



BOARD AGENDA ITEM: 4.2 – Special Meeting Minutes
DATE: September 15, 2026

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 7, 2026
This meeting was held remotely

ATTENDANCE:

Board of Education:

Kim Morgan
Tim Arbogast
Lucille Begay
OraLee Branch

Nathanael Stice

Darcy Long

Staff and

Representatives:

Brenda Garcia Lua

Tiffany Prince

1.0 CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Stice called the meeting to order at 5:02pm

2.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Stice led group introductions.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT – none

4.0 BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Review Presidential Contract, for Renewal

Chair Stice opened discussion regarding President Lawson's contract renewal. He stated that he had met with President Lawson following the Board's prior discussion and shared President Lawson had provided additional information regarding compensation at comparable institutions.

Chair Stice explained that the Board discussion was focused on compensation structure, including whether to consider a PERS pickup or a deferred compensation option. Board members discussed concerns about setting precedent by picking up the employee PERS contribution and expressed a preference for exploring deferred compensation instead.

Director Arbogast stated that President Lawson's overall compensation request was not out of line with comparable institutions and expressed support for reaching a fair and equitable total compensation amount. Director Branch agreed and noted that her concern with the PERS pickup was related to precedent rather than the amount. Director Long and Brenda Garcia Lua also provided clarification regarding PERS, deferred compensation, tax considerations, and available plan options.

The Board reached general consensus authorizing Chair Stice to continue negotiations with President Lawson within a total compensation range of up to \$227,000, with a preference for deferred compensation rather than a PERS pickup. The Board also confirmed support for an additional \$250 increase to the travel expense amount in the contract. Chair Stice stated that he would continue discussions with President Lawson and bring a proposed contract back to the Board at the next meeting.

5.0 ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16pm

As recorded by Tiffany Prince, Interim Assistant to the Board of Education