



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**President Nez signs agreement to fund \$3.6 million for the  
upgrade and replacement of the electrical system of Pine Hill School**



**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Ramah Navajo School Board members and Pine Hill Schools administration, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jamie Henio, and Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman, in Window Rock, Ariz., as he signed a subrecipient agreement between the Navajo Nation and Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. to appropriate \$3.6 million from the Navajo Nation’s Síhasin Fund to upgrade and replace the Pine Hill School’s high-voltage electrical system, located in the community of Ramah, N.M.

The funding will resolve the school’s reoccurring power outages and electrical problems caused by the current electrical system, which was installed in the early 1970’s. The outages also affected other nearby facilities including the community’s health center. In May, President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution No. CAP-22-22 into law to appropriate the project. Council Delegate Henio introduced the legislation, which was unanimously approved by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council in April.

“In August, we visited the school and saw the electrical issues firsthand. The deficiency has been a longstanding issue for the students, teachers, and administrators for many years. Today, we are proud to sign this agreement to provide the funding that is needed to replace the electrical system and resolve the problem. Our children and staff deserve a safe and adequate learning environment. The Ramah Navajo School Board and Council Delegate Henio did a great job for improving the well-being of all students, teachers, and staff. Also, this project contributes to overall growth and progress of the community,” said President Nez.

The Navajo Nation will also continue to seek reimbursement from the federal government for the electrical system, which is under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development has worked closely with the BIA and BIE to have the system replaced using federal resources, but the need for replacement required immediate action to avoid greater problems for the school’s operations.

“I am fully confident that the Ramah Navajo School Board will successfully complete the project for the students and teachers because they have a proven record with the CARES Act projects and others. The Pine Hill Schools continues to advocate for innovations and upgrades through the collaboration of the school board and Ramah Chapter. We thank the Office of the President and Vice President for putting this project as a priority,” said Delegate Henio.

President Nez added that the Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. will be the first Navajo Nation school board to receive funding through the Navajo Nation’s Síhasin Fund. The Pine Hill Schools serves approximately 375 students between the grades of kindergarten to high school.

“We congratulate the students, board, staff, and administration of Pine Hill Schools and we will continue to support academic initiatives through this historic partnership. The students are the ultimate beneficiaries of the collaborative effort. We also thank the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council for their support and the community of Ramah for working effortlessly for their students and families,” Vice President Myron Lizer.

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