

Special News Bulletin

BOARD OF EDUCATION

JIMMIE C. BEGAY,
PRESIDENT (ELECTED),
CHINLE AGENCY

REBECCA M. BENALLY,
VICE PRESIDENT
(APPOINTED), TEACHER
REPRESENTATIVE

VEE F. BROWNE,
SECRETARY
(APPOINTED), PARENT
REPRESENTATIVE

KATHERINE D. ARVISO,
MEMBER (ELECTED),
FT. DEFIANCE AGENCY

DOLLY C. BEGAY,
MEMBER (ELECTED),
EASTERN NAVAJO
AGENCY

JUANITA K. BENALLY,
MEMBER (APPOINTED),
NAVAJO TRADITIONAL
CULTURE
REPRESENTATIVE

ROSE J. YAZZIE,
MEMBER (ELECTED),
WESTERN NAVAJO
AGENCY

JACK C. JACKSON,
MEMBER (APPOINTED)
NAVAJO TRADITIONAL
CULTURE
REPRESENTATIVE

VIRGIL KIRK, MEMBER
(ELECTED), NORTHERN
NAVAJO AGENCY

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The Department of
Diné Education



Board Opposes #0190-08, #0716-07

The Board of Education strongly opposes the proposed legislations (0190-08 and 0716-07) by the Education Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

Tabled by the Ethics and Rules Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, the proposed legislation is slated for a workshop session with the Council and

possible deliberation and voting during its Spring Session.

In the following tables, the Board stresses the following points:

KEY POINTS IN OPPOSING #0190-08 AND #0716-07

1. The Board has a broad diversity of backgrounds in education and cultural knowledge to advance the education goals of the Navajo Nation.
2. The proposed legislation is in violation of Title 10, which requires any and all entities seeking to make changes to education programs to consult with all parties affected. The Education Committee appears to be on a "fast track" to the Council, without public input and support.
3. The Education Committee has not consulted with the Board of Education despite repeated attempts by the Board to become informed on the legislation.
4. While it has implemented some of the provisions of Title 10, the Board agrees that the expected progress has not occurred due to budget constraints.
5. There has been a lack of progress between the Education Committee and Board of Education to clarify their respective roles and responsibilities. The Board's role is to oversee the Department; the Education Committee's is one of oversight.
6. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice has denied the Board its responsibility to seek and hire a qualified Superintendent of Schools.
7. Title 10, as amended in 2005, is not the problem; a healthy working relationship between all education stakeholders, including the Education Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, is the issue.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND PLANS PURSUANT TO TITLE 10 AS AMENDED

- 1. Advocating for quality education. Have schools meet AYP as outlined in NCLB, and accrediting school administrators.**
- 2. Partnering with school systems, Federal (BIE), and State Departments of Education through MOAs.**
- 3. Developing Navajo culture and language standards, curriculum and assessment.**
- 4. Seeking funds for the Navajo Education Information System to collect actionable data.**
- 5. Implementing greater accountability for Grant/Contract schools in carrying out the provisions of Title 10.**
- 6. Addressing student attendance, drop-out and suicide prevention, drugs and alcohol, and student rights issues.**

SIGNIFICANT BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN YEAR 1

- 1. Reviewed and Approved Department of Diné Education Plans of Operation.**
- 2. Strengthened Navajo Nation participation with the New Mexico Public Education Department.**
- 3. Adopted Administrative guidelines for BIE school intervention.**
- 4. Developed and Presented Navajo Nation Position Papers for NIEA Legislative Summit.**
- 5. Reviewed and Approved Department Strategic Goals and Plans.**
- 6. Supported and Approved Rosetta Stone Navajo Language Project.**
- 7. Recommended Reauthorization of 3 years for '297' Grant schools.**
- 8. Provided training sessions for school administrators and parents.**
- 9. Met with tri-state education officials to develop a Navajo Nation state-like education agency.**
- 10. Provided support and advocacy during BIE lawsuit negotiation of a Settlement Agreement.**
- 11. Established a Navajo Nation Board of Education Operating Procedures Manual.**
- 12. Approved Early Childhood "First Things First" Grant.**
- 13. Attended BIE School Construction Meeting for facility information.**
- 14. Continue to enforce the provisions of Title 10 as necessary.**