

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

**MAY 19, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m.**

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

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

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

Meeting called to Order by Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson at 10:01 a.m. There were five (5) members present, and one (1) member excused when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with Office of Legislative Services.

**Honorable Members present:**

\*Honorable Vince R. James (10:00 a.m.); \*Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (9:56 a.m.); \*Honorable Germaine Simonson (9:56 a.m.); \*Honorable George H. Tolth 9:25 a.m.) and \*Honorable Curtis Yanito (10:00 a.m.).

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

Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:14 a.m.)

Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS provided the Invocation.

**Announcements:**

Honorable George H. Tolth provided an update regarding the Platero Family from Thoreau, NM. Indicating that the family moved into their new home and extended their appreciation to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

**2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS**

➤ Refer to the attached sign-in sheet.

**3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA**

The Proposed Agenda for May 19, 2025, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

➤ Amendment #1:

- *The committee consented to amend the agenda to add two (2) items which is as follows:*

*1. New Business 7(G) Travel to Richfield, Utah for the High School Graduation May 23, 2025. Travel Dates: May 22, 2025 - May 24, 2025.*

*2. New Business 7(H) select proposed date to hold a Work Session with the Veterans Advisory Council*

The second reading of the Approved Agenda with one amendment for May 19, 2025, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson

Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/HNB)

**4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S) :**

- April 28, 2025, Regular Meeting
- April 30, 2025, Special Meeting

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/HNB)

**5. RECEIVING REPORTS:**

A. Report: Southwest Navajo Tobacco Education Prevention Project (SNTEPP)

- Annual Report

Presenter: Peter Nez, Program Specialist, SNTEPP  
Hershel Clark, Program Manager, SNTEPP

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

**6. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Legislation No. 0078-25** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees: Granting the Designation of "Tribal Organization" to the Navajoland Nursing Home, Inc. for an Additional Period of Four (4) Years, for the Purposes of Contracting with the United States Indian Health Service and Authorizing the Navajoland Nursing Home Inc. to Negotiate and enter in to Title I, Indian Self-Determination Act ( P.L. 93-638, as Amended) Contracts and Title V Self Governance Compacts Pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act (P.L. 93-638, As Amended), Such Designation of " Tribal Organization" Being Revocable and Contingent on Continuing Compliance with all Terms and Conditions

**Sponsor:** Honorable Curtis Yanito

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

Honorable Helena Nez Begay entertained a motion to suspend floor rules and requested for a consent agenda under New Business items (B) (C) (D); Second by Germaine Simonson. The vote was 02 in favor; 03 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/GS; Nays: AN/GHT/CY; Not voting: VRJ) - Motion to suspend floor rules failed.

**B. Legislation 0083-25:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Confirming the Appointment of Dr. LeManuel Lee Bitsoi to the Navajo Technical University Board of Regents Representing the Fort Defiance Agency for a Staggered Term of Four Years

**Sponsor:** Honorable Casey Allen Johnson

**Co-Sponsor:** Honorable Otto Tso

**Co-Sponsor:** Honorable Vince R. James

Presiding Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/VRJ/AN/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: GS)

**C. Legislation 0084-25:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Confirming the Appointment of Mrs. Tara Denetsosie-Lovato to the Navajo Technical University Board of Regents Representing the Central Agency for a Staggered Term of Four Year

**Sponsor:** Honorable Shawna Ann Claw

**Co-Sponsor:** Honorable Germaine Simonson

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

**D. Legislation 0087-25** An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Law and Order Committee, and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council: Amending the Navajo Preference in Employment Act, at N.N.C. §607, To Establish a Navajo Nation Government Minimum Wage

**Sponsor:** Honorable Vince R. James

Presiding Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chairperson

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

**E.** Schedule proposed following-up dates from the HEHSC Work Session with the Navajo Head Start.

➤ Select recommended meeting dates

Presenter: HEHS Committee Members

*The committee consented to entertain a follow up report from Navajo Head Start during the regular meeting on June 16, 2025.*

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

**F.** Schedule meeting as requested by Diné College

- Select recommend meeting dates

Presenter: HEHS Committee Members

*The committee consented to entertain to schedule a Regular Meeting on June 23, 2025, at Dine College at 10:00 a.m. at Dine College, Tsaile, Arizona.*

Motion by: Honorable Germaine Simonson

Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

Angelita Benally, Advisor/OLS announced Mr. Donovan Pete would like to be placed on Thursday, May 22, 2025, agenda to give a report on the Navaj Nation Library. Also, Mr. Daryl Begay with Navajo Technical University would like to present the Quarterly Report.

*The committee consented to the Navajo Nation Library Report to be placed on Thursday, May 22, 2025, special meeting agenda. In addition, Navajo Technical University will be place on the Regular Meeting on June 23, 2025, at Dine College at 10:00 a.m. at Dine College, Tsaile, Arizona.*

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Germaine Simonson

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

**G.** Travel:

- Sevier School District, Richfield, Utah; High School Graduation on May 23, 2025
- Travel Dates May 22 - 24, 2025

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

*The following will be attending: Honorable Helena Nez Begay and Honorable George H. Tolth.*

**H.** Work Session Proposed date:

- With the Veterans Advisory Council; Navajo Veterans Administration

➤ Select work session dates

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Vote: 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY;  
Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ)

*The committee consented to entertain to schedule the work session with the Veterans Advisory Council on June 18, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The location will be announced. Ms. Demetria Simms, Agency Commander, will contact Ms. Angelita Benally, Advisor/OLS, on the location to host the meeting*

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

May 22, 2025	8:00 a.m.	HEHSC Special Meeting; In-lieu of regular meeting on May, 26, 2026; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).
June 9, 2025	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	HEHSC Regular Meeting; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).
June 9, 2025	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	HEHSC work session with Navajo Election Administration; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).
June 16, 2025	10:00 am	HEHSC Regular Meeting; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).
June 23, 2025	10:00 am	HEHSC Regular Meeting; B&F Conference Room; Window Rock, NN (AZ).

Announcements:

Angelita Benally, Advisor/OLS reminded the committee of the upcoming FY 26 Comprehensive Budget Hearings, scheduled for June 16-20, 2025 for HESHSC oversight(s).

Honorable Vince R. James announced the meeting for Thursday, May 22, 2025, will start at 8:00 a.m. due to the scheduled Naabik'iyati Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Honorable Germaine Simonson and Honorable Helena Nez Begay will not be in attendance. Dr. Andy Nez will need to leave around 9:30 a.m. to attend another function he was invited to.

Honorable Germaine Simonson motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 12:02 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Curtis Yanito *With a vote of 05 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ).*