



# Diné College Board of Regents Special Meeting

## Minutes

Diné College  
Aug 24, 2021 at 5:00 PM MDT

@ Teleconference

### **Minutes – Approved on September 10, 2021**

*Regent Dennison motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Regent Hatathlie. Vote: 6-0-0.*

### **Attendance**

#### **Members Present (Remote):**

Greg Bigman, Johnson Dennison, Theresa Hatathlie, Anderson Hoskie, Earlson Manson, Sharon Toadecheenie, Daniel Tso

#### **Staff Present (Remote):**

Malcolm Bob, Michelle Cury, Merle Dayzie, Geraldine Garrity, Glennita Haskey, Leon Jackson, Randy Joe, George Joe, Bo Lewis, Marie Nez., Monty Roessel, Ihab Saleh

#### I. Call to Order

The Diné College Board of Regents convened at 5:07 PM Friday, August 26, 2021, with the Board President Greg Bigman presiding and calling the meeting to order.

#### II. Roll Call

Regent Greg Bigman, President  
Regent Theresa Hatathlie, Vice President  
Regent Sharon Toadecheenie, Secretary/Treasurer  
Regent Earlson Manson, ASDC President  
Regent Johnson Dennison, Member  
Regent Anderson Hoskie, Member  
Regent Daniel Tso, Member  
Vacant seat, Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools

Board President conducted roll call.

- Regent Tso joined at 5:07 p.m. MDT.
- Regent Toadecheenie joined at 5:08 p.m. MDT.

#### III. Invocation

Regent Hatathlie provides the meeting prayer.

#### IV. Approval of Agenda

#### **Motion:**

Approving the agenda.

Motion moved by Theresa Hatathlie and motion seconded by Anderson Hoskie. Vote for approving motion: 7-0-0.

V. Items Approved

A. Action Items

1. Action Item -

"Approving a College-wide Weapons Policy applicable to all employees, students and campus visitors."

**Motion:**

**Approving the resolution.** Regent Toadecheenie reads into the record.

Motion moved by Daniel Tso and motion seconded by Johnson Dennison.

**Motion:**

**Amending the resolution.** Therefore be it resolved #1, to reflect the title.

Motion moved by Theresa Hatathlie and motion seconded by Johnson Dennison. Approval of the amendment motion: 7-0-0.

Mr. Dayzie, DHR Director, advised policy presented to board committee meetings. The policy has been reviewed by legal to ensure within the boards' authority, specifically reviewed the bylaws and charter & aligns with the Navajo Nation criminal code.

- Regent Toadecheenie inquires about the possible impact of state laws and open concealment. *Regent Bigman mentions exemptions are listed in part three. Dr. Roessel advised the Navajo Nation has to precedent when on Navajo.*
- Regent Tso asked about hunting
- Regent Dennison asks about the cultural aspect including ceremonies and bows/arrows placement over doorways.

**Motion:**

**Tabling the resolution.**

Motion moved by Theresa Hatathlie and motion seconded by Greg Bigman. Vote for tabling motion: 7-0-0.

2. Action Item -

"Approving Approving an Employer Student Loan Repayment Program to be effective for up to the end of the 2021 calendar year."

**Motion:**

**Approving the resolution.** Regent Toadecheenie reads into the record.

Motion moved by Sharon Toadecheenie and motion seconded by Johnson Dennison. Vote for approving motion: 7-0-0.

Mr. Dayzie provides background on resolution. American Rescue Act funding supports the repayment and offset of fees owed by students for higher education for total of \$5,250. The employers have the ability to pay without additional income and tax benefit to the employers. Open-ended survey conducted resulting in interest from both faculty and staff.

3. Action Item -

"Supporting Legislative Authorization to Forward Fund the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program and Calling Upon Congress to Enact Authorizing and Appropriations Legislation to Achieve Forward Funding."

**Motion:**

**Approving the resolution.** Regent Toadecheenie read the resolution into record

Motion moved by Johnson Dennison and motion seconded by Sharon Toadecheenie. Vote for approving motion: 7-0-0.

The delay of funding with continuing resolutions impacting tribal students. The Federal government operates under continuing resolutions, as such, funding for the B.I.A. Higher Education Program is routinely delayed. College scholarship payments and institutional disbursements are delayed scholarship funds to pay for tuition, books, and room and board.

4. Action Item -

"Approving and Authorizing the Expenditure of \$ 648,220.00 (Six Hundred Forty-eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Dollars) for the Interior Renovation of the Dine College Gorman Classroom Building Interior Renovation Project to Benally/Woodruff Construction, LLC located at 2710 E Lakin Dr in Flagstaff, Arizona."

**Motion:**

**Approving of the resolution.** Regent Toadecheenie reads the resolution into the record,

Motion moved by Sharon Toadecheenie and motion seconded by Earlson Manson.

Leon Jackson advised phase I approved last fall. Phase II covers non-COVID related items listed within the resolution. The bid process held for a month and advertised. The resolution includes a certified bid with construction schedule. If approved today, both phase I & II will complete Jan 2022.

5. Action Item -

"Accepting and Authorizing the participation of Diné College in the submission of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant proposal. In collaboration with NTUA, NTU, and other Service Providers for the Navajo Nation for the total amount of \$50 Million Dollars."

**Motion:**

**Approving the resolution.** Regent Toadecheenie reads the resolution into the record.

Motion moved by Sharon Toadecheenie and motion seconded by Anderson Hoskie. Vote for approving motion: 7-0-0.

Vice President Bo Lewis shares this is a \$10.6 million proposal to NTUA for broadband expansion including Dilkon, Aneth, Tsaile, and Newcomb. The proposal was submitted and NTUA has requested additional information the college is working to provide.

6. Action Item -

"The Diné College Board of Regents respectfully requests the support of the Navajo Nation Council in the reauthorization of the Diné College Act of 2021 as sponsored by Arizona Representative Tom O'Halleran."

**Motion:**

**Approve the resolution.** Regent Toadecheenie reads the resolution into the record.

Motion moved by Johnson Dennison and motion seconded by Sharon Toadecheenie. Vote for approving motion: 7-0-0.

Regent Tso inquires if the college will seek the Navajo Nation Council committees' support. Dr. Roessel advised will bring it to the HEHSC after the board approves at this meeting. \$7.5 million is the amount being asked for within the Diné College Act of 2021.

**Motion:**

Motion to amend the resolution.

1. Amend title to "The Diné College Board of Regents respectfully request the support of the Navajo Nation Council in the reauthorization of the Diné College Act of 2021 as sponsored by Arizona Representative Tom O'Halleran"
2. Amend by adding Therefore be it resolved #2 as "The Diné College Board of Regents seeks the support of the Navajo Nation Council in the reauthorization of the Diné College Act as sponsored by Arizona Representative Tom O'Halleran."

Motion moved by Daniel Tso and motion seconded by Greg Bigman. Vote for amending motion: 7-0-0.

VI. Executive Session

There was no executive session held during this meeting.

VII. Next Meeting

- A. Friday, September 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

Time: 9 a.m. MDT, Tsaille, AZ

VIII. Adjournment

**Motion:**

Adjourning the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Motion moved by Sharon Toadecheenie and motion seconded by Anderson Hoskie. Vote for adjournment: 7-0-0.