- A. October 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes** (Farah Bughio)
- B. November 7, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes** (Farah Bughio)
- C. Intergovernmental Agreement** between Navajo County Community College District and Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy for the Town of Pinetop - Lakeside.
- D. Intergovernmental Agreement** between Navajo County Community College District and Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center.
- E. Intergovernmental Agreement** between Navajo County Community College District and Northeastern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy for Navajo County.



Mr. Lucero asked what Arizona Agribusiness was. Chair Robinson responded that it was a charter school.

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

Agenda Item 8: For Discussion and Possible Action

8.A. Old Business

8.B. New Business

8.B.1. Request to Accept Office of Economic Opportunity Grant Funds.

Co-VPLSS Jeremy Raisor requested the Board accept funds from an OEO grant.

Mr. Lucero asked when the program would start. Co-VPLSS Raisor responded that it would start in the spring.

Chair Robinson asked if this would be a 6 – 8 week course. Co-VPLSS Raisor responded they were considering three one-month modules.

Mr. Lucero made a motion to accept OEO grant funds in the amount of \$180,000. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

8.B.2. Request to Cancel the December 17 DGB Meeting.

Chair Robinson asked the Board to cancel the December 17, 2024 DGB meeting.

Mr. Lucero asked if they wanted the Special Meeting to be on this date or before. Chair Robinson responded that they wanted the Special Meeting before December 17, 2024.

Mr. Lucero made a motion to cancel the December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

8.B.3. Executive Session 1.

The Board voted to enter Executive Session at 11:19am.

Ms. Laughter made a motion to enter into Executive Session 1. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.



8.B.4. Action from Executive Session 1.

The Board did not take action.

8.B.5. Executive Session 2.

The Board voted to enter Executive Session at 11:34am.

Mr. Lucero made a motion to enter into Executive Session 2. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Lucero, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

8.B.6. Action from Executive Session 2.

The Board voted to hire Dr. Von Lawson as the new President with a start date of January 1, 2025.

Ms. Laughter made a motion to hire Dr. Von Lawson as the new President with a start date of January 1, 2025. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. Mr. Lucero voted against.

The Board voted to allow Chair Robinson to negotiate a contract with Dr. Lawson.

Ms. Laughter made a motion to allow Chair Robinson to negotiate a contract with Dr. Lawson. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. Mr. Lucero voted against.

Agenda Item 9: DGB Agenda Items and Informational Needs for Future Meetings.

Agenda Item 10: Board Report/Summary of Current and Upcoming Events

Agenda Item 11: Announcement of Next Regular Meeting

January 21, 2025

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Lucero and a second by Ms. Laughter. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Mr. Leslie, Mr. Lucero, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

Respectfully submitted,

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting – 11/19/2024 – Page 5 of 6



Northland Pioneer College

Post Office Box 610 • Holbrook, AZ 86025 • (928) 524-7311 • Fax (928) 524-7312 • www.npc.edu

Farah Bughio

Farah Bughio
Recording Secretary to the Board

Approved

