

JOURNAL

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

February 24, 2025

8:00 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 Vince R. James, Chairperson at 8:04 a.m. There were four (4) members present, and two (2) members excused when Roll Call was made by Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant with Office of Legislative Services.

Honorable Members present:

*Honorable Vince R. James (8:00 a.m.); *Honorable Dr. Andy Nez (7:59 a.m.); *Honorable George H. Tolth (7:30 a.m.) and *Honorable Curtis Yanito (7:52 a.m.).

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

Honorable Helena Nez Begay (Excused) and Honorable Germaine Simonson (9:10 a.m.)

Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr. provided the Invocation at the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Meeting at 7:00 a.m.

2. RECOGNIZE GUESTS AND VISITING OFFICIALS

- Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.
- Casey Allen Johnson
- Refer to the attached Sign-In Sheet

3. REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA

- *Karen J. Thompson, Legislative Assistant (HEHSC) read the proposed agenda into record.*

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth

Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito

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

4. REVIEW AND ADOPT THE JOURNALS:

- February 10, 2025 - Regular Meeting (E-mailed on February 21, 2025.)

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

5. RECEIVING REPORTS:

A. Report:

- Request for a written analysis, recommendations in answering the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Memorandum.
- Requesting a prepared formal written response by February 26, 2025, for Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Chair of Health, Education and Human Services Standing Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council to send to the U.S. Department of Education -Office for Civil Rights.

Presenters:

- Roy Tracy, Acting Superintendent of Schools; Department of Dine Education
- Dr. Elmer Guy, President; Navajo Technical University
- Bernice "Bo" Lewis, Acting President; Dine' College
- Shawna Becenti, Head of School; Navajo Preparatory School
- Emily K. Arviso, Associate Deputy Director-Navajo; U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Education
- Heather Clah, Acting Attorney General; Navajo Nation Department of Justice
- Kris O. Beecher, Acting Deputy Attorney General; Navajo Nation Department of Justice
- Chris Schneider, Principal Attorney; Navajo Nation Department of Justice
- Brenda Anderson, Trial Court Advocate; Navajo Nation Department of Justice

The committee consented to a special meeting regarding this topic on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Motion by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None;
Excused: HNB; Not voting: VJ)

B. Report:

Navajo Head Start

- Layoff Notices
- Supporting Documentation

Presenters: Roy Tracy, Acting Superintendent of Schools; Department of Dine' Education

Dr. Florinda Jackson, Assistant Superintendent;
Navajo Head Start; DODE

Navajo Head Start is to provide a priority listing regarding the funding for the Head Start Facilities to the committee and have it emailed to Ms. Angelita Benally, Advisor. In addition, provide available dates to the committee to schedule a work session.

Motion by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Second by: Honorable George H. Tolth
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/HT/CY; Nays: None;
Excused: HNB; Not voting: VJ)

C. Report:

Navajo Department of Health

➤ Update

Presenters: Sherylene Yazzie, Interim Executive Director; Navajo Department of Health

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: HNB/AN/GS/GHT; Nays: None;
Excused: HNB; Not voting: VJ)

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DHR and DPM have requested to reschedule the February 26, 2025, HEHSC work session to review amendments to the Personnel Policies Manual. Requesting HEHSC for a consecutive 2-Day work session.

Note: DHR and DPM have to attend a financial software training at Twin Arrows on February 26, 2025.

Motion by: Honorable Dr. Andy Nez
Second by: Honorable Curtis Yanito
Vote: 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None;
Excused: HNB; Not voting: VJ)

7. OLD BUSINESS: None

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

➤ Monday, February 24, 2025 10:00 am Naabik'iyati Special Budget Meeting; Navajo Nation Council Chambers

➤ *Requested to be postponed:* 9:00 am HEHSC Work Session w/ OHR and DPM on amendments on the PPM; B&MH -NDOH Conference Room, Quality Inn Bldg.; WR, NN (AZ)

- Friday, February 28, 2025 9:00 am HEHSC Work Session w/
DODE; DBOSBA and
Elections Office; NN
Council Chambers; WR,
NN (AZ)

- March 10-14, 2025 TIBC Meeting in
Washington, DC.

- 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

Announcements:

- Vince James: Reminded the HEHSC committee will have a Leadership Meeting with DODE; DBOSBA and Elections Office; has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 05, 2025. The committee also requested the Office of Background Investigation to be in attendance.

Honorable George H. Tolth motioned there was no further business, adjourned at 12:35 p.m.; Seconded by Honorable Curtis Yanito. The vote was in 04 in favor; 00 opposed; (Yeas: AN/GS/GHT/CY; Nays: None; Excused: HNB; Not voting: VJ)