

JOURNAL OF THE
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

June 09, 2025
10:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.
(Based on the completion of the HEHSC agenda)

PRESIDING: Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson
Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson

PLACE : Law and Order Conference Room (In-person)
Window Rock, NN (AZ)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; INVOCATION; ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting called to Order by Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson at 10:35 a.m. There were four (4) members present, and two (2) members excused when Roll Call was made by Karen Chee, Senior Legal Secretary with the Office of Legislative Services.

Honorable Members present:

*Honorable Vince R. James (10:08 a.m.); *Germaine Simonson (10:10 a.m.); *Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:26 a.m.); and *Honorable George H. Tolth (9:43 a.m.).

Honorable Members not in attendance or arrived after the roll call was taken::

Honorable Curtis Yanito (Excused) and Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (Excused).

Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson indicated the committee will utilize the Invocation provided earlier in the morning.

Announcements:

- Honorable George H. Tolth - 2025 Tribal Leaders Summit and Government-to-Government Summit in Santa Fe, New Mexico

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

- Recognition of all committee members, staff and zoom participants.
- Refer to the attached sign-in sheet.

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA

The Proposed Agenda for June 09, 2025, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

➤ Honorable George H. Tolth entertained a motion and amendment and to re-arrange the agenda and add one new item to the agenda under 5. Reports, second by Honorable Germaine Simonson. The vote was 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY).

The amendment is as follows:

1. Reports 5(D) Hunter's Point Boarding School to be the new 5(A). (re-number or re-letter succeeding paragraphs, sections, and exhibits as necessary and appropriate).
2. Add new item Reports 5(E) Update: School Board qualifications completion deadline. Regarding: Criminal background investigation with presenters: Candace French, Contract Attorney, MacArthur Stant, Attorney and Michelle Espino, Chief Legislative Council with the Office of Legislative Counsel.

The second reading of the Approved Agenda with one amendment for June 09, 2025, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S): None

5. RECEIVING REPORTS:

A. Report: Hunter's Point Boarding School

- Reauthorization
- Concerns about coordination and technical support from DODE - ODAC

➤ The report was presented prior pending quorum.

Presenter: Julia Donald, Principal, Hunters Point Boarding School
Jeremy Simpson, Director of Support Services, Hunters Point Boarding School
Genevieve Jackson, President of School Board, Hunters Point Boarding School

Invited: Claudia Edgewater, Acting Superintendent,
Department of Diné Education
Anderson Yazzie, Education Program Manager, Office
of Diné Accountability & Compliance Department of
Diné Education

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

B. Report: AZ Complete Health

- Overview Update
- Crisis Overview
- Additional affiliated program services

Presenter: Sheina Yellowhair-Flores, Supervisor, Tribal
Programs; Arizona Complete Health
Simone Richardson, M.S. Tribal Liaison, Tribal
Programs Health Services, AZ Complete Health
Bill Mitchell, First Responder Liaison-
Crisis/Justice Teams
Zane James, Tribal Liaison, AZ Complete Health -
Available by Zoom

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

C. Report: Navajo Department of Health

- Update on the New Mexico reported measles case reported at
the San Juan Regional Medical Center in Farmington, NM
- Follow through with the Navajo Nation Commission on
Emergency Management

Areas of concern:

- *Confirmed case and potential contract tracing effort*
- *Risk Assessment for nearby Navajo communities*
- *Preventive public health measures currently in place or
planned.*
- *Coordination efforts with local, state, or federal health
authorities.*

Presenter: Sherylene M. Yazzie, Interim Executive Director,
Navajo Department of Health

Dariel Yazzie, Program Manager I, Public Health
Emergency Preparedness Program/Division of Public
Health Services, Navajo Department of Health

Invited: Sharen Sandoval, Director, Navajo Department of
Emergency Management

Motion by: Honorable Germaine Simonson
Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

D. Report: Navajo Department of Health

➤ Update: DALTCS

Presenter: Sherylene M. Yazzie, Interim Executive Director

Announcement:

➤ *Foster Grandparent Appreciation Day, Thursday, June 26,
2025, in Camp Verde, Arizona*

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

E. Report: Update

➤ School Board qualifications completion deadline. Re:
Criminal background investigations.

Presenter: *Office of Legislative Council*
Candace French, Contract Attorney, OLC
MacArthur Stant, Attorney, OLC
Michelle Espino, Chief Legislative Counsel, OLC

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

6. OLD BUSINESS: *None*

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Draft HEHSC Letter responding to the April 14, 2025 "Dear
Tribal Leader" letter.

Presenter: HEHSC Chair Vince R. James

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

B. HEHSC FY2026 Oversight Budget Hearings:

Select dates for HEHSC to conduct oversight budget hearings
June 16-17, 2025.

- The HEHSC committee members consented to schedule the special budget hearings on Monday, June 16, 2025, after the adjournment of the regular meeting and Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Presenter: HEHSC Committee Members
Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor - HEHSC

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

C. Travel:

**2025 State Tribal Leaders Summit & Government-To-Government
Indian Education Summit**

Tuesday: June 10, 2025 - State Tribal Leaders Summit
(7:30 am -4:00 pm)

Wednesday: June 11, 2025 G2G Indian Education Summit with
Tribal Leaders & State of New Mexico (7:30 am
- 2:00 pm)

Location: Santa Fe Indian School; Everett F. Chaves
Pueblo Pavillion, 1501 Cerrillos Rd; Santa Fe,
NM

Presenter: Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor - HEHSC

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays:
None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)

**8. CLOSE OF MEETING; ANNOUNCEMENTS; ADJOURNMENT NEXT MEETING(S)
/ TRAVEL:**

- Monday, June 9, 2025 1:00 p.m. - HEHSC work session

- 4:00 p.m. with Navajo Election Administration; LOC Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).
- Monday, June 16, 2025 10:00 a.m. HEHSC Regular Meeting; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).
 - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 9:00 a.m. HEHSC NNAC-NVA Work Session, Window Rock, NN (AZ)
 - Thursday, June 19, 2025 Juneteenth Observed Navajo Nation Holiday
 - Monday, June 23, 2025 10:00 a.m. HEHSC Regular Meeting Diné College Campus, Tsaile, NN (AZ)
 - Monday, June 30, 2025 9:00 a.m. HEHSC Leadership Meeting; DHR-DPM; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ)

Announcement:

- Honorable Vince R. James
 - a) Monday, June 09, 2025, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Work Session with the Navajo Election Administration will be rescheduled.
 - b) Foster Grandparent Appreciation Day, Thursday, June 26, 2025, in Camp Verde, Arizona
 - c) The Law and Order Committee will be meeting on Monday, June 23, 2025, regarding Chief Justice Joanne Jane's confirmation.

Honorable Helena Nez Begay motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 4:06 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable George H. Tolth *With a vote of 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS/GHT; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/AN/CY)*