

Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting Minutes

March 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. Rosie Sekayumptewa

Governing Board Members Absent: Mr. Derrick Leslie, Ms. Kristine Laughter

Others Present: President Von Lawson; EVPLSS Michael Solomonson; VPAS Maderia Ellison; VPHR Nicole Ulibarri; AVP Michael Jacob; AVP Rich Chanick; AVP Farah Bughio; Justin White; Dr. Allison Landy; Dr. Michael Broyles; Dr. Xander Henderson; Dr. Tabitha Stickel; Dr. Jeremy Raisor; Dr. Jeri Lastine; Jesse Reeck; Scott Flake; Russell Kupfer; Horatio Luna; Muriel Metcalf; Jennifer Dobell; Julia Wilson; Andi De Bellis; Pamela Bishop; NAVIT Superintendent Matt Weber, AC4 Executive Director Dr. David Borofsky.

Remote Attendees: Dora Jaquez; Charity Butler; Rebecca Hunt; Benjamin Turner; Ryan Jones; Jessica Guzman; Dr. Wei Ma; Cynthia Blevins; Josh Rogers; Rachel Townsend; Melody Niesen; Dawayne Bahe; Pat Lopez; Andrew Farr; Candace Morehouse; Tiffani Martin; Karen Baker; Shanna; Rebecca Diggs; Arthur Power; Paul Hempsey; Marletha Baloo; Pat Lopez; Lia Keenan; Brynna Johnson; Jonathan Lawrence; Tracy Meijas; Desirae Silvers; Rickey Jackson; Gary Santillanes; Pam Dominguez; Talaina Kor; Iris Yessith; Diane Joe; Francis Skibicki; Jessica Kitchens; Jeanette Hancock; Tonya Thacker

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

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

The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumptewa 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



Vice President Ellison reported that the college's finances were tracking as expected for July 2025 through January 2026. The general fund was comparable to last year, unrestricted plant fund activity was up because of construction, and restricted fund balances were lower year over year mainly because last year included a larger funding receipt that is not repeated this year. She also noted that property tax receipts were delayed but have now come in, improving cash flow and moving the college out of a deficit position.

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

NPC Student Government Association President Pamela Bishop shared a long list of student engagement and campus-life initiatives. Their major efforts include March Madness, Eagle Fest, a revised food truck procedure, laptop scholarships, an effort to revive the NPC talent show for fall 2026, the Eagle Club leadership conference, Brain Food during finals, a student T-shirt design contest, and updates to the SGA constitutions, bylaws, and scholarship policies to address issues such as AI use. They also described working to broaden participation across traditional and nontraditional learners and using events to strengthen leadership and community involvement.

4.A.3. NPC Faculty Association

No report.

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

CASO President Cynthia Blevins reported reviewing 17 scholarship applications and then turned the time over to Jessica Guzman for a presentation on the College and Career Prep department. CCP offers high school equivalency, college prep, workforce development, and English language acquisition, along with a student writing center, tutoring, and a personal care pantry supplying hygiene items to eligible students. Guzman emphasized that CCP serves as a gateway for students who may not otherwise be prepared for college-level work and highlighted the role of learning assistants and faculty support in student success.

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

NPC Friends and Family Director Jesse Reek reported continued scholarship and emergency support activity, including transportation grants, emergency funds, and an upcoming fall scholarship cycle with roughly \$125,000 in available awards. She also promoted Arizona Gives Day on April 7 as a major fundraiser, including a campaign honoring Mr. Frank Lucero through the Golden Eagle scholarship. Staff also thanked financial aid and the business office for keeping student aid flowing despite ERP-related disruptions.

4.A.6. Human Resources

VPHR Nicole Ulibarri reported that the next new employee orientation would be on May 6 and that five new employees were expected to be welcomed. Turnover remained below the national average, and the recruitment list showed several positions in progress, though the risk manager role may need reevaluation due to a lack of qualified applicants. March wellness programming focused on financial fitness, and open enrollment for benefits was scheduled for the week of March 25–31.

4.A.7. Compensation Committee

No report.



4.A.8 Construction Report

Director of Facilities Justin White provided the Board an update on the Winslow and Kayenta projects. In the Kayenta area, fence installation for security was underway and full construction was expected to begin within a few weeks. In Winslow, the college is planning a remodel of the multipurpose building for cosmetology plus an addition to the Blunk building, with a target groundbreaking around October 1. The board also approved a nursing lab renovation project and a new parking lot project for Winslow, both intended to improve campus access and student facilities. The Board also approved a nursing lab renovation project and a new parking lot project for Winslow, both intended to improve campus access and student facilities.

4.A.9. Leadership Council

No report.

4.A.10 ERP Implementation Update

AVP Michael Jacob reported that the finance and human capital management modules were already live and stable, with remaining integrations still being completed. The student relationship management tool had completed UAT and was on track for go-live soon after the student information system launch, which was described as the biggest phase of the project. The team planned campus road shows and support sessions at PDC, White Mountain, and Silver Creek, plus food trucks and hands-on demonstrations to help students and staff transition to the new system.

4.A.11 External Relations

AVP External Relations Rich Chanick reported several funding opportunities in progress, including a large workforce-development proposal to a foundation, a non-matched \$25,000 regional consortium award, and a \$6.5 million water infrastructure grant under review in Washington. The college is also pursuing directed spending for track resurfacing and a major workforce transition grant focused on medical fields, especially nursing and medical assisting. On the legislative side, the report warned about potential state-level budget pressure from a court ruling on K-12 school facilities funding and highlighted concern over two bills, including one involving health insurance bidding cycles and another on concealed carry on campus.

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

Chair Robinson provided a report on AACCT activities on behalf of Board Member Leslie. The AACCT group discussed a likely shortfall in federal Pell funding for FY27 and encouraged advocacy with members of Congress. The upcoming statewide trustees meeting in Mesa will include updates on community college success initiatives, board effectiveness, open meeting law, AI expansion at Cochise College, and trustee sharing. Leadership also noted that NPC's visibility in Phoenix has increased and that state-level groups are talking positively about the college.

Agenda Item 5: All Arizona Academic Team Update

Ms. Muriel Metcalf updated the board on the All-Arizona Academic Team event. The college will celebrate seven scholars at the All-Arizona Academic Team event in Mesa on April 22. The students came from multiple campuses, and their plans include transfer pathways in justice, nursing, performing arts, early childhood education, psychology, business, and mathematics.



Some will receive cash stipends, and one student was selected as a Phi Theta Kappa first-team recipient.

Agenda Item 6: Workforce Pell Grant Information

Director of Financial Aid Jennifer Dobell provided a detailed presentation explaining the new federal Workforce Pell Grant rules, including the timeline, eligibility constraints, and reporting requirements. The key uncertainty is which programs Arizona will approve by April 30, because the eligible programs must meet length, completion-rate, placement-rate, and income standards, and implementation begins July 1, 2026. Staff also flagged that the current rules and data requirements may force significant changes to student information systems and financial aid processes, and that comments on the proposed rules were open until April 8.

The Board took a break from 11:27am to 11:35am.

Agenda Item 7: In District Enrollment Information

AVP Farah Bughio presented the Board In District v. Out of District enrollment for FY22-23, FY23-24, and FY24-25 showing an approximate 75%-25% split favoring In-District enrollment across all years.

Agenda Item 8: Primary Property Tax Levy and Rates

VPAS Maderia Ellison presented the Board the Primary Property Tax Levy and Rates. The board reviewed this information, with staff recommending the maximum primary tax levy rate to protect equalization funding.

Agenda Item 9: FY26-27 Introductory Budget Analysis

VPAS Maderia Ellison led a budget discussion for FY26-27 which emphasized that property taxes remain a major source of revenue. She noted that the college is preparing for the next budget cycle, with the final budget expected later in the spring. The annual comprehensive financial report for FY ending June 30, 2025, received an unmodified audit opinion, indicating the auditors agreed with the representation.

Agenda Item 10: President's Report

Dr. Lawson provided the Board a report on the Kayenta groundbreaking event and expressed appreciation for all those who prepared the event and those that attended it. He noted that it was described it as a "brilliant event" and said the governor was pleased with the turnout and the overall effort. Dr. Lawson also said a visiting staff member had shared positive feedback after attending, reinforcing that the event was well received.

Dr. Lawson shared personal thanks to the Board and individuals throughout the college and community for their support and condolences as he was grieving the loss of his father.



Agenda Item 11: Consent Agenda

- A. February Regular Board Meeting Minutes Approval (Julia Wilson)**
- B. General Education Course Option Modifications (Michael Broyles)**
 - 1. Administration of Justice Program
 - 2. Fire Science Program
 - 3. Special Education Post Baccalaureate Program

Mr. Black 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 Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumptewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

Agenda Item 12: For Discussion and Possible Action

12.A. Old Business

There was no old business to review.

12.B New Business

12.B.1 Request to approve an election resolution.

Chair Robinson requested the board approve an election resolution for the Election of the District Governing Board Members of District #1, District #3, and District #4.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the election resolution. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumptewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

12.B.2 Request to accept the Financial Audit FY ending June 30, 2025.

Controller Scott Flake requested the Board accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY ending June 30, 2025.

Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumptewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

12.B.3 Request to approve the 2027-2029 Tuition and Fees

VPAS Maderia Ellison requested the Board approve the proposed 2027-2029 Tuition and Fees.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the proposed 2027-2029 Tuition and Fees as corrected. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumptewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

12.B.4 Request to approve Nursing Lab Renovations



Dean of Nursing Dr. Jeri Lastine requested the Board approve renovations in the Ponderosa Building at White Mountain Campus for the Nursing Lab.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the renovations on the Ponderosa Building at White Mountain Campus in the amount of \$105,000. Ms. Sekayumtewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumtewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

12.B.5 Request to approve contract for parking lot in Winslow.

Director of Facilities Justin White requested the Board approve a contract with CORE Construction to build a new parking lot at the Little Colorado Campus in Winslow.

Ms. Sekayumtewa made a motion to approve a contract with CORE Construction in the amount of \$794,713 to build a new parking lot on the Winslow Campus. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumtewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

12.B.6 2026-2027 Compensation Recommendation

VPHR Nicole Ulibarri presented the Board the 2026-2027 compensation recommendations to review prior to approval at the April 2026 regular meeting.

No vote was needed/taken for this informational item.

12.B.7 Request to approve new board policy regarding external relations

College President Dr. Von Lawson requested the Board approve a new policy regarding external relations of the college.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the new board policy. Ms. Sekayumtewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumtewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

The board voted to enter Executive Session at 12:37 p.m. and returned to public session at 1:45 p.m.

12.B.8 Executive Session 1

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38.431.03(A)(1) the Board may vote to enter into Executive Session for discussion or consideration regarding the employment, assignment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, disciplining, or resignation of a public officer.

12.B.9 Executive Session 2

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38.431.03(A)(1) the Board may vote to enter into Executive Session for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body.
Mr. Black made a motion to enter into Executive Sessions 1 & 2. Ms. Sekayumtewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black, and Ms. Sekayumtewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.



12.B.10 Action from Executive Sessions 1 & 2

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

Agenda Item 13: DGB Agenda Items and Informational Needs for Future Meetings.

Chair Robinson requested a information regarding contingency and evacuation planning for White Mountain Campus.

Chair Robinson requested information on commencement and completer ceremonies for the college.

Ms. Sekayumtewa commented that there was a new Chairman for the Hopi Tribe.

Agenda Item 14: Board Report/Summary of Current and Upcoming Events

Arizona Gives Day – 04/07

Emma Play at PAC – April 10/11 and April 17/18

DGB Board Retreat – April 10/11

Student Leadership Conference – April 17

Ms. NPC Pageant – April 17

DGB Regular Meeting – Hopi Center – April 21

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

AACCT Meeting – April 22-23 in Mesa, AZ

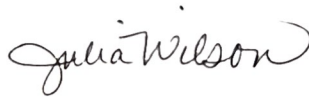
Agenda Item 15: Announcement of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Robinson announced the next regular meeting of the DGB would be held April 21, 2026 at the Hopi Center.

Agenda Item 16: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m. upon a motion by Ms. Sekayumtewa seconded by Mr. Black. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Chair Robinson, Mr. Black and Ms. Sekayumtewa voting in favor. There were no votes against.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julia Wilson
Recording Secretary to the Board

