

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

REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2026
10:00 AM

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

PLACE: Budget and Finance Conference Room,
Window Rock, NN (AZ)

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

The meeting was called to order by Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson at 10:15 a.m. There were three (3) members present, one (1) member excused and one (1) member absent when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with OLS.

Honorable Members present:

*Honorable Vince R. James (10:00 a.m.); *Honorable Helena Nez Begay (10:00 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (9:55 a.m.); *Honorable Germaine Simonson (10:00 a.m./telecommunication).

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

Honorable George H. Tolth (Excused); and Honorable Curtis Yanito (12:03 p.m./telecommunication).

➤ Honorable Vince R. James stated that the Invocation was provided early this morning.

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

➤ Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie, 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegate

➤ Recognition of all committee members, staff, guests, and zoom participants.

➤ Consult the Sign-In Sheets for Committee Members and Visiting Guests of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AGENDA

The Proposed Agenda for February 23, 2026, has been read into record by Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor/OLS.

- Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson inquired if there are any objections to add February 09, 2026, Health, Education and Human Services Committee Regular Meeting Journal under item 4. Review and Adopt the Journal and Add presenter Dr. Derek Begay, Assistant Superintendent to 5(B) due to the modification of the motion to be incorporated into the amended version, with the agreement of the motioning parties.

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

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNAL(S) :

- January 22, 2026 Special Meeting in Lieu of January 26, 2026
- February 09, 2026 Regular Meeting

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

5. REPORT(S) :

A. Report: Facilities Maintenance Department, Division of General Services

- Review revised Department of Plan of Operations in compliance under the FY26 Condition of Appropriation

Presenters: Shawnavan Dale, Division Director, Division of General Services
Marcus A. Yazzie, Deputy Director, Division of General Services
Marcus Tulley, Department Manager III

- The Health, Education and Human Service Committee took a recess for fifteen (15) minutes or until the necessary documents were emailed by Facility Management at 11:13 a.m.

- The committee reconvened at 11:41 a.m. with four (4) members present, and two (2) members excused. Members present included Honorable Helena Nez Begay, Honorable Vince R. James, Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, and Honorable Germaine Simonson (via telecommunications). Honorable George H. Tolth was excused, and Honorable Curtis Yanito was excused.

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez

Second by: Honorable Helena Nez Begay

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

- Per Rule 21 (C) Vote of the Navajo Nation Standing Committee Rules of Order. The Chairperson shall direct recording of the final vote count before consideration of any further committee action. Honorable Curtis Yanito informed the Chairperson of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee that he was present during the call when the vote for Report 5(A) was taken, but experienced difficulties unmuting his call via webinar. Subsequently, Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson called for a roll call vote for Report 5(A) to include Honorable Curtis Yanito's vote.

B. Report: San Juan School District, Blanding, Utah

- "Tribal Consultation" process between San Juan School District (SJSD) and Department of Diné Education
- SJSD School Safety initiative
- Collaboration between SJSD and HEHSC.

Presenters: Dr. Christine Fitzgerald, Superintendent, SJSD
Dr. Derek Begay, Assistant Superintendent, SJSD

Invited: Claudia Edgewater, Acting Superintendent, Department of Diné Education SJSD
Dr. Shayla Yellowhair, Deputy Superintendent, DODE
Dr. Ferlin Clark, Education Administrator, Office of Diné School Improvement
Suzette Haskie, Program Manager I, JOM

- Honorable Dr. Andy Nez entertained a motion to defer item 5(B) regarding the Department of Diné Education until the next regular meeting on Monday, March 09, 2026, in order to provide updated information related to the Tribal Consultation Guideline booklet or resolutions; Seconded by

Honorable Germaine Simonson. The vote was 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/HNB/GHT) .

Main Motion

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

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Legislation No. 0195-24: An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee and the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Approving Amendments to the Navajo Nation Child Support Guidelines and Child Support Schedule.

Sponsor: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie
Co-Sponsors: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Honorable Andy Nez
Honorable Curtis Yanito
Honorable George H. Tolth
Honorable Shawna Ann Claw

Main Motion:

Motion: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second: Honorable Helena Nez Begay
Vote: 0-0-0

Table Motion:

HEHSC has had it under consideration and reports a Tabling Motion for 90-days. The legislation is referred to the Navajo Department of Justice and the Department of Child Support Enforcement within the Navajo Division of Human Resources to re-assess the affordability and to update relevant information to the Child Support Guidelines and Child Support Schedule and thereafter, hold a work session for the Naabik'iyati Committee and subsequently conduct public hearings at each Navajo Nation Agency within the timeframe.

Motion: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second: Honorable Vince R. James
Vote: 5-0-1

Remove the Table Motion:

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

➤ Honorable Dr. Andy Nez entertained a motion for amendment number one (1) to Legislation 0195-24; Seconded by Honorable Curtis Yanito. The vote was 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/HNB/GHT).

The amendment is as follows:

1. Exhibit C: replace the current Exhibit C with new Exhibit C.
2. Exhibit D: replace the current Exhibit D with new Exhibit D.
3. Renumber or re-letter succeeding paragraphs, sections, and exhibits, as necessary and appropriate. The Office of Legislative Services and the Office of Legislative Counsel are authorized to make technical edits, including recalculating totals, related to this amendment and its exhibits to implement the Navajo Nation Council's intent. This Amendment supersedes inconsistent language in any other amendment(s), which language shall be conformed to this Amendment.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Legislation 0033-26:** An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Approving a Budget Reallocation in the Amount of \$8,041,630 within the Division of Human Resources, from Business Unit 114001 to a New Business Unit Number; and \$6,455,513 within the Department of Personnel Management from Business Unit 114009 to Business Unit 118037, and \$11,744,659 from Business Unit 114009 to a New Business Unit Number

Sponsor: Honorable Vince R. James

- Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, Pro Tempore Chairperson, has requested that Legislation 0033-25 be deferred to the next regular or special meeting, as the legislation requires a 2/3 vote of the full membership. With only 4 members present at this time, the voting requirement is not met, and therefore no action was taken.

B. Reschedule: Leadership Meeting Date

Between the Navajo Area Indian Health Services Headquarters, Navajo Nation 638 Hospitals/Healthcare Facilities, Navajo Department of Health, and the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

- **Select a future Leadership Meeting Date.**

- Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, Pro Tempore Chairperson, requests that staff contact the departments/programs to determine their availability in order to schedule the work session.
- Honorable Vince R. James, Chairperson, requests to defer item 7(B) to the next regular meeting of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, at which time all members should be present.

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

- Monday, March 09, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting; B&F Conference Room, Window Rock, NN, (AZ).
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026 9:00 am HEHSC Leadership Meeting; Insurance Services and DOJ; Vehicle Review Board and Fleet Management. Budget and Finance Conference Room, Window Rock, NN (AZ)
- Monday, March 16, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting; Budget & Finance Conference Room, Window Rock, NN, (AZ).
- Monday, March 23, 2026 10:00 am HEHSC Regular Meeting; Budget & Finance Conference Room, Window Rock, NN, (AZ)

Honorable Vince R. James motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 03:02 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Germaine Simonson, with a vote of 03 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/CY; Nays: None; Not voting: VRJ/HNB/GHT)