

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026 – 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, Mr. Porter Black, Ms. Kristine Laughter (remote); Mr. Derrick Leslie

Governing Board Member Absent: Ms. Rosie Sekayumtewa

Others Present: President Von Lawson; EVPLSS Michael Solomonson; VPAS Maderia Ellison; VPHR Nicole Ulibarri; AVP Michael Jacob; AVP Rich Chanick; AVP Farah Bughio; AVP Katie Matott; Colleen Marsh; Justin White; Julia Wilson; Cynthia Blevins; Dr. Michael Broyles; Horatio Luna; Rennie Hutton; Muriel Metcalf; Debra Gibbons; Russell Kupfer; Alethia Broderick; CTE Dean Dr. Jeremy Raisor; NAVIT Superintendent Matt Weber

Remote Attendees: Cyndee Nichols; Rebecca Hunt; Karalee Belin; Tabitha Stickel; Jodie Humphrey; Charity Butler; Olivia Jaquez; Talaina Kor; Tiffani Martin; Kim Reed; Susan Jensen; Stacy Rollins; Tom Watkins; Paul Hempsey; Josh Rogers; Benjamin Turner; Tonya Thacker; Telena Begay; Kenneth Coggin; Allison Landy; Brynn Johnston; Rebeccah Sweet; Karen Baker; Rebecca Diggs; Chelsea Wood; Jesse Reeck; Jessica Kitchens; Thyra Jensen; Francis Skibicki; Dr. David Borofsky; Rickey Jackson; Karen Zimmerman; Marco Luna; Julius Marshall; Lia Keenan; Dr. Jeri Lastine; Eileen Lopez; Georgette Hackman; Jeff Hunt; Andrew Ulberg; Janalda Nash; Samuel Terry; Craig Channell; Andi DeBellis; Melody Niesen; Gary Santillanes; Chris Cribbs; Norvita Charleston; Dora Jaquez; Dr. Wei Ma; Pam Dominguez;

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 called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Leslie made a motion to adopt the agenda. Chair Robinson asked if there was a second to adopt the agenda. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion.

The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter, Mr. Black 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 Standing Presentations

4.A.1. Financial Position

VPAS Maderia Ellison provided a report on the financial position of the college from the period of July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. VPAS Ellison explained the timing and description of each of the line items on the Financial Report to Board Member Black. Ms. Laughter asked VPAS Ellison to explain the equalization funding the college receives. Mr. Black asked about the cash or bond funding on construction projects. VPAS Ellison explained that the college has been debt free since approximately 2008 and that the college practices incrementally saving for projects prior to starting them.

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)

CASO President Cynthia Blevins provided a verbal report to the Board. Ms. Blevins let the board know that the original report on the CCP Program would be given at the next meeting due to the presenter's illness. Ms. Blevins reported that CASO is working on their Silent Auction for Fall Convocation. There were no questions from the board. Chair Robinson explained to Mr. Black the membership makeup of CASO.

There were no questions.

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

Friends and Family Director Jesse Reeck gave the Board a verbal report. Ms. Reeck explained the role of NPCFF to Board Member Black. Ms. Reeck reported that there are still AndyVon transportation grants available for students. She reported that they were working with CASO with their student scholarship applications that are due on March 1. She noted that the Fall 2026 scholarship application process opens on March 1 and runs through April 16. She noted they will be using their new scholarship software AwardSpring and that this will allow them to include more scholarship applications on the same application cycle. She expressed gratitude to several community partners who have supported NPCFF including Summit Healthcare Foundation, White Mountain Women's Club, and SRP. She announced fundraising events coming up including Arizona Gives Day on April 7 and the annual Pedal the Petrified event held on September 26 with registrations opening on February 18.

There were no questions.



4.A.6. Human Resources

VPHR Nicole Ulibarri presented the Board the monthly report from HR. VPHR Ulibarri began her report by asking for a moment of silence on behalf of Tamera Osborne, Springerville Center Manager, who recently passed away. Ms. Osborne served at NPC for over 26 years. Mr. Leslie asked for clarification about the classification of “open until filled” on the recruitment report. VPHR Ulibarri explained that they review the applicants or hold interviews and if no applicant is selected, they continue their search. Mr. Leslie asked how long was the process from the applicant being selected to onboarding. VPHR Ulibarri stated that depending on the number of qualified applicants, it takes approximately 90 days. VPAS Ellison commented that the position of Risk Manager has been open since July due to the lack of qualified applicants. Mr. Leslie asked about the implementation of exit interviews. VPHR Ulibarri replied that those were being built out in the new NeoED system. Chair Robinson asked about the letter received from Little Colorado Medical Center stating that our insurances would no longer be in network. VPHR Ulibarri stated that she reached out to our insurance provider, Summit, and they said they were looking into it. Summit said that sometimes insurances have a disagreement with their providers who say they potentially will not cover things and then Summit will have to negotiate with them. They assured VPHR Ulibarri that they are looking into this issue.

4.A.7. Compensation Committee

No report.

4.A.8 Construction Report

Director of Facilities Justin White provided an update on the Kayenta project. He reported that he will be presenting the Board with a request to approve the final GMP proposal from Core Construction to begin construction on the Kayenta Center. Mr. White also provided an updated on turning the Winslow Campus Multipurpose Building/Gym into the new location for the Cosmetology program. He stated that this will allow the program to expand as there are currently 21 cosmetology students in the program but only 20 stations. They are hoping to start the remodeling on that building on October 1. He reported on the addition to the Blunk Building creating space for the NAT and CTE programs to be able to move into that building. He reported that he has had several meetings with the Deans and Faculty of those programs to receive their input on the needs and requirements for their respective programs and for accreditation. Mr. White is hoping to break ground on that project in October as well. He is hoping that the same contractor will be able to do both projects on the Winslow Campus. Chair Robinson asked that if in the remodel of the Multipurpose Building if steps were taken to protect the art classroom there. Mr. White reported that there will be two classrooms included in the remodel, one for cosmetology and one for art. Mr. White said that art will be moved from that classroom temporarily so it can be revamped and remodeled. Mr. White assured Chair Robinson that art will be moved into a cleaner, nicer location on the Winslow campus. Mr. Black asked if there was a project timeline on the Kayenta building. Mr. White replied that the terms of the grant are that construction has a required end date of the last day of May 2027. Chair Robinson expressed concerns about the doors being ADA complaint at the new Goldwater Building in Show Low. Mr. White explained that the side door of the building is the ADA entrance due to the shading and potential ice melting issues of the front door. He reported that there is a heated ramp leading to the side door with an ADA button at the end of the ramp. He reported that better signage has been ordered to make the location of the button more visible. He also reported that the back door



has an ADA button entrance. He noted that the it is a straight shot into the building from the heated ramp to the side door entrance.

4.A.9. Leadership Council

No report.

4.A.10 ERP Implementation Update

ERP Project Manager Colleen Marsh reported on the implementation project. She reported that two ERP modules are now live and being used across the college (Finance and Human Resources). She provided a brief history of the project for the new board member, Mr. Black. She reported on key implementation dates for the project and potential go live dates for the Student, Portal, and Reach modules and for TouchNet integration. She updated the board on business and contract status of the project stating that NPC is now working with Anthology (Blackboard), Ellucian, and Encoura mostly involving administrative type changes like email address changes, but that NPC is still working with the same project teams. VPAS Ellison thanked Ms. Marsh and her team for their work. She reported that the Finance module go-live went well and that her team is actively using the new ERP system with only a few hiccups.

There were no questions.

4.A.11 External Relations

AVP Rich Chanick provided a report to the board on what is going on with the Legislature, with external relations within our local community and on funding projects currently in progress. AVP Chanick reported on House Resolution 2011 exempting NPC from the expenditure limitation. He reported that he and Dr. Lawson will have a call with AC4 on this resolution next week. Mr. Leslie asked if this resolution has gone to committee yet. AVP Chanick reported that it has not yet. He also reported that there are six other bills involving expenditure limitation and is exploring how they might be combined into one bill with six sponsors creating a bigger impact. There was a discussion with AC4 Executive Director David Borofsky on how AC4 might be able to support this resolution. AVP Chanick reported on House Bill 2236 regarding the Northern Arizona Training Center. He reported that is has passed committee and will now go to appropriations toward the end of the legislative session. Mr. Leslie asked if AVP Chanick could set up meeting with the chairs of the Education Appropriations committees. AVP Chanick said that he would set those up. Mr. Leslie also asked if there was a Community College Day scheduled at the legislature. AVP Chanick reported that there was not one scheduled for this year.

AVP Chanick reported that the Governor has confirmed that she is coming to the Kayenta Groundbreaking. He reported that he has a received a strong response from many local funders who are coming to the groundbreaking and are interested in seeing what we are doing in this community. He reported that the SBDC is continuing their work and holding events and office hours to be able to work with people in person as opposed to virtual meetings. They are holding meetings in Hopi, Whiteriver, Kayenta, and Window Rock. Ms. Laughter commented that her background has been helping entrepreneurs on the Navajo and Hopi Nations and that it can be very difficult to set up businesses there. She wanted to make sure that when the SBDC holds office hours in those communities that they have a clear understanding of what the entrepreneurs are dealing with there and who their customers are. AVP Chanick commented that those



concerns are valid and the SBDC is doing their best to understand those needs. AVP Chanick reported that NPC will be meeting with a couple of companies that are looking at coming into the area and are looking for affordable housing. He and Dr. Raisor (Dean of CTE) will be discussing with them on how we can help to meet those needs in the community. AVP Chanick reported on the community events that he and Dr. Lawson have been attending throughout the district giving them a report card of what is happening with NPC. He reported that these meetings have been well received by the communities. AVP Chanick reported on two events he will be attending with the Arizona Association of Economic Development in May and REAL AZ in April.

AVP Chanick reported on funding opportunities he is working on including a grant from the Halle Foundation for support with CTE initiatives and opportunities. He is looking into congressional directed spending to support the Northern Arizona Training Center (NATC). Lastly, he reported on the Rural Health Transformation Grant project. He reported that he has been working with the Dean of CTE Dr. Jeremy Raisor and the Dean of Nursing Dr. Jeri Lastine on a proposal for this funding. He reported that they have talked to Little Colorado Medical Center and Summit Healthcare on their concerns and needs.

Mr. Leslie asked for invitations to be sent out to Maria Chavova at Western and Theresa at Pima CC. AVP Chanick said he would take care of that. Mr. Leslie also commented that he is glad to see movement on the Rural Health Transformation Grant.

4.A.12. Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)

Mr. Leslie reported on AACCT events. He reported the resignations of several presidents of community colleges. He reported that he was elected to be the Vice Chair of AZACCT. He also reported that the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the All Arizona Academic Team event in April. He reported that they will have their Board retreat August 18-19. He commented that some of the conflict between AZACCT and AC4 has been resolved since last year's board retreat. He reported on the ACCT conference that he, Chair Robinson, and Ms. Sekayumptewa attend last week in Washington, D.C. He noted that they were able to meet with Senator Mark Kelly, Representative Eli Crane, and Representative Adelita Grijalva. He felt that those meetings were very productive for the college. He also noted that he is working with Senator Ruben Gallego's office to arrange for him to visit some of our campuses. Mr. Leslie was also able to meet with the Secretaries of Education, Labor, and Interior. One of the items that was brought up in the meetings was the opportunity to create a community college specific accreditation. He asked if we could provide an update at the next board meeting from Financial Aid on the Big Beautiful Bill and how it may affect NPC, specifically Pell grants. Chair Robinson noted the legislators preferred talking to the students to get their perspective on how the community colleges were doing. He suggested that students should attend the conference with the Board next year.

Agenda Item 5: All Arizona Academic Team Update

Ms. Muriel Metcalf updated the board on the All Arizona Academic Team event. She invited the Board to attend the event on April 22. She explained the selection process and associated awards for the recipients. She also shared the names of the students that were selected to be on this year's team. She noted that Ms. Lia Keenan would be attending the March Board meeting to give the biographies of the students.



Agenda Item 6: 2027 – 2029 Tuition and Fee Schedules

VPAS Maderia Ellison presented the board the proposed tuition and fee schedule for 2027-2029. She commented that NPC sets the tuition and rates on a three-year cycle. She noted that historically NPC has the lowest or closest to the lowest tuition rates in the state. She noted that the rates presented were merely proposals for the Board to review and vote on at the next meeting. She noted that they are proposing no increase in tuition rates for the next three years. She also noted that out of state tuition rates would actually decrease based on the new calculations that were used. She reported that only a few fees were increasing and a couple of fees would be decreasing for next year. Mr. Leslie asked about the Ethical Hacking class and the associated fees. Dean of CTE Dr. Jeremy Raisor provided an explanation of the class to the Board and the associated fees. Mr. Leslie asked VPAS Ellison about the in-district tuition rates. He asked if Ms. Ellison could bring him the numbers of students that are paying the in-district tuition rate. Ms. Ellison said she would work with the Institutional Effectiveness Department to get that information for the next board meeting.

President's Report

Dr. Lawson provided the Board a report on the college's activities. He reported on the work completed on the Strategic Plan. He shared with the Board a draft of the Strategic Plan for the Board to review and vote on at the next Board meeting. He thanked the Leadership Council and CASO for the work that was done on the plan. Dr. Lawson thanked VPAS Ellison for the leadership roles in representing NPC across the state. He asked her to share some information regarding those roles with the Board. Chair Robinson commented that VPAS Ellison also chairs an national association as well. Dr Lawson noted that going forward he would like to use the All NPC meetings as a time to recognize the work and accomplishments of anyone at NPC. Dr. Lawson highlighted the renovations on the board room and thanked Justin White and the maintenance team for the work they did on the room. He encouraged everyone to share their accomplishments with him so they can be highlighted at the All NPC meetings. Dr. Lawson extended his condolences to the families and friends of Ms. Osborne. Ms. Hahn and Mr. Lucero who have passed away recently.

Mr. Leslie asked about a few of the sections in the Strategic Plan that were listed as "To Be Determined by the President and President's Cabinet". Dr. Lawson explained that those are worksheets where those responsibilities will be assigned to their respective areas so they can be held accountable for the strategies listed. Mr. Leslie asked if those areas could be filled in by the next meeting. Dr. Lawson assured Mr. Leslie it will all be in writing for the Board for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Consent Agenda

- A. January Regular Board Meeting Minutes Approval (Julia Wilson)**
- B. General Education Course Option Modifications (Michael Broyles)**
 - 1. Film and Digital Video
 - 2. Early Childhood Education
 - 3. Early Childhood Studies



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

Agenda Item 9: For Discussion and Possible Action

9.A. New Business

9.A.1 Request to purchase a generator for the Tawa Building

Mr. White requested the board approve the purchase of a generator for the Tawa Building at PDC.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the purchase of a generator for the Tawa Building in the amount of \$52,178. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.A.2 Request to approve the GMP Proposal for Kayenta Project

Mr. White requested the Board approve the Greatest Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal from CORE Construction for the Kayenta Project.

*Ms. Laughter made a motion to approve the GMP Proposal from Core Construction in the amount of \$7,412,851. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.3 Request to approve the yearly Adobe Products Renewal

AVP Jacob requested that the Board approve yearly Adobe Products renewal. He noted that the renewal would include services such as student licenses that NPC has not had previously. Mr. Black asked if the contract was only for 1 year. AVP Jacob explained that most subscription type contracts are only for 1 year.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the yearly Adobe Products renewal in the amount of \$52,218.87. Mr. Black seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.B.4 Request to approve the purchase of Cutaway Equipment.

Dr. Jeremy Raisor requested the Board approve the purchase of cutaway equipment from Cutaway Creations for the automotive training program. Dr. Raisor explained that this item was an engine cut in half that students can see the inner workings of the unit and how all the parts function. Chair Robinson asked if this was for just one unit and if it was portable. Dr Raisor replied that it was for one unit and it will be shared between the two locations. He noted that it is relatively portable for being an engine. Dr. Raisor noted that NAVIT would be providing funds for the purchase of this unit.



*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the purchase of cutaway equipment from Cutaway Creations in the amount of \$108,221.35. Mr. Black seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.A.5 Request to purchase GuestVision Software

Dr. Jeremy Raisor requested the Board approve the purchase of GuestVision software for the Cosmetology program.

Mr. Leslie asked Mr. Jacob about the integration with Anthology. Mr. Jacob commented that there is no native integration for any program with Anthology, but that this program had the best features and opportunity to create the integration with Anthology. Mr. Black asked if this was a one-time amount for one year. Dr Raisor replied that this amount was for a 5-year contract. Dr. Raisor noted that Carl Perkins funds will be used for this purchase.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the purchase of GuestVision Software in the amount of \$121,000. Mr. Black seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

9.A.6 Request to Approve Board Travel

Ms. Julia Wilson requested the board approve funds for travel for Board Member Derrick Leslie to attend the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois in March 2026.

*Ms. Laughter made a motion to approve funds for Board Member Leslie to travel to the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference in Chicago, IL. Mr. Black seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. Mr. Leslie abstained from voting.***

9.A.7 Request to Approve Board Travel

This item was withdrawn as Board Member Sekayumtewa would not be available to travel to this conference.

9.B. Old Business

Chair Robinson asked for a motion to remove items 9.B.1 and 9.B.2 from the table and then a second motion to go into Executive Sessions 1 & 2.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to remove items 9.B.1 and 9.B.2 from the table. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***



Mr. Leslie then made a motion to enter into Executive Sessions 1 & 2. M. Black seconded the motions. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

The board voted to enter Executive Session at 12:20 p.m. and returned to public session at 1:45 p.m.

9.B.1 Executive Session 1

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38.431.03(A)(1) the Board may vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss the annual Board self-evaluations.

9.B.2 Executive Session 2

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38.431.03(A)(1) the Board may vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss the annual evaluation of President Von Lawson.

9.B.3 Actions from Executive Sessions 1 and 2

The board did not take any action from Executive Sessions 1 and 2.

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

Chair Robinson noted that Policy 1102 needed to be updated to reflect names, not just offices. He also commented that there was a problem with the website not displaying all pages of the policy.

Mr. Leslie requested that Financial Aid present information on the Big Beautiful Bill. Chair Robinson also requested to know if we would be participating in Workforce Pell grants. Mr. Leslie asked for a list of talking points of what our Federal and State priorities are.

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

Mr. Leslie mentioned that future ACCT Conferences/Meetings might interfere with scheduled board meeting dates.

Agenda Item 11: Announcement of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Robinson announced the next regular meeting of the DGB would be held March 17, 2026

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Leslie seconded by Mr. Black. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Mr. Black, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julia Wilson
Recording Secretary to the Board

