

# Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Study Session Minutes

October 19, 2010

2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona, 86025

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**Governing Board Members Present:** Bill Jeffers, Ginny Handorf, E.L. Parsons, Daniel Peaches and A.T. Siquah.

**Staff Present:** President, Dr. Jeanne Swarthout; Vice President, Blaine Hatch; Vice President, Mark Vest; Director, Eric Bishop; Recording Secretary to the Board, Russell Dickerson.

## Reports:

### 1. Agenda Item 7.A.: Request to Approve New Legal Representation – President Swarthout

Dr. Swarthout presented the staff request to approve new legal representation and noted that the date of October 27, 2010 contained in the request summary should actually be September 27, 2010. Dr. Swarthout explained that following notification from Mangum, Wall, Stoops & Warden that the legal representative for the college was no longer with the firm, a decision was made to explore alternative representation options. Dr. Swarthout reported that she and Mr. Hatch interviewed attorney Don Peters of LaSota & Peters who came highly recommended. Dr. Swarthout reported that Mr. Peters is now acting as legal counsel for the college, citing an immediate need for the college to move forward with legal representation in place. Mr. Peters introduced himself to the Board and stated that he and his firm will do their best to respond to the legal needs of the college. Responding to Board questions, Mr. Peters stated that he has only globally reviewed current college legal issues, has experience working with community colleges, primarily related to finances, and has worked mostly with K-12 school districts. The Board members introduced themselves to Mr. Peters and identified the districts they represent.

### 2. Agenda Item 7.B.: Board Resolution Regarding Four Year College Movement – Chairman Jeffers

Ms. Handorf presented an alternative document to the draft resolution included in the meeting packet. Ms. Handorf stated that her goals in revising the original draft document were to make the language easier to read for the lay person and to move the reader to the obvious conclusion by clearly outlining facts and the possible positions the Board could take regarding the establishment of a four year college in the White Mountains area. Mr. Parsons stated that he cannot support a plan that would increase the burden on taxpayers during the current economic downturn; is concerned that the proposed four year college is centered only in the White Mountains area; and that a four year college is not a wise use of resources given that NPC already has infrastructure in place. Board members stressed the need for the document to clearly state the position of the Board and that the Board's position be made known immediately as other local governmental entities want to know the role the college is able to play. Board members reviewed Ms. Handorf's version of the Board position document and suggested that options A and B include concluding language that clearly states that the Board does not currently support options A and B and that option C should include a clear statement stating that the Board supports option C. Commenting on the proposed four year college in general, Board members expressed concerns regarding the low level of financial, managerial and ancillary student support services information being presented by four year college advocates.

### 3. Study Session Agenda Item 3.: ADOSH Update (Informational) – Vice President Hatch

Mr. Hatch reviewed the September 28, 2010 letter the college received from the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) and added that the letter only lists alleged hazards and is not a citation. Mr. Hatch reviewed the college response letter which outlines the specific actions taken to address alleged hazards at the White Mountain Campus Chemistry lab. Mr. Hatch reported that ADOSH is not planning to visit the college and that the college has made a request for a health hazard evaluation from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Responding to a Board question, Mr. Hatch reported that no subsequent incidents have been reported by students currently using the laboratory facility.

### 4. Study Session Agenda Item 4.: First Things First Lab School (Informational) – Vice President Vest

Mr. Vest presented an update on the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council of First Things First solicitation of proposals to open and administer an early childhood development laboratory school in its service area. Mr. Vest



reported that the college will assist partnering entities to provide college curriculum and educational program oversight and Board members did not indicate concerns or a need to provide direction with regard to the role of the college. Mr. Vest confirmed that First Things First would like to have a proposal by the end of October and stated that he will continue to attend meetings and bring the matter back to the Board following a decision. Responding to a Board question, Mr. Vest explained that NAVIT has expressed interest in partnering with an entity that steps forward as lab school service provider.

**5. Study Session Agenda Item 5.: Equalization Discussion (Informational) – President Swarthout**

Dr. Swarthout reported that the chief executive officers and chief business officers of the equalization schools met to discuss and develop strategies regarding the aggressive changes to equalization called for in the Getting AHEAD proposal. Dr. Swarthout reported that the equalization schools will continue to meet and warned that there may be some fracture lines in how equalization schools want to proceed. Dr. Swarthout reported that she will attend an upcoming Getting AHEAD finance reform committee meeting that will specifically address equalization.

**6. Study Session Agenda Item 6.: Statewide Issues (Informational) – President Swarthout**

Citing a shortage of time remaining in study session, Dr. Swarthout requested to cover statewide issues in the president's report in the regular meeting.

Study session ended at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell Dickerson  
Recording Secretary to the Board



Bill Jeffers  
Chairman



Ginny Handorf  
Secretary to the Board

