

# Navajo County Community College District Governing Board Study Session Minutes

August 21, 2012

2251 East Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona, 86025

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**Governing Board Members Present:** Bill Jeffers, Ginny Handorf, and Daniel Peaches

**Absent:** Louella Nahsonhoya, E.L. "Dusty" Parsons

**Staff Present:** President Jeanne Swarhout; Vice President Blaine Hatch; Vice President Mark Vest; Information Services Director Eric Bishop; Institutional Effectiveness Director Leslie Wasson; Recording Secretary to the Board Lisa Jayne.

**Other's Present:** Erica Yazzie, Verna Lee Westover, Joe Waters, Cline Griggs, Peggy Belknap, Melissa Luatua, Wendy Shepard, Ann Hess, Everett Robinson, Kenny Keith, Royce Kincanon, Maderia Ellison, Beulah Bob-Pennypacker, Tamara Martin, Matt Weber, Jake Hinton, Jeremy Raisor, Dave Roberts.

Chairman Bill Jeffers brought the study session on White Mountain Apache Tribe Miner Flat Dam Project to order at 9:32am.

Mr. Joe Waters addressed the Board stating he would like to discuss NPC placing a skill center in Whiteriver. He stated The Tribe already has a facility that was originally built to be a skill center. He also stated that The Tribe is entitled to receive funding on a rotating basis from the proceeds of the sale of the Phoenix Indian School Land and the White Mountain Apaches have \$500,000 that they're willing to commit to get the center functioning.

Mr. Waters stated that the most important consideration for the skill center's location is that there are some major projects occurring that The Tribe needs trained workers for. These projects include; the Miner Flat Dam, water treatment plant, and pipeline from Whiteriver to Cibecue. Also, The Tribe will be reopening FATCO, and adjacent to FATCO a major biomass plant is in the works, as well as some major work at Sunrise. The cost of these projects is somewhere in the area of \$300 million over the next five years and The Tribe needs a place for their people to be trained.

Secondly, Mr. Waters wished to make a request to the Board that NPC make Whiteriver a campus instead of a center. Due to the limitations of having to travel to other campuses, enrollment is not what it could be if NPC had a local campus where students could take all the classes they needed to complete a degree.

Mr. Waters respectfully requested that the Board commission a study to look into these requests.

The Board asked Mr. Waters several questions about the location of the existing facility and administrative staff about what classes were offered at Whiteriver center.

Next, Councilman Cline Griggs of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Tribal Council addressed the Board. He stated their unemployment and dropout rates are very high and they wished to use the resources available to them, but in order to do that, education was a much needed element in order to pursue some of these projects that would help The Tribe. Councilman Griggs stated that The Tribe has building, space, and need; he is asking that NPC help create opportunity for tribal members and respectfully requests that the skill center be located in Whiteriver so The Tribe can develop their skills and work force within their community.

Joe Waters stated there are several other entities that are also willing to come together to help create the skill center.

Discussion ensued about issues with designating another location for NPC so far from the current center, as well as legislative, HLC and federal DOE restrictions that would have to be negotiated, as well as the difficulty of providing certain classes and programs at Whiteriver as opposed to White Mountain Campus or Silver Creek Campus.

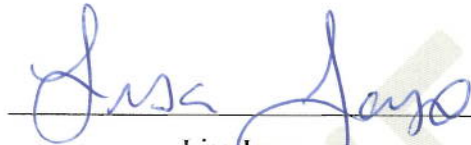


President Swarhout stated the administrative staff could look further into these requests.

Chairman Bill Jeffers asked Joe Waters relay to Chairman Lupe the Board's thanks for the interest and request. Joe waters stated he would.

Study session ended at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Jayne  
Recording Secretary to the Board



Bill Jeffers  
Chairman



Ginny Handorf  
Board Secretary

APPROVED

