

# Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026 – 10:00a.m.

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

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**Governing Board Member Present:** Chair Everett Robinson, Ms. Rosie Sekayumptewa; Ms. Kristine Laughter (remote); Mr. Derrick Leslie (remote – joined at 11:50 a.m.);

**Governing Board Member Absent:**

**Others Present:** President Von Lawson; EVPLSS Michael Solomonson; CIO Michael Jacob; Controller Scott Flake, AVP Rich Chanick, Colleen Marsh; Katie Matott; Justin White; Julia Wilson; Jesse Reeck, Cynthia Blevins, Dr. Michael Broyles, Tonya Thacker, Andi DeBellis, Horatio Luna

**Remote Attendees:** AVP Dr. Farah Bughio, IVPHR Nicole Ulibarri, Norvita Charleston, Megan Paddock, Lia Keenan, Melody Niesen, Talaina Kor, Andrew Ulberg, Dr. Allison Landy, Karen Zimmerman, Dr. Wei Ma, Tracy Solomon, Pam Dominguez, Rebekah Sweet, Dr. Tabitha Stickel, Stacy Rollins, Dr. Jeremy Raisor

## **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 proposed moving items 9.B.5 after item 5.A.11 to accommodate AVP Chanick's meeting with Sen. Gallego. Chair Robinson asked if there was a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to adopt the agenda with the provision that the order of the agenda be moved as discussed. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion.*

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

## **Agenda Item 3: Election of Board Officers and AACCT Representative**

*Ms. Laughter nominated Everett Robinson to remain as Board Chair. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the nomination. No other members were nominated. Ms. Laughter and Ms. Sekayumptewa voted yes, and Mr. Robinson abstained.*

*Upon the arrival of Board Member Derrick Leslie at 11:50 a.m., the board voted again on the election of Board Chair. Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, and Ms. Laughter all voted yes to elect Mr. Robinson as Board Chair. Mr. Robinson abstained from voting.*

*Chair Robinson called for nominations for Board Secretary. Chair Robinson nominated Ms. Laughter for Board Secretary. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the nomination. No other members*



were nominated. Ms. Sekayumptewa and Chair Robinson voted yes, and Ms. Laughter abstained.

Upon the arrival of Board Member Derrick Leslie at 11:50 a.m., the board voted again on the election of Board Secretary. Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, and Chair Robinson all voted yes to elect Ms. Laughter as Board Chair. Ms. Laughter abstained from voting.

Chair Robinson spoke with Mr. Leslie prior to the meeting and said that he would be willing to serve as AACCT Representative again. Chair Robinson nominated Mr. Leslie for AACCT Representative. Ms. Laughter seconded the nomination. No other members were nominated. Ms. Laughter, Ms. Sekayumptewa and Mr. Robinson voted yes. Ms. Laughter nominated Chair Robinson to serve as alternate AACCT Representative. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the nomination. No other members were nominated. Ms. Laughter and Ms. Sekayumptewa voted yes, and Mr. Robinson abstained.

Upon the arrival of Board Member Derrick Leslie at 11:50 a.m., the board voted again on the election of alternate AACCT Representative. Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, and Ms. Laughter all voted yes to elect Mr. Robinson as alternate AACCT Representative. Mr. Robinson abstained from voting.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Call for Public Comment**

None.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Discussion Items**

##### **5.A Standing Presentations**

###### **5.A.1. Financial Position**

Mr. Flake provided the board a report on the financial position of the college from the period of July 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025. There were no questions from the Board.

###### **5.A.2. NPC Student Government Association (SGA)**

No report.

###### **5.A.3. NPC Faculty Association**

Faculty Association President Andi DeBellis presented a plaque to Dr. Von Lawson on achieving one year of service as president of Northland Pioneer College.

###### **5.A.4. Classified and Administrative Staff Organization (CASO)**

CASO President Cynthia Blevins provided a verbal report to the Board. Ms. Blevins reported on the Non-Food Drive held at Spring Convocation. CASO collected 435 hygiene and personal care items totaling \$936. CASO collected 55 household and cleaning supply items totaling \$208. CASO collected 65 medical and health items totaling \$141. There were no questions from the board.



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

Friends and Family Director Jesse Reeck gave the Board a verbal report. Ms. Reeck pointed out that scholarship applications have the student list where they will be attending classes not necessarily reflecting the community they live in. Ms. Reeck commented that they are receiving many more scholarship applications and the NPCFF Board immediately approved 12 additional \$500 scholarships. She also noted that they are re-awarding scholarships from the Fall 2025 semester that were not used due to the student not taking classes. Ms. Reeck reported that The Darrin Reed Foundation awarded 4 NPC Fire Science/EMT student scholarships. Ms. Reeck expressed appreciation for Mr. Frank Lucero and his wife for all of their support and contributions to Friends and Family.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if a student was awarded a scholarship for a certain semester but didn't use the funds, if they could use those funds for a different semester. Ms. Reeck explained that they would not be able to and that the funds are typically reallocated immediately to another student. She noted that NPCFF would encourage the student to apply again for scholarships and that not using the funds one semester would not be held against them.

#### **5.A.6. Human Resources**

IVPHR Nicole Ulibarri presented the Board the monthly report from HR.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if "In Review" on the open positions report meant that applicants were currently being reviewed. Ms. Ulibarri confirmed that this meant the committees were reviewing the applicants.

#### **5.A.7. Compensation Committee**

Compensation Committee Co-Chair Justin White provided the Board an update current activity. He reported that the committee found 27 employees that were not in the correct grade. HR has been working on cost information to move them into the correct grade. He reported that the Compensation Committee has been working with HR on pay grades and guidelines for current positions.

#### **5.A.8 Construction Report**

Director of Facilities Justin White provided an update on the Kayenta project. Chair Robinson asked for the date of the groundbreaking. AVP Rich Chanick replied that he had just received notification from the Governor's Office that she would be able to attend the event on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Laughter and Ms. Sekayumptewa expressed gratitude for all the work that has been done on this project.

Mr. White shared that the plans for the Winslow campus were at about 30% and that if those plans would be finalized and approved in the next 2-3 weeks, they could possibly break ground on the projects October 1. He stated that they will be moving forward with a parking lot paving project at the Winslow campus in the next few weeks.

Mr. White reported that they are looking at replacing the HVAC units at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) in Snowflake. Chair Robinson asked if there were any plans to replace the doors at the PAC that have been dragging. Mr. White reported that the Facilities team were at the PAC that morning looking at the doors for replacement options.



Mr. White also provided an update on painting at the Painted Desert Campus. Ms. Sekayumptewa asked for information about the ongoing renovations to the Board Room. Mr. White provided the Board information on the project with an expected completion date of the February board meeting.

#### **5.A.9. Leadership Council**

There was no report from Leadership Council.

#### **5.A.10 ERP Implementation Update**

AVP Michael Jacob provided the Board an update on the post-bankruptcy sale of several Anthology products and a change order to our current contract to separate out implementation billing between NPC and Cochise College. He reported that UAT testing was completed in December for Human Resources and Finance, but other departmental UAT testing was currently in progress with Anthology on site to assist. HR and Finance modules are scheduled to go live February 1. The Student module is expected to go live at the end of March and REACH (Student Relationship Management tool) is scheduled to go live 2 weeks after that. Mr. Jacob stated that they are still making contingency plans for the next fiscal year in the event of other delays. Chair Robinson asked if students will be able to register in the new system in the summer. Mr. Jacob commented that this was the current plan. He also commented that Blackboard went live at the beginning of this term.

#### **5.A.11 External Relations**

AVP Rich Chanick provided a report to the board on the Governor's plans to attend the Kayenta groundbreaking ceremony. He also provided a review of several bills currently in the legislature that are relevant to the college. He also noted that he has been invited to participate in calls with Senator Gallegos and Senator Kelly. He reported that Congressman Crane would like to see some of our facilities in the first of the year. Chair Robinson commented that Mr. Leslie's absence was due to a call with Senator Gallegos. Mr. Chanick reported on community outreach events that he and Dr. Lawson have attended recently. He also reported on rural healthcare funding and corresponding workforce training funding. Ms. Sekayumptewa expressed appreciation for the report and the information on the rural healthcare funding and outreach to the Navajo Nation.

#### **5.A.12. Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)**

Chair Robinson provided a report in Mr. Leslie's absence. He reported that 3 of the 4 board members would be attending the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. next month.

#### **9.B.5 Request to accept Local First Funds**

AVP Chanick requested that the Board accept \$48500 in funds from Local First to support Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network activity.

*Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to accept the Local First funds in the amount of \$48500. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*



## **Agenda Item 6: Instructional Support Department Update**

Dr. Michael Broyles presented an update to the board on the new structure, objective, and goals of the Instructional Support Department.

## **Agenda Item 7: President's Report**

Dr. Lawson provided the Board a report on the activities of his first year as President of Northland Pioneer College. There were no questions.

## **Agenda Item 8: Consent Agenda**

### **A. Board Meeting Minutes Approval (Julia Wilson)**

1. September 4, 2025 Special Meeting
2. October 3, 2025 Special Meeting
3. November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
4. December 9, 2025 Special Meeting
5. December 18, 2025 Special Meeting

### **B. 2025-27 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment to IGA between Navajo County Community College District and Apache County (Nicole Ulibarri)**

### **C. General Education Course Option Modification (Michael Broyles)**

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

## **Agenda Item 9: For Discussion and Possible Action**

### **9.A. Old Business**

None

### **9.B. New Business**

#### **9.B.1 FY26-27 Budget Review**

Mr. Flake presented the Board the Budget Review for FY2627.

Ms. Sekayumtewa commented that it was very interesting to read the review. Chair Robinson commented that it was a good foundation for coming up with a budget by April.

#### **9.B.2 Request to approve a 3-year contract review with HyeTech**

AVP Jacob requested that the Board approve a 3-Year Contract with HyeTech for SolarWinds Services.

*Ms. Sekayumtewa made a motion to approve the 3-year contract with HyeTech in the amount of \$111895.05. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumtewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against*



**9.B.3 Request to approve the purchase of Anthology Account Automation.**

AVP Jacob requested that the Board approve the purchase of an Account Automation package from Anthology.

*Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to approve the purchase of the Account Automation package from Anthology in the amount of \$15000. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*

**9.B.4 Request to approve the purchase of VMWARE services from HyeTech.**

AVP Jacob requested that the Board approve the purchase of VMWARE services from HyeTech.

*Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to approve the purchase of VMWARE services from HyeTech in the amount of \$124911.36. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*

**Item 9.B.5. was presented and approved after item 5.A.12**

**9.B.6 Request to Explore Joint-Use Facility Development**

President Lawson requested the Board approve the exploration of a Joint-Use Facility in Holbrook.

*Ms. Laughter made a motion to authorize the President to discuss development of a Joint-Use Facility in Holbrook. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against. Chair Robinson commented that Show Low City Council has been working on an event center for about a decade for an estimated amount of \$56.4 million.*

**9.B.7 Request to Approve Board Travel**

Ms. Wilson requested the board approve funds for travel for Chair Robinson to the ACCT National Legislative Summit in place of Ms. Laughter.

*Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to approve the funds for Chair Robinson to travel to the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. Ms. Laughter and Ms. Sekayumptewa voted yes, and Mr. Robinson abstained.*

*Upon the arrival of Board Member Derrick Leslie at 11:50 a.m., the board voted again on the approval of funds for Chair Robinson to travel to the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, and Ms. Laughter all voted yes to approve the funds for travel for Chair Robinson. Mr. Robinson abstained from voting.*



**9.B.8 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.9 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.

*Chair Robinson asked for a motion to go into Executive Sessions 1 & 2. Ms. Laughter made a motion to enter into Executive Session Ms. Sekayumtewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumtewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*

*The board voted to enter Executive Session at 11:49 a.m. and returned to public session at 12:06 p.m.*

**9.B.10 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.**  
None.

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

February 24, 2026 - Kayenta Groundbreaking

April 22, 2026 – Arizona All-Academic Team Luncheon in Mesa, AZ

Mr. Leslie reported that Senator Gallegos was interested in coming to tour NPC and will be conferring with his scheduler to check on his availability.

**Agenda Item 11: Announcement of Next Regular Meeting**

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

**Agenda Item 11: Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m. upon a motion by Ms. Sekayumtewa and a second by Ms. Laughter. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumtewa, Ms. Laughter, Mr. Leslie and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Julia Wilson

Recording Secretary to the Board

