

Navajo County Community College District Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

2251 Navajo Boulevard, Holbrook, Arizona, 86025

Governing Board Members present: Norris Baldwin, Bill Jeffers, Daniel Peaches, Neal Thompson, A.T. Siquah.

Staff present: Ralph Orr, Mark Vest, David Hansen, Lisa Jayne.

Attorney present: Michelle Parker (Mangum Wall Stoops & Warden)

Others present: Stuart Szink, Eva Purvis, Mary White, Greg Harvey, Everett Robinson, Sue Rich, Mike Mathews, Harold Hoover, Doug Seely, Karalea Kowren, Lori McCandlish, Janet Turrietta, Alan France, Suzanne Trezise, Benjamin Schoening, Ginger Pahl, Eric Bishop, Robin Spangler, Donna Ashcraft, Candy Howard, Kenny Keith, Marlin Gillespie, Janet Hunter, Rickey Jackson, Barbara Hockabout, Bobette Welch, Jonathan Taylor, Peggy Belknap, Donald Layden, Barbara Layden, Rose Kreher, Dan Simper, Donna Soseman, Kassie Johnson, Renee Johnson, Terrie Shevat, Bob Slade, Mira White, Frank Pinnell, Lynda Klingler, Randall Hoskin, MiAnna Tyler, Russell Dickerson, Trudy Bender, Debbie Dunlap, JoLynn Fox, Virginia Hatch, Frances Hodel, Michael Pahl, David Schlatter, Sandy Johnson, Cindy Hildebrand, Mindy Neff, Leslie Collins, H.J. Collie, John Chapin, Lorraine Benally, Joan Valichnac, Paul Barger

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Peaches called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Mr. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda: Neal Thompson/Norris Baldwin/Unanimous vote

Agenda item: Legal advice.

Executive Session for Legal Advice: As allowed in ARS 38-431.03(A)(3), the Board moved into executive session at 10:05 am upon unanimous vote in support of a motion by Neal Thompson and a second by William Jeffers. Michelle Parker, Dr. Dave Williams and Lisa Jayne remained for the executive session.

The Board returned to regular session at 12:03 p.m.

Agenda Item: Report of Student Government Association, Mark Vest addressed the Board regarding the trip to ACCA conference with Alan France, New Century Scholar and All-USA Student. Alan France presented his awards to the Board. Pictures were taken. Neal Thompson addressed Alan France, praising his success.

Agenda item: Personnel

Michelle Parker addressed President Ralph Orr, asking him if he waived his right to 24-hour notice of discussion of his employment at the District Governing Board meeting, President Orr replied in the affirmative. Michelle Parker asked if he wished the Board to discuss his employment in open or closed session, and President Orr replied he wanted it addressed in executive session.

Executive Session for Personnel Matters: As allowed in ARS 38-431.03(A)(1), the Board moved into executive session at 12:10 pm upon unanimous approval of a motion by William Jeffers, and a second by Norris Baldwin.

The Board returned to regular session at 1:00 p.m. after a lunch break.

Agenda item: Employment contract of President Orr.

Mr. Jeffers made a motion that the Board place President Ralph Orr on administrative leave with pay and proceed to terminate President Orr's contract with cause pursuant to his contract, leaving the College's regular succession in order, making Mark Vest Acting President. Mr. Siquah seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Neal Thompson made a motion that the Board terminate President Ralph Orr's contract pursuant to Section 9 of that contract, and pursuant to existing policy, Mark Vest become Acting President immediately. Norris Baldwin seconded. Mr. Jeffers stated he could not support the motion. The motion passed on a majority vote.

Agenda Item: 2007/2008 Budget

Mr. Jeffers made the motion to receive preliminary 2007/2008 budget with the understanding that it is a preliminary budget and that changes made be made before the final budget appears in May and that there are still questions involved in the current budget. Mr. Siquah seconded. Mr. Jeffers asked Interim Vice President of Administrative Services, David Hansen, to make comments on the budget. David Hansen stated President Orr had been slated to make the presentation as he had not taken part in the development of the budget and he was not able to give proper background on the budget in order to properly explain it. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item: Update on Spring Enrollment

Mark Vest reviewed with the Board that there had not been much change for spring semester 2007 from last update to the Board. There are hopes to see increased enrollment from marketing and increased recruiting in the next few semesters. Mr. Jeffers asked about summer enrollment and Mark Vest said it was too early to give any update on summer enrollment until May.

Agenda Item: Consideration of Board Action Plan

Mr. Jeffers made the motion to table consideration of a Board Action Plan. Norris Baldwin seconded. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Consideration of Grants/Contracts

Mr. Jeffers made the motion to table any consideration of grants or contracts. Neal Thompson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Proposition 300

Mark Vest stated that the Attorney General released an opinion on Proposition 300 two weeks ago. The Attorney General's opinion offers a range of options for colleges to respond to Proposition 300 from self-verification only to required documentation. There are bills in the Legislature that riders are being attached which state no State funding may be utilized for anyone who has been put into compliance through a self-verification only process. The recommendation from the College attorney is that we continue our current process that combines self-verification with documentation until there is a better sense of how the Legislature plans to respond in the future. The process we currently use will be formalized. Mr. Thompson asked about the cost of the implementation. Mark Vest stated costs at this point are not definite but that there are mail-out costs, SASE costs and staffing costs that need to be assessed.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Jeffers made a motion to approve March 16 regular board minutes and executive session minutes as well as March 30 minutes. Neal Thompson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Summary of Current Events

Mr. Jeffers asked that the Board and those present observe a moment of silence for the catastrophe at Virginia Tech. The moment of silence was observed. Mr. Jeffers stated that the College has a wonderful culture and that it has just embarked on a new step. There have been hundreds of people that have proclaimed how important the College is to them and how willing they are to make it successful. He asked that everyone hold to that commitment and continue forward to make progress.

Neal Thompson stated that the College is at a crossroads and it has taken some time to sort through this but he is impressed by the College community's expression of how important this College is to them and how supportive everyone is. This is a time to forget about the past in a sense and to work together and pull together to make this college go forward. Maybe some healing needs to take place, as quickly as possible, so that things can move forward.

Mr. Sinquah stated that this period of time has proved to him there is a genuine interest in the College from the reservation as NPC is one of the very few educational opportunities offered there and he appreciated all those who shared their opinion with him as it is difficult to get out and hear things. He feels the more people that share with him, the more knowledge he has and the more able he is to represent his area. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mark Vest asked about what duties an acting president is responsible for and Mr. Jeffers replied that the Board expects to have a special meeting before the next regularly scheduled one to direct that. Mr. Jeffers expressed confidence in Mark and asked that the College's day-to-day operations continue.

Announcement of next meeting: A Special Board meeting will be called before the regular May 15 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm upon a motion by Bill Jeffers and a second by Norris Baldwin, and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jayne
Recording Secretary to the Board

Daniel Peaches
Chairman

Neal Thompson
Secretary to the Board

