

JOURNAL

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING
February 19, 2025
In-lieu of Monday, February 17, 2025
10:00 AM

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

PLACE : Budget and Finance Conference Room/ (In-Person) Window
Rock, NN (AZ)

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

Meeting called to Order by Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice Chairperson at 10:12 a.m. There were four (4) members present, one (1) member excused and one (1) member absent when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with Office of Legislative Services.

Honorable Members present: *Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:00 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (9:57 a.m.); *Honorable Germaine Simonson (10:04 a.m.); and *Honorable George H. Tolth (9:52 a.m.).

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

Honorable Vince R. James (Excused) and Honorable Curtis Yanito (Absent).

Frank Dayish, Representative with the Coalition of Peyote Way Organization provided the invocation.

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

- Guest in the Gallery & Zoom Participates
- Please refer to the attached Sign-In Sheet

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA

- *Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor (HEHSC) read the proposed agenda into record.*

Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson received consent from both motioning parties for amendment #1 to add presenters to Receiving Reports on the agenda.

Amendment#1 is as follows:

- *Add under Receiving Reports 5(A). Delete presenter Tanya Jones, Research Program Coordinator, Family Spirit Program, JHCIH and add presenter Kimberly Balone.*
- *Add under Receiving Reports 5(C) Dr. Ferlin Clark, Claudia Edgewater, Dr. Shayla Yellowhair, Verna Thomas, and Sethalene Roanhorse, OERS.*

- *Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor (HEHSC) provided the second reading of the agenda with one amendment into record.*

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GHT; Nays: None;
Excused: VJ; Absent: CY; Not voting: GS)

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNALS: E-mailed on January 21, 2025

- January 13, 2025
➤ January 17, 2025

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

5. RECEIVING REPORTS:

A. Report: Update

John Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health
John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Presenters: Dr. Laura Hammitt, Director, Infectious Disease, John Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health (JHCIH)
Jennifer Richards, Program Assistant JHCIH
Randy Lynch, Research Program Assistant, Strong Fathers Program, JHCIH
Kimberly Balone, Research Program Assistant, Family Spirit Program, JHCIH

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GHT; Nays: None;
Excused: VJ; Absent: CY; Not voting: GS)

B. Report:

Coalition of Peyote Way

- Update on the Coalition of Peyote Way organization

Presenters: Hershel Clark, Representative
Frank Dayish, Representative
Ryan Sandoval, Secretary

Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson, received consent from both motioning parties to grant additional time of ten (10) minutes to the presenters and add Ryan Sandoval as a presenter to the agenda.

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

- *Candace French, Office of Legislative Council Attorney indicated the request for Tribal Consultation will require a Naa'bik'iyati Legislation/Resolution to identify which tribal agency it needs*

from tribal consultation for both the Federal and State. However, the staff at the Washington office will be able to assist the Council to request tribal consultation at the Federal level.

- Candace French, Office of Legislative Council Attorney will contact the Tribal Liaison with the State of Colorado regarding the process for requesting tribal consultation.
- Honorable Germaine Simonson will contact Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker to coordinate the date of the work session regarding Legislation 0141-24 sponsored by Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton and Legislation 0132-24 sponsored by Honorable George H. Tolth.

C. Report:

Dilcon Community School

- Update on Dilcon Community School issues.
- Resources from Department of Diné Education to schools
- Reauthorization issues.

Presenters: William Wachunas, Principal, Dilcon Community Schools
Darrell Riggs, Business Manager, Dilcon Community Schools

Invited: Roy Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Department of Diné Education
Dr. Ferlin Clark, Education Program Manager, ODSI
Anderson Yazzie, Program Manager, Office of Diné Accountability and Compliance
Jamey Lowrey, Senior Education Specialist, Office of Diné Accountability and Compliance
Claudia Edgewater, Education Program Administrator/Manager; COGNIA
Verna Thomas, Senior Education Specialist, COGNIA
Sethelene Roanhorse, Senior Education Specialist, OERS

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Vote: 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GHT; Nays: None; Excused: VJ; Absent: CY; Not voting: GS)

D. Report: Update

Department of Diné Education

- Update on the selection of the Department of Diné Education Superintendent Position.

Presenters: Dr. Pauletta White, President Navajo Nation Board of Education Administer Representative
Andrea Thomas, Vice-President Teacher Representative
Joan Gray, Parent Representative
Emerson John, Traditional Navajo Culture
Spencer Willie, Parent Representative
Nadien M. Chatto, Secretary Eastern Agency

Mary E. Gray, Chinle Agency
Sharon A. Todacheenie, Ft. Defiance Agency
Vacant, Western Agency

Motion by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 01 in favor; 02 opposed; (Yeas: AN; Nays: HNB/GHT; Excused:
VJ; Absent: CY; Not voting: GS)

- Candace French, Office of Legislative Council Attorney referred to 2 N.N.C. § 1802(A), The Department of Diné Education is "under the immediate direction of the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools, subject to the overall direction of the Navajo Nation Board of Education. The Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools is appointed by the Navajo Nation Board of Education, subject to confirmation by the Navajo Nation Council."

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

- Monday, February 24, 2025 8:00-10:00 am HEHSC Special Meeting from 8:00 am - 10:00 am B&F Conference Room
- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 9:00 am HEHSC Work Session w/DHR and DPM on amendments on the PPM; NDOH Conference Room, WR, NN (AZ)
- Friday, February 28, 2025 9:00 am HEHSC Work Session w/DODE, DBOSBA, and Elections Office, B&F Conference Room, WR, NN (AZ)
- Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:00 am HEHSC Work Session *Improving the Education System on NN, DODE, DBOSBA, and BIE* at the UNM-G conference center

Honorable Helena Nez Begay motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 5:24 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable George H. Tolth. The vote was in 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GHT; Nays: None; Excused: VJ; Absent: CY; Not voting: GS)