



SIX DIRECTIONS INDIGENOUS SCHOOL

2055 NM-602

Gallup, NM 87301

Phone: 505-863-1900 Fax: 505-863-8826

Called Meeting to Order, by S. Freeland, at 5:37pm by S. Freeland

I. Introductions & Land Acknowledgement by S. Freeland

Roll Call:

In Attendance: S. Freeland, L. Poblano, M. Smith, W. Yazzie, **Absent:** R. Daw, J. Kallestewa, D. Kostelecky.

Others In Attendance: R. Niiha, Head Administrator, D. I-Soto, Legal Council, A.Savoia, Business Manager, N. Valadez, ELA/Art Teacher.

Approval of Agenda

- a. Reviewed and discussed Dec. 10, 2025 draft agenda. M. Smith, amended edit changes in word for draft Dec. 10, 2025 agenda; W. Yazzie motioned to approve the agenda, M. Smith, second the motion. **VOTE:** Dec. 10, 2025 Agenda: S. Freeland-Yes, L.Poblano-Yes, M.Smith-Yes, W.Yazzie-Yes; (Yes-4, Oppose-0, Abstain-0).
 - b. Approval of Jan. 28, 2025 meeting minutes, Motion to approve minutes: W. Yazzie motioned to approve Jan. 28, 2025 minutes, M. Smith seconded. **VOTE:** W.Yazzie-Yes, M. Smith-Yes, S. Freeland-Yes, L.Poblano-Yes, (Yes-4, Oppose-0, Abstain-0)
- **Action Items**
 - **BARS approval**
 - **568-000-2425-0005-T-Instructional Salaries**
 - **568-000-2425-0006-I**
 - **568-000-2425-0007-T-Transfer of funds to Support Services**
 - **568-000-2425-0008-T-Transfer funds to Operational, Instruction and supplies**
 - **568-000-2425-0009-IB-Initial Budget award for lease assistance**

Vote approval of all five BARS, W. Yazzie motion to approve all five BARS discussed with Business Manager, M. Smith, seconded approval for 5 BARS. **VOTE:** W.Yazzie-Yes, M. Smith-Yes, S. Freeland-Yes, L.Poblano-Yes, (Yes-4, Oppose-0, Abstain-0).

- b. **Governing Board Committee sign-ups after discussions.** Board members shared interests or how their talents can serve for each committee and possible potential discussion or policies would impact each of the governing board's four committees:

1. Audit,
2. Finance,
3. Facilities and
4. Family Advisory:
 - a. Equity Council,
 - b. Advisory Council,
 - c. Indian Parent Advisory Committee

S. Freeland voted to approve the four main governing board (GB) committees, identified meeting dates on every second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm, beginning on Feb. 11, 2025. L. Poblano, and W.Yazzie second, (at same time),

VOTE for four Governing Board Standing committees with meeting dates occurring every second Tuesday of each month: W.Yazzie-Yes, M.Smith-Yes, S. Freeland-Yes, L. Poblano-Yes. **VOTE:** (Yes-4, Oppose-0, Abstain-0)

c. R. Niiha, Presented IPP-Indian Policies and Procedures, provided overview and specified resources to tribes, Navajo and Zuni. Impact Aid application already in IPP, and application approved. Policies 1, 2 and 3 discussed and guidelines for information sharing: how funds are expended, clarify services for school, establish quarterly meetings, how meetings will be posted for public forum for discussions and participation. S. Freeland, formerly worked at state level for Indian education, provided additional information to this discussion.

S. Freeland voted to approve the 2025 Indian Policy and Procedures, (IPP), W. Yazzie second the vote, **VOTE:** S. Freeland-Yes, W. Yazzie-Yes, M. Smith-Yes, L.Poblano-Yes. (Yes-4, Oppose-0, Abstain-0)

Call for Public Comment @7:09 p.m.. N. Valadez, Comment: So refreshing to sit in and listen. Thank you all for the work you are doing.

- **Discussion Items (no action)**

- **Financial Budget Tracker**-Business Manager is creating a budget tool that will provide all funds of SDIS into one document, this will provide an important tool for governing board members to see funds in, funds spent, and use of monies to support different areas of SDIS.
- **Homeland Security ICE for students and staff.** Discussion and sharing of resources, NARF, NN-ICE guideline, how to diffuse fear within the community-NIEA. Safe Haven rights (APS). SDIS will provide students, staff and families informational sharing of one's safety in school, home and communities with guidance from tribal, state and national resources.
- **Facilities Update**, in email R. Niiha-HA facility update and recommendations for repairs. Feb. 23, modified version for quotes, need to preview for discussion. D.Ulibarri and T. Hunt will provide potential contractors for various areas of facility improvements and quotes.

- **Closed Session-None**

- **Information Items**
 - **Board Retreats 1, 2, & 3**, Updates and moving forward with creating committee and understanding governing board processes.
 - **Head Administrator Report, Rebecca Niiha Head Administrator:**
 - Student enrollment, 8 new students, enrollment total now at 73.
 - NWEA middle of year (MOY) complete
 - PLC's every Fridays at 1:30-3:00pm, focus on data, core instruction and language & culture
 - Upcoming Events: Taos Ski, Indigenous Curriculum Fair, Indian Pueblo Center, 02/28/25, Community Schools Conference, ABQ, student presentation, -2/11/25.
 - SAT staff training, 02/28/25 with M. Lindenmeyer.
 - Second Kagen Training, scheduled in Feb.
 - Response from Gov. Grisham, re: Federal Grants Freeze that was blocked by federal judge.
 - Impact Aid received in Dec. and Application for 2025 has been completed except for IPP approval.
 - Improving Outcomes for Native Students will be expended via the grant application 75-100% by Quarter-4. Silversmithing, moccasin-making, and presentations from elders with all materials needed to be used.
 - Rural and Low Income Schools used for Agricultural practices.
 - Title VI is used for credit recovery.
 - Title IV will be used for technology.
 - **Financial Report, Aaron Savoia Vigil Group**-Governing council provided constructive feedback on revised financial overview of SDIS budget review.
- **Concluding Business 8:31pm**
 - **Upcoming Regular Governing Meeting Date: February 25, 2025 at 5:30PM**
 - **Governing Council Committee Work Sessions: February 11, 2025**

Signature of Governing Board Minutes:

**Notes prepared for Approval:
Louella Poblano, Governing Board Secretary**

Approved by SDIS GC February 25, 2025