



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee approves 50-year lease renewal for Tuba City Unified School District



Tuba City Unified School District Superintendent Sharlene Navaho (left) joined Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw (right) who sponsored Legislation No. 0035-26.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) unanimously approved Legislation No. 0035-26, supporting the renewal of a land lease for the Tuba City Unified School District (TCUSD) within the To’Nanees’Dizi Local Government.

TCUSD Superintendent Sharlene Navaho attended the committee meeting on behalf of the district and expressed appreciation for the committee’s support.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw emphasized the importance of long-term stability for students and families. “This lease renewal secures the foundation for education in Tuba City for generations to come,” said Delegate Claw. “By approving this 50-year lease, we are protecting our students’ learning environment, supporting our teachers, and reaffirming that education remains a top priority for the Navajo Nation.”

The legislation approves the renewal of a lease covering approximately 89.23 acres within the To’Nanees’Dizi Local Government. The lease authorizes TCUSD to continue operating a public school district and related educational facilities on the site for an additional 50 years, with an option to renew for a subsequent 50-year term.

The purpose of the legislation is to approve the lease without requiring land consideration. Under Navajo Nation law, leases for educational purposes may qualify for nominal rent. In this case, TCUSD will not be required to pay annual rent because the land is used exclusively for public education and related services.

The leased area includes land used for classrooms, administrative offices, maintenance buildings, teacher housing, parking areas, athletic and recreational facilities, health facilities, and other improvements necessary to operate a public school district. The renewal ensures the district can continue providing educational services without interruption and supports long-term planning, facility improvements, and future expansion.

The original lease was negotiated in 1958 to support the education of Navajo children in the Tuba City area.

“Renewing the lease reflects the RDC’s continued commitment to prioritizing education and safeguarding school operations on the Navajo Nation,” said RDC Chair Brenda Jesus. The RDC approved Legislation No. 0035-26 by a vote of five in favor and none opposed. Once certified, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren holds final authority to execute the lease and complete the approval process.

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