

# Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025 – 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; Mr. Derrick Leslie (remote); Ms. Kristine Laughter (remote)

**Governing Board Member Absent:** Mr. Frank Lucero

**Others Present:** President Von Lawson; EVPLSS Michael Solomonson; CIO Michael Jacob; IVPHR Nicole Ulibarri, VPAS/CFO Maderia Ellison, AVP Rich Chanick, Colleen Marsh; Katie Matott; Dr. Allison Landy, Rebecca Sweet. Justin White; Julia Wilson; Jesse Reeck, Cynthia Blevins; Rennie Hutton, Horatio Luna, Russell Kupfer, Dr. Wei Ma, Jennifer Brimhall, Seth Marticion, Josh Rogers, Paul Hempsey, Kelly Wood (Thrive MTN), Kristin Denbo (Thrive MTN), Haley Laughter (Thrive MTN)

**Remote Attendees:** Dr. Farah Bughio, Angie King, Brynna Johnston, Norvita Charleston, Susan Jensen, Jonathan Lawrence, Dr. Tabitha Stickel, Dr. Jeremy Raisor, Pam Dominguez, Olivia Jaquez, Linda Kor, Stacy Rollins, Jeanette Hancock, Melody Niesen, Rebecca Hunt, Chelsea Wood, Karen Baker, Tracy Solomon, Jesse Reeck, Tracy Mejias, Rennie Hutton, Eleanore Hempsey, Bianca Tobolino (Thrive MTN)

## **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 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 items 10.B.1-4 be changed and item 10.B.7 be deleted. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion.*

*The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Mr. Leslie and Chair Robinson and Ms. Laughter 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. Human Resources**

IVPHR Nicole Ulibarri presented an update to the board on open positions and new hires including a new Dean of Nursing. She also reported on employees training including upcoming



Supervisor training. She provided information on the Flu Shot Clinics. Ms. Ulibarri then spoke with the board regarding the need for an employee wellness program. She introduced Ms. Kelly Wood and other members from Thrive MTN Wellness in Show Low, who presented information on a potential partnership with NPC.

Ms. Laughter asked how employees from other campuses/centers will benefit from the services because Thrive MTN is located in the White Mountains. Ms. Wood provided a handout with a potential schedule of events and services for all NPC locations.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked Dr. Lawson if this information could be presented to other locations. Ms. Wood replied that they would be glad to do that as well as offered remote options for some of their services. Chair Robinson commented that it sounded like a good opportunity for NPC employees.

#### ***4.A.2 Financial Position***

VPAS Ellison expanded on the report provided in the packet.

There were no questions.

#### ***4.A.3. NPC Student Government Association (SGA)***

SGA Member Seth Marticion gave a presentation to the Board and discussed the laptop scholarships award recipients as well as the Eagle Fest event at PDC. He shared pictures and information regarding the two Pizza with the President events held at LCC and WMC. He presented upcoming SGA events to the Board.

There were no questions. The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Marticion's report and presentation.

#### ***4.A.4. NPC Faculty Association***

No report.

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

CASO President Cynthia Blevins provided a verbal report to the Board including the scholarships awarded last month and that CASO will be giving out three scholarships next Spring due to the success of the CASO Silent Auction. She also reported that CASO will be taking over the food box distribution in Winslow and Holbrook. She mentioned that CASO will be having a non-food drive at Spring Convocation.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if board members would be allowed to read and review scholarship applications. Chair Robinson commented that they can, and Ms. Blevins commented that she will forward the scholarship applications to her.

#### ***4.A.6. Northland Pioneer College (NPC) Friends and Family***

Friends and Family Director Jesse Reeck gave the board a verbal report including information on the Spring scholarship applications noting that they received 88 applications which is a significant increase. Ms. Reeck noted that she would be happy to have the board participate in the application review process. Ms. Reeck discussed their new scholarship application software,



Award Spring and how students will be able to use that program. Ms. Reeck discussed meeting with some of the organizations that sponsor scholarships and having them meet the students that received the scholarships from those organizations. She also discussed other scholarships and financial support given to students.

There were no questions.

#### ***4.A.7 External Relations***

No report.

#### ***4.A.8. Compensation Committee***

Compensation Committee Co-chair Justin White provided a verbal update to the board including that staff guidelines and faculty guidelines have been finished and are being share with the different shared governance groups and to the President in December. They will be discussing these guidelines with Human Resources.

There were no questions.

#### ***4.A.9. Construction Report***

Director of Facilities and Transportation Justin White gave the Board an update on construction projects. Mr. White presented the board some samples of sustainable materials that will be required for the new Kayenta center. He also noted that they are still working through things with the Kayenta project but moving in the right direction. Mr. White reported that he will be signing off of the full completion of the Goldwater Student Center Building this Friday. Mr. White reported that they are still in the design phase of the Winslow Campus Cosmetology remodel, but that is their next project as the Goldwater Building project is finished.

Chair Robinson asked if the Kayenta ground breaking would still be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. White commented that they are looking at a January to March timeframe for the groundbreaking.

#### ***4.A.10. Leadership Council***

No report.

#### ***4.A.11 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Implementation Update***

AVP/CIO Michael Jacob provided the board a verbal report on the ERP implementation. Mr. Jacob reported that they were working on User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for Finance and the Business Office. He reported that they have begun testing the HR modules and that they were going pretty well. He commented that we're on track to meet February go-live dates. He reported that they were meeting today to discuss ADP integrations with the ERP System and that ETL testing was wrapping up for the Student modules so they could move into UAT testing. Mr. Jacob commented that these were busy and critical times for the departments performing testing and that communications were being sent out to the college to make everyone aware of the extra work and testing certain departments are currently performing. Mr. Jacob advised the Board that employees from Cochise College will be presenting information to their board tonight to make a decision on whether they will be continuing with the Anthology implementation after the bankruptcy announcement. Mr. Jacob stated that he will advise the President and President's Cabinet on any developments from Cochise.



There were no questions.

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

Mr. Leslie provided an update on his attendance at the ACCT Conference in New Orleans. He commented that he was able register and vote at the conference. He reported that there was a lot of discussion on the Workforce Pell and the July 1 start date. He reported on the discussions surrounding the government shutdown and what might happen when the government opens up again.

There were no questions.

### **Agenda Item 5: Fall 2025 FTSE Report**

Registrar Paul Hempsey provided the Fall FTSE report to the board.

Chair Robinson asked if the report presented separated out the Associate level and Bachelor level students. Mr. Hempsey reported that the way the report was designed in Jenzabar did not have those students separated out. Chair Robinson commented that maybe that information would be separated out in our new ERP System. Chair Robinson asked why the enrollment at Whiteriver dropped so much. Mr. Hempsey reported that he was not sure on the cause. Chair Robinson asked about early college registration for the Spring semester. Mr. Hempsey commented that registration for quite a few early college classes still need to be completed.

Ms. Sekayumtewa asked what Waypoint was. Mr. Hempsey commented that it was an on-site construction program run through our CTE department. AVP Rich Chanick commented that the Waypoint program is run through the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network and that Apache County wanted to partner with them so that we could provide construction education to individuals in recovery there. Chair Robinson commented that he thought that they were putting the roofs on new houses for the Blue Ridge School District.

Ms. Laughter asked what we were doing to increase dual enrollment for our high school students. EVPLSS Mike Solomonson responded that in order for teachers to be qualified to teach a dual enrollment class, they would have a with Masters degree, so there were some issues with finding teachers qualified to teach the classes. Ms. Laughter commented that she knew of teachers in Kayenta with Masters degrees and related some of her past experiences with the dual enrollment program and students in the Kayenta area. Ms. Laughter reported that we are missing a big opportunity for the students in Kayenta. She asked what we were doing to be proactive with recruiting in those areas. Dr. Solomonson reported that Dean Jeremy Raisor was going out to high schools in the area to talk to principals there. He commented that Dr. Raisor pointed out that these schools are sometimes choosing to do dual enrollment through Diné College. Ms. Laughter commented that she would like to see the Kayenta Center being utilized to its full potential when it opens.

The board took a break at 11:13 a.m. and reconvened at 11:21 a.m.

### **Agenda Item 6: Summer Enrollment Update**



Executive Vice President of Learning and Student Services Mike Solomonson gave a presentation on the Summer Enrollment Program for SU24 and SU25. There was a 26% increase from SU24 enrollment to SU25 enrollment. Dr. Solomonson also reported that about 45% of SU 25 enrollees continued on to enroll in Fall 2025 classes. Approximately 35% of SU25 enrollees were new to NPC.

There were no questions.

### **Agenda Item 7: Unified Advising Update**

Dean of Student Services Josh Rogers and Director of Student Engagement Jennifer Brimhall gave a presentation to the Board on the new Unified Advising restructuring. Ms. Brimhall reported that Early College and Public advising are being unified under this new plan, in three phases, with Campus and Center Office staff providing assistance to the advisers.

Ms. Laughter asked about advising efforts for Piñon High School, Shonto Schools, Red Mesa High School, and Rough Rock High School. Ms. Brimhall commented that they would be visiting Piñon High School this week and that we do service both Shonto and Red Mesa schools. She stated that she needed to provide the board an updated map to them to reflect this. Ms. Brimhall said she needed to look into Rough Rock High School as she was not sure what services were provided to them.

Ms. Sekayumptewa commented that she was concerned about Piñon High School as well. She asked Ms. Brimhall about recruiting efforts in Junior High Schools and other feeder schools. Ms. Brimhall commented that she would pass the information from Ms. Sekayumptewa to the advisers.

### **Agenda Item 8: President's Report**

College President Dr. Von Lawson provided a verbal report to the board. Dr. Lawson reported on some of his experiences with students across the district and some approaches that he would like to take to address the concerns that he saw and heard. Dr. Lawson invited Dean of Instructional Innovation Dr. Wei Ma to discuss a plan to implement additional online learning programs at NPC.

Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if the requirement to complete the last 12 credit hours on campus for your degree would still apply. Dr. Ma replied that there were programs that still needed to be evaluated for that specific requirement and to ensure that they meet HLC requirements. Ms. Sekayumptewa commented what a blessing it would be for the people in her community who live in more rural areas with limited resources and accessibility options.

Ms. Laughter commented that she appreciated Dr. Lawson's effort to provide equitable services across the District and spoke of some examples of the hardships that some students face in trying to attend classes. She spoke about her own online college experience. She thanked Dr. Lawson and expressed her desire for NPC to keep moving forward with looking at online education.

Mr. Leslie expressed his appreciation for Dr. Lawson moving forward in the direction of online classes and programs. Mr. Leslie expressed concern about our policies and procedures and if we





would have to get HLC approval for online classes and programs. Mr. Leslie asked if we could explore the option to provide online Bachelor's programs that required only 91 credit hours.

Chair Robinson commented that he applauds Dr. Lawson's efforts and noted that equity is what was needed for our students. He also commented that we need to offer those (online) opportunities to our students.

Dr. Solomonson commented that he didn't feel like any of the faculty were indifferent, but that they had different ideas on the basis for accomplishments.

## **Agenda Item 9: Consent Agenda**

### **A. October 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (Julia Wilson)**

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

## **Agenda Item 10: For Discussion and Possible Action**

### **10.A. Old Business**

None

*Agenda items 1,2,3,4 were rearranged as follows,  
Agenda Item 1 = Minutes Item 2, Agenda Item 2 = Minutes Item 4, Agenda Item 3 = Minutes Item 1 and Agenda Item 4 = Minutes Item 3.*

### **10.B. New Business**

#### **10.B.1 Request to Adopt the FY22-23 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report**

Mr. Kupfer requested that the Board approve the FY22-23 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the FY22-23 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*

#### **10.B.2 Request to Adjust the FY23 Adopted Budget**

Mr. Kupfer requested that the Board approve an adjustment to the FY23 Adopted Budget.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve an adjustment to the FY23 Adopted Budget. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against*

#### **10.B.3 Request to Adopt the FY23-24 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report**



Mr. Kupfer requested that the Board approve the FY23-24 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve the FY23-24 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

#### **10.B.4 Request to Adjust the FY24 Adopted Budget**

Mr. Kupfer requested that the Board approve an adjustment to the FY24 Adopted Budget.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to approve an adjustment to the FY24 Adopted Budget. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Mr. Leslie, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against***

#### **10.B.5 Follow up to Board Member Leslie's Request**

VPAS Maderia Ellison presented three options to the board regarding auction purchase procedures.

Mr. Leslie commented that he would prefer option 3 but was most concerned that there was something from the college in writing on how auction purchases are conducted. The other board members agreed that option 3 was acceptable.

#### **10.B.6 Request to Accept ADHS Nursing Grant Funds**

Interim Dean of Nursing Ruth Zimmerman requested the board approve the acceptance of funds from the Arizona Department of Education for the Nursing Education Investment Program.

*Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to approve the acceptance of ADHS Nursing Grant Funds in the amount of \$532891.46. Mr. Leslie seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

#### **10.B.7 A request to remove this item for purchase approval was agreed upon by the Board.**

#### **10.B.8 Request to Approve the Job Order Contract for Storefront Replacement and Exterior Painting**

Facilities Director Justin White requested the board approve a contract with CORE Construction to replace the storefront of the Holbrook Skills Center and paint the exterior of the Skills Center, Tawa Building, and the Building Out Back (BOB).

*Ms. Sekayumptewa made a motion to approve the contract with CORE Construction in the amount of \$188838. Ms. Laughter seconded the motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***



**10.B.9 Request to Approve Board travel to the ACCT National Legislative Summit**

DGB Recording Secretary Julia Wilson requested the Board to approve travel funds for Board Members Leslie and Laughter to travel to the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington DC in February 2026.

*After discussion, this item was tabled due to a lack of a quorum for the request as presented and Ms. Sekayumptewa's request to be added to the travel request.*

**10.B.10 Request to Cancel the December 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 DGB Meeting**

Chair Robinson requested the Board to approve canceling the December 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 Board Meeting.

*Mr. Leslie made a motion to cancel the December 16, 2025 DGB Meeting. Ms. Sekayumptewa seconded the motion. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.*

**10.B.11 Request to Discuss program additions and restorations at the Silver Creek Campus in Snowflake.**

Chair Robinson discussed with the Board conversations he has had regarding the FFA programs at Snowflake and St. John High Schools. He asked if this had been brought to the Instructional Council for discussion. Dr. Solomonson responded that he could check with Dr. Raisor on the interest of that program and if a proposal could be brought forward.

Chair Robinson also asked about the status of the music programs and that there were several programs running through Community and Corporate Learning and not actual courses. Dr. Solomonson commented that there is a distinction between the interest in these programs as an extracurricular activity vs. to what degree this is an interest in pursuing a music degree. Chair Robinson asked if it would be appropriate to conduct a survey of high school music programs and community groups to determine interest. Chair Robinson asked about the possibility of a Skills Center in Snowflake. Chair Robinson commented that he would like to look at the Master Facilities plan and propose that we look at a skills center in Snowflake. Mr. Matt Weber, Superintendent of Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology (NAVIT) addressed the board regarding the NAVIT program in this area and the large demand of students requesting skills classes in the White Mountain area. Mr. Leslie expressed his support in adding new programs and program expansions. He asked if there was a process on how to request a program to be added to the offerings. He requested that we bring that process to the board so there can be more strategic planning on program implementation. Dr. Solomonson replied that the Instructional Council is the primary means of introducing new programs. He noted that a feasibility study might be necessary to ensure that there would be broad student and community support for the program. Ms. Sekayumptewa asked if there were Strategic Planning reports that she may have missed. Dr. Solomonson replied that there was a report given at the last DGB meeting.





### **10.B.12 Executive Sessions 1, 2, 3**

*Chair Robinson requested that the Executive Sessions be combined into one item coming out of all three Executive Sessions at the same time with one action item for all three sessions. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to go into Executive Sessions 1, 2, and 3. Chair Robinson made the motion to go into Executive Sessions. Mr. Leslie asked if we had made a motion to accept the agenda as is how that fits into the motion that was just made. Chair Robinson responded that the small print on the agenda says that the Board can take the agenda items in any order the Board decides. Mr. Leslie then seconded Chair Robinson's motion. **The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Mr. Leslie, Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

***The Board entered into Executive Session at 1:36pm and returned to public session at 2:09 pm.***

***Agenda Items 10.B.12, 10.B.16, and 10.B.16 will be combined into the Minutes Item 10.B.12 as described above.***

***Agenda Items 10.B.13, 10.B.15, and 10.B.17 will be combined into Minutes Item 10.B.13 as described above.***

### **10.B.13 Actions from Executive Sessions 1, 2, 3**

The board did not take any action from Executive Session 1, 2, or 3.

**Agenda Item 11: DGB Agenda Items and Informational Needs for Future Meetings.**  
There were no items brought forward.

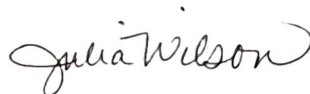
**Agenda Item 12: Board Report/Summary of Current and Upcoming Events**  
Chair Robinson commented that there are several musical events coming up in the next month.

**Agenda Item 11: Announcement of Next Regular Meeting**  
Chair Robinson announced the next regular meeting of the DGB would be held January 20, 2026

### **Agenda Item 11: Adjournment**

***The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. upon a motion by Ms. Sekayumptewa and a second by Mr. Leslie. The motion carried upon a roll-call vote with Ms. Sekayumptewa, Ms. Laughter, Mr. Leslie and Chair Robinson voting in favor. There were no votes against.***

Respectfully Submitted,



Julia Wilson  
Recording Secretary to the Board

