

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0348-19

**DATE:** November 15, 2019

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION  
AND HUMAN SERVICES; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF EMERSON  
JOHN TO THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is to confirm the appointment of Emerson John to the Navajo Nation Board Of Education.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 238  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 11/24/19  
Eligible for Action: 11/25/19

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Samuel E. Lee

(Prime Sponsor)

Samuel E. Lee  
D. H. H. H. H.

TRACKING NO. 0348-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES;  
CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF EMERSON JOHN TO THE NAVAJO  
NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Section One. Authority**

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the purpose of providing legislative oversight on matters involving health, social service, education, general government services and human services.. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400 (A),(C)(1).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee serves as oversight for the Navajo Nation Board of Education. 2 N. N. C. § 401 (C)(3).
- C. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee has authority to confirm appointments to the Board. 10 N. N. C. § 106(B)(3).

**Section Two. Findings**

- A. The Navajo Nation Board of Education consists of eleven (11) members. Five (5) members are elected at-large, one from each of the five (5) agencies. Six (6) members are appointed positions. 10 N.N.C. §106(B).
- B. Regarding appointments to the Navajo Nation Board of Education, the law provides, “[s]ix Board members shall be appointed to six year terms by the President of the

1 Navajo Nation and confirmed by the [Health, Education and Human Services]  
2 Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. These members will be appointed on order to  
3 ensure that a variety of experience and knowledge is present on the Board.” 10 N. N. C.  
4 § 106 (B)(3).

5 C. Qualifications for the six appointed positions to the Navajo Nation Board of Education  
6 are stated as follows – two appointed Board members will be individuals who are  
7 recognized for their knowledge of traditional Navajo culture; 10 N. N. C.  
8 §106(C)(1)(a); one appointed Board member will be a school administrator working on  
9 the Navajo Nation; 10 N. N. C. §106 (C)(1)(b); two appointed Board member will be  
10 parents of at least one child enrolled in a Kindergarten, elementary, or secondary  
11 program on the Navajo Nation; 10 N. N. C. §106 (C)(1)(c); and, one appointed Board  
12 member will be a teacher employed in a Bureau of Indian Affairs funded or state public  
13 school operating on the Navajo Nation; 10 N. N. C. §106(C)(1)(d).

14 D. Pursuant to appointment provisions applicable to the Navajo Nation Board of  
15 Education, the Navajo Nation President has appointed Emerson John, as the traditional  
16 Navajo culture representative. Mr. John’s letter of appointment is attached as **Exhibit**  
17 **A** and his qualifications and interests are provided in **Exhibit B**.

### 18 19 **Section Three. Confirmation of Appointment**

20 The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby  
21 confirms the appointment of Mr. Emerson John, to the Navajo Nation Board of Education. Mr.  
22 John shall serve in the traditional Navajo culture representative position on the Board, as  
23 provided in 10 N. N. C. § 106(C)(1)(a). Mr. John shall serve a term of six (6) years from the  
24 date of confirmation, consistent with 10 N. N. C. § 106(B).

# THE NAVAJO NATION

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JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



October 18, 2019

Emerson John, Cultural Liaison Specialist  
PO Box  
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504

Dear Mr. John,

Thank you for your interest in the Navajo Nation Board of Education. We appreciate you being available for an interview to discuss your background and qualifications for appointment. Based on our discussion with you, it is our pleasure to appoint you to the Board of Education as the member with knowledge of traditional Navajo culture. Your dedication to preserving and supporting our culture aligns with our philosophy.

The Navajo Nation Council's Health, Education, and Human Services Committee will consider confirming your appointment. With the Committee's positive action your term will be six years. Should you have any questions please contact Chris Bahe, Executive Staff Assistant, Office of the President and Vice President, at 928-871-7000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, President  
The Navajo Nation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, Vice President  
The Navajo Nation

**LETTER OF RESUME**

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TO: Dr. Tommy H. Lewis Jr, Superintendent of Schools  
NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF EDUCATION  
P.O. Box 670  
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

FROM: Emerson John, Cultural Liaison Specialist  
P.O. Box  
Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504

Dear Dr Lewis,

Yá'át'ééh, Shí ei Emerson John yinishye, T'áchíini nishlí, Tsi'náájini báshichíin, Tódich'inii dáhichei dóó Kinyqanii dáhinalí, I am currently working for Tsehootsooi Medical Center as a Cultural Liaison Specialist, Fort Defiance, Arizona. I am originally from White Cone, Arizona and now reside in Window Rock, Arizona. Let this letter to serve applying for the vacant position on Board of Education as a Navajo Culture Leader


I am individual who always conducts myself with great sincereness, I am bilingual with the ability to motivate, guide and lead with a clear agenda. I have skills, knowledge and experiences. I assure your entity that I will certainly be an asset while fulfilling the goals and objectives for your entity and as a member of Navajo Division of Education Board of Education, Culture Leader. I am also member of the Navajo Hataali Association and certified a Navajo Practitioner.

I vested in Navajo culture education, administratively attune, project management experience with the energetic approach to exceed general to difficulty requisites. Simultaneously, I am very traditionally oriented w/ our voice, Dine' language and our Dine' culture. I recognize and challenges the importance of preserving and perpetuating the Navajo language for the survival of the Navajo Nation. I developed an understanding, knowledge and respect for Navajo culture, history, civics and social studies to assure that our Navajo students acknowledge the values of our Navajo culture and language. I have worked and experienced in the past at various Navajo schools and taught Navajo Literacy, Culture and Reading and Writing in Navajo with our elementary, middle schools and high schools. I served on Committees to develop Navajo Culture Curriculum Standards for schools on the reservation.

With this, I am confident to serve on the Board and advocate on behalf of our Navajo culture that is still surviving. I am a believer that our culture values will go forth in life endowed with what is required to achieve ultimate aspiration.

Your consideration and acknowledging my will be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or email:

Ahxéhée'

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Emerson John', followed by a horizontal line.

Emerson John, Culture Specialist

**Culture Related Work Experience:**

- **CULTURE LIAISON SPECIALIST**

December 2012 - Present

Tsehootsooi Medical Center, Fort Defiance, AZ

Under Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, I serve all 16 service units which includes schools, chapter and community areas promoting culture education and presentations relating and integrated health and Wellness

- **TRADITIONAL COORDINATOR**

October 2011 – December 2012

Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services, Fort Defiance, AZ

Coordinated the Traditional Services and Practitioners to provide Navajo Traditional ceremonies for referred patients. Developed conceptual plans, action plans and standardized formats of on improving traditional healing grounds. Supervise the Navajo Practitioners providing ceremonial services to referred clients.

- **DINE STUDIES INSTRUCTOR**

August 2010 – May 10

Greasewood Springs Community School, Greasewood Springs, AZ

Taught Kindergarten through Eighth grade students on Navajo Culture and Literacy using the designated school foreign language standards. Coordinated all culture related activities.

- **DINE CULTURE LEADER**

February 2009 – May 2010

Greasewood Springs Community School, Greasewood Springs, AZ

Taught all grades on Navajo Literacy and culture. Prepared lesson plans and coordinated all culture activities. Developed standards to align with language standards and promote culture practices to the students.

- **DINE CURRICULUM DEVELOPER**

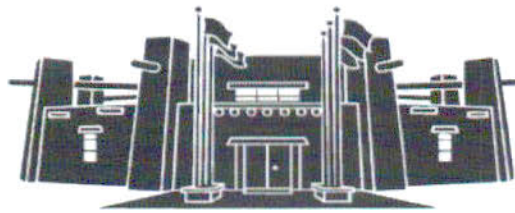
February 2005 – May 2009

Greasewood Springs Community School, Greasewood Springs, AZ

Worked under Title III Program to work with Navajo Studies program on developing Navajo culture materials for all grades. Illustrated all materials to teach Navajo Culture in classroom for teachers.

**OTHER CERTIFICATIONS:**

- **ORAL (NATIVE AMERICAN) LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CERTIFICATION**  
July 2018
- **CERTIFIED AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION**  
Certified in June 2011
- **CERTIFIED NAVAJO PRACTITIONER**  
Dine Hataalii Association  
June 9, 2018



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Daniel E. Tso  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM:   
Kristen Lowell, Principal Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: November 15, 2019

SUBJECT: **AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES; CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF EMERSON JOHN TO THE NAVAJO NATION BOARD OF EDUCATION**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution.