



## The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Education Committee commends Dilkon Community School, principal Dr. Lewis for progression**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The Education Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council received and accepted the status report on Dilkon Community School from the school's new Chief Executive Officer Dr. Tommy Lewis, who also serves as the school principal.

The Education Committee accepted the report with a 6-0 vote. Dr. Lewis informed the committee of his administration's efforts at Dilkon Community School.

"This is the first school that came about in this community," Dr. Lewis explained. "From this small school, the community developed and the school brought life to this community."

The Fiscal Year Audit Reports for 2007, 2008 and 2009 detailing Dilkon Community School's progression was also reported to the committee.

"I am here to report that Dilkon Community School is in better condition," Lewis said. "Our goal is to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The Obama Administration is considering changes be made to AYP or the No Child Left Behind Act which will be much more meaningful to us."

Lewis also explained the school administration's request to ask the Bureau of Indian Education and the Navajo Department of Diné Education to lift the label of high risk, so the school can receive funds without restriction.

"A lot of work has gone into the accounting section to incorporate checks and balances," Lewis added. "It's important for any school to have accountability. I informed my board of being accountable first."

Dr. Lewis' report also included information regarding a grant award of \$368,800 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to improve academic performance. He also reported the school was selected as the Best Construction for 2009 by McGraw-Hill Construction and Southwest Contractors.

Lorena Zah-Bahe, education program manager with the Navajo Department of Diné Technical Assistance, said Dilkon Community School has made a 360 degree turn-around and she commended the efforts of the current school administration.

"Hopefully they make AYP this spring," Zah-Bahe said. "We do have a success story here. I really commend and wish the Navajo Nation could provide a prestigious award to the school."

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Council Delegate Leonard Anthony (Shiprock) spoke in support of and congratulated the Dilkon representatives on the efforts and progression of the school.

“The Education Committee is satisfied about the turn-around time of the financial and educational progress at Dilkon Community School,” Anthony said. “We commend the efforts of Dr. Lewis. As a past Superintendent in the Division of Diné Education, he has the expertise to lead the school in the right direction.”

“In correlation with the school board, there is improved communication as well as improved education,” Anthony added. “However, we need to have Dilkon Community School meet AYP consistently year after year.”

The Dilkon Community School is currently located in a new school building and has a student population of 223 students with 43 of those students living in its new dormitories.

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