

**NAVAJO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Location: District Office – Eagle’s Nest  
103 First Avenue at Hopi Drive  
Holbrook, Arizona

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Daniel Peaches, Chairman  
Neal Thompson, Secretary  
Norris Baldwin  
Bill Jeffers  
Dr. Paul Reynolds

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Peggy Belknap  
Scott Burt  
Patricia Eddy  
Blaine Hatch  
Brian McLane  
Doug Ressler  
Dan Simper  
Terri Tubbs  
Mira White

Dr. Richard Balsley  
Stuart Bishop  
Gina Ciuffetelli  
Jo Lynn Fox  
Dr. Eric Henderson  
Dr. Gary Passer  
Everett Robinson  
Dr. Jeanne Swarthout  
Mark Vest  
Clay Wood

Chairman Daniel Peaches called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Mr. Thompson led the Board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Peaches welcomed the visitors.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Bill Jeffers moved to adopt the agenda. Paul Reynolds seconded the motion, and the agenda was accepted by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion made by Norris Baldwin and seconded by Neal Thompson, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 29, 2005, the Executive Session for Legal Advice of November 29, 2005 were unanimously approved.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Daniel Peaches called for any public comments. Mr. Clay Wood, Taylor Fire Chief, addressed the Board concerning the Northeast Arizona Training Center. He said that NATC is committed to NPC as an important partner. The questions/issues that the Board directed to NATC in a letter dated October are being addressed and should be ready by the next meeting of the NPC Board.

- A) Faculty Report – Dr. Solomonson, Faculty President, reported that today was the first day of classes and that the faculty was ready to begin. Several faculty members will be participating in an out of state assessment training next month in preparation for our next NCA review.
- B) CASO Report – There was none.
- C) Student Government Report – Mira White and Patricia Eddy of the Student Government Organization gave the Board a copy of the constitution and mission statement. The web site is nearly complete and a student survey is being constructed to see what NPC students want the Student Government Organization to do. Mr. Thompson asked if the student survey could help obtain information on matters of student concern. Mira noted that the survey could be used for that purpose and Patricia said that the news letter and the web site will give students a method and point of contact to voice opinions on matters of student concern. Mr. Thompson applauded the organization and their efforts.

**SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

- A) President’s Report – Terri Tubbs, Assistant to the President, announced the names of the four finalists in the president’s search. The four are: Dr. Felix Aquino, Dr. Travis Kirkland, Dr. Paul Dale and Mr. Ralph Orr. The four will visit the college for two days each. Their visit will include public receptions at each of the four campus sites and the St. Johns Center. They will have interviews with Dr. Passer, the search committee and the District Governing Board.

Dr. Passer alerted the Board members to a bill that is being drafted for introduction to the legislature by Representative Laura Knaparek that would establish a new oversight committee with some authority over K-12 and the university system, but their authority over the community colleges would be more extensive. The funding from the state of Arizona has dropped from 30% to 12% but Representative Knaparek is suggesting more oversight. Dr. Passer will be monitoring the status of the draft and working with ACCA to defeat the issue.

- B) Board Report - Mr. Thompson reported that congratulations to Chairman Peaches were in order as he has just been hired as the new Kayenta Town Manager.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A) Request to Hold Election of Board Officers

Dr. Reynolds made the motion to retain the current Board President and Secretary. The motion was seconded by Bill Jeffers and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Peaches will continue as the Board President and Mr. Thompson will be the Secretary.

- B) Request to Approve an Agreement to Deliver College Level Classes at Show Low Unified School District #10
- C) Request to Approve an Agreement to Deliver College Level Classes at Round Valley Unified School District #10
- D) Request to Approve an Agreement to Deliver College Level Classes at Sanders Unified School District
- E) Request to Approve an Agreement to Deliver College Level Classes at Ganado Unified School District #20

The four high school agreements continue arrangements to deliver college classes to high schools in the NPC service area. Paul Reynolds made the motion to approve the four agreements and Neal Thompson seconded the motion. The agreements were approved by a majority vote.

F) Request to Approve the Updated Capital Project Development Plan

The updated Capital Project Development Plan was unanimously approved after requesting that the NATC project be a stand alone section. The Plan has been updated to include completion dates and costs of recent projects. Status updates and several new projects have also been added. Bill Jeffers made the motion to approve the plan and Paul Reynolds the second.

G) Request to Award Bid for Painted Desert Campus Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch

A request for proposals was issued for the purchase of a natural gas fueled generator and automatic transfer switch. The equipment will be installed at the Painted Desert Campus. It is critical to the operations of the computer and network systems that will be housed in the remodeled PDC facility. Two bids were received and the staff proposed that the low bidder Empire Power Systems be awarded the bid at a total price of \$25,687.88. Dr. Reynolds made the motion to award the bid to Empire Power Systems and after a second by Norris Baldwin, the vote was unanimous.

H) Request to Approve Vendor Vouchers for Payment

Approval of the vouchers for payment was unanimous. Neal Thompson made the motion to approve and Bill Jeffers made the second.

I) Northeast Arizona Training Center Request for Funding

At 11:31 am the motion was made by Bill Jeffers to move into an executive session as provided for by ARS §38-431.03 A (3) to have a consultation for legal advice with the attorney of the college on this agenda item. Neal Thompson seconded the motion and the Board moved into executive session. At 1:00 pm the Board recessed out of executive session. Clay Wood agreed to answer some questions from the Board members concerning NATC. To the question are there Memorandums of Understanding between NATC and other entities, Mr. Wood answered yes and listed ABITIBI, Town of Taylor, Northeastern Arizona Fire Chiefs Associations, Navajo County Board of Supervisors, AzPOST and the Forest Service. To the question of what dollar commitments did NATC currently have Mr. Wood discussed the Phase I projects of driving track, burn tower, utilities and security fence. The completed driving track actual cost is over estimated costs by \$200,000 (AzPOST funds of \$685,000) and the burn tower costs (GATA Loan of \$525,000) will be \$100,000 over estimated costs. Even if the college and the County follow through with projected dollar amounts, NATC will be \$350,000 short of currently owed dollars. A USDA package of a \$450,000 loan and \$50,000 grant has been applied for and looks positive. The Town of Taylor has supplied the utilities to the site. “Is there an operational budget?” Mr. Wood replied that there is a three year budget and the finance committee works with that information. “Would NATC be satisfied if we release the money after we get the requested information?” Mr. Wood said that NATC made contracts based upon the money being available. The sixty day time frame as noted in the NPC letter was unfair considering the difficulty of getting people together during the holidays. The partnership between NATC and NPC should be a win-win situation that both can be happy with. Mr. Jeffers asked if NATC had made obligations without the money in hand and Mr. Wood said yes the money had been slower coming in than projected. Mr. Jeffers also wanted to know where the fencing project stood as the Board had understood that the fencing project was a priority when the original \$50,000 was released by NPC. Mr. Wood said the bids for the fence have been received – material costs of approximately \$30,000 and that the Sheriff’s office was going to donate inmate labor to build it. Mr. Baldwin asked what Mr. Wood saw as the NPC role in training. “All training should run through the college, but what happens if the college doesn’t offer the required training?” The facility will be used for recertification/hands on practice by partners and the instructors for those should be trained by the college. The relationship needs to work for all involved. Mr. Wood said there is need for classroom facilities at the site as most training involves classroom work, hands on practice and then classroom review and completion. Classroom facilities will be part of the long term plan for the site. Mr. Wood says it should be a continuous growing process to begin to meet all training needs. Mr. Jeffers asked if the NATC Board was surprised by the NPC request for financial statements. Mr. Wood said no and that the Town of Taylor would be taking over financial management of the project. Dr. Passer questioned how the day to day expenses of NATC are being met. Mr. Wood said that negotiations are slow and difficult to pin down. Mr. Jeffers wanted to know if a smaller driving track had been considered to enable the project to stay within budget. Mr. Wood replied that it was considered but

the size of the tract was dictated by AzPOST and efforts are being made to get more dollars from them.

Mr. Jeffers made a motion to Table Item I until all requested information from NATC was received. The motion died from lack of a second. Mr. Thompson made a motion to return to the executive session for legal advice on the subject. Mr. Baldwin seconded the motion and the Board reentered the executive session at 1:40 pm. At 2:30 pm the Board came back into regular session. Mr. Thompson made a recommendation that Dr. Passer and the NPC legal counsel meet with the Chairman of the NATC Board to negotiate or straighten out certain details. When that was accomplished, Mr. Thompson recommended that the money be paid in a reasonable period of time.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Board was tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2006.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm upon a motion by Bill Jeffers and a second by Paul Reynolds.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Terri Tubbs  
Recording Secretary to the Board

---

Daniel Peaches  
Chairman

---

Neal Thompson  
Secretary to the Board