MINUTES – NPC FRIENDS & FAMILY BOARD MEETING

Empowering students and promoting lifelong learning through advocacy, volunteerism, fund raising, and awarding scholarships

Monday, March 16, 2026 – 3:45 p.m.- 5:15 p.m. – Holbrook/Painted Desert Campus – Nizhoni Learning Center Room 142 with WebEx option

I. **Call to Order – Terry called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m., March 16, 2026.**

II. **Roll Call and Introductions – Present included Terry Shove** (President; Apache County Rep); **David Wright** (Vice-President; Holbrook – Painted Desert Campus Rep); **Pat Ceballos** (Winslow-Little Colorado Campus Rep); **Jesse Reeck** (Director of NPCFF); **Karen Zimmerman** (Development Coordinator, NPCFF); **Claude Endfield** (Remote – Whiteriver Center Rep); **Tonya Thacker** (Remote - Secretary – Kayenta Center Rep)**; Mark Vest** (Remote - Show Low-White Mountain Campus Rep); **Cara Dukepoo** (Remote-Hopi Center Rep)**; Shandiin Deputee** (Remote - Eagle Club Sponsor); **Taysa Lee** (Remote – Miss Native NPC)

III. **Action Item: Approval of the Minutes of the February 9, 2026 meeting:** (Attachment) **David made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented; Claude seconded the motion.** No discussion. **All voted in favor; no abstentions.**

IV. **Action Item: Approval of Financial Reports for February, 2026 – Jesse Reeck:** (Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet Comparison, & Transaction Detail by Account – February 2026 – Attachments) **Claude made a motion to accept the report; David seconded the motion. Discussion:** Jesse presented the financial reports as Wendy, previous treasurer, has stepped down. She reported that there hadn't been any out-of-the-ordinary activity. All reimbursements for SP26 awards were now in, and several donations for 26-27 awards were already accounted for, including Summit and SRP. Wendy had passed along a market report that there was record-growth in February but that with the conflict in the Middle East things are rapidly changing now, with the Fear & Greed Index low, indicating fear. **All voted in favor to accept the reports; no abstentions.**

V. **Old Business**

A. Director's Report – Jesse Reeck

a. **Market Report from Hyrum Cottrell at Edward Jones –** Jesse reported that Hyrum called with a semi-annual market report that he called "mixed" but encouraged just riding it out
b. **Updates on SP26 Awards: AndyVon Transportation Grant & CASO Student Scholarship –** Two rounds of AVTG have been disbursed and the CASO Student Scholarship will go out this week. There is $4,000 remaining in the SP26 AVTG fund, with one outstanding application. David asked about increased student transportation needs with rising gas prices. Jesse & Karen will keep an eye on that

and consider sending a supplemental payment either from AVTG funds or Unrestricted Emergency Funds.

c. **Update on AwardSpring Implementation –** The application is up and running. Jesse & Karen are still figuring out a lot about the backend processing and setting up everything for review.

d. **Updates on 2026 Fundraising Events**

   i. **Preparations for AZ Gives Day 2026: Tuesday, April 7, 2026** – The website is almost complete & Jesse will be sending out marketing/outreach materials over the next couple of weeks. Board members are encouraged to spread the word.

   ii. **Preparations for PTP26: September 26, 2026 –** There are currently 86 registered riders.

   iii. **Application for Giving Machine Participation –** Karen was contacted by a Giving Machine coordinator and encouraged to apply, so Jesse submitted an application for the local machines and is awaiting a response.

   iv. **Volunteering/Support needed for all**

B. **Report: Miss Native American NPC Taysa Lee –** Taysa spoke about her efforts to represent NPC and promote education during her reign this year. She expressed her gratitude for the scholarship & support from NPCFF.

C. **Discussion: Annual Retreat planning follow-up** (Attachment) Everyone is on board with the retreat timeline and topics.

D. **Action Item: Approval of revised NPCFF-NPC MOU** (Attachment) Dr. Lawson has not submitted his revisions for the language about the District Governing Board, so Jesse didn't have an updated MOU for approval. Dr. Lawson verbally approved of all of the changes submitted by the Board, so the final document should be approved soon.

VI. New Business

A. **Discussion: New member & treasurer nominations** – No one has yet been identified as a Snowflake representative or as a treasurer. All members are asked to submit any ideas, and a new treasurer will be elected at the annual retreat at the end of May.

B. **Discussion: Executive Director Evaluation Procedures** – Jesse remembered a request for the Evaluation to be conducted via a digital form. Terry described the process as the executive director sending the form to her (the president); the president distributing the form and collecting the responses; the president sharing the results at the annual retreat. She believes a digital form would be very helpful. Jesse will create that based on the evaluation form on file.

C. **Action Item: Approval of Endowment Spending based on January 2026 Assessment** (Attachment): **David motioned to approve an endowment spending plan; Claude seconded.** Discussion: Jesse presented a menu of options for how to spend the assessed $34,000 to be taken from growth on the endowment and added to unrestricted scholarships.

Option 1: More Leg Up & Fill the Gaps awards. No discussion.
Option 2: Kick-Start Scholarship for new students. Terry wanted "new" to be sure to include students who had taken NPC classes in high school but would be first time attendees out of high school. New also includes students who have returned after a time away.
Option 3: Transportation Grant for students regardless of tribal affiliation. Board agreed there's need here.
Option 4: Capstone Award for SGT. David asked about Education/Student Teaching and Jesse said there is a donor who is going to fund those awards. Tonya asked why the award would be $3,000—much more than most of our other awards. Karen explained that it is to replace lost income from quitting a job to complete clinical hours.

Additional discussion: Tonya asked about tying the Kickstart award to attendance at an orientation event. Criteria for Kickstart were discussed, including whether or not including essay/short answer questions would be reasonable to turn around funds, or if it should be first-come-first-served.

All initiatives will be one-year only, trial/pilot and dependent on funds and success for future continuance. Any unspent funds will return to the general budget or endowment.

The Board developed a rough draft of how monies should be disbursed, with instructions to Jesse & Karen to finalize details and criteria for approval at the next meeting.

- Capstone Awards: 2/Semester, $6,000/semester, $12,000 for the year
- Kickstart Awards: $10,000 for Fall, $2,000 for Spring, $12,000 for the year
- Transportation Grant: $4,500/semester, $9,000 for the year
- TOTAL: $33,000

Pat moved to table to motion to approve the Endowment Spending Plan. David seconded. No further discussion. **All voted in favor; no abstentions.**

D. Discussion: Board Training on AwardSpring reviewer experience – Postponed until next meeting.

VII. **Next Meeting:–** Monday, April 13, 2026, 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. at Snowflake/Silver Creek Campus

IX. Adjournment ~ The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.