WHY
AND
HOW
ZUNI
PUBLIC
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
WAS
CREATED
1. WHY AND HOW ZUNI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS CREATED.

Beginning in 1876 and ending in 1956, United States Government and it's Department of Indian Affairs were responsible for the American culture and English language education of Zuni children. Then in 1956, the Americanizing education of Zuni children was transferred from the United States government to the New Mexico State Government. During the time period from 1956 to 1980, the three existing school sites, that once were operated by the United States government, were now operated by the Gallup - McKinley County School District which was a State of New Mexico Public School District. These school sites were Zuni Elementary, Dowa Yalanne Elementary and Zuni High School. However, at the start of the 3rd decade of being part of the GMKC school district, many community people decided that the Zuni students' educational needs were not being met. Therefore during the latter half of the 1970's the Zuni people started discussions on the need and desire to have their own school district to address the educational problems, that remain unresolved, under the large Gallup McKinley County School District.

A. REFERUMDUM VOTE OF THE ZUNI PEOPLE.

During the mid-1970s, many community meetings were held to discuss the issues of their own school district. Then finally on ________, a tribal election was conducted on the issue. The question on the ballot was “_____”. The results of the vote are as follows: _____ For and _____ Opposed. The Zuni tribal members voted their approval to create a new school district/system for it’s community students. Based on the documented wishes of the Zuni people, as expressed by the favorable vote for a new school district/system, their tribal government officials started up very definite planning for the creation of a new Zuni School District/System. The definite planning commenced with the following official Zuni Tribal Council Resolutions.

B. OFFICIAL ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution Number M70-79-1054  Dated March 16, 1978

This official resolution authorized and directed the Zuni Pueblo’s Division of Education to begin work on the feasibility study for a separate school district for the Zuni community. This feasibility study included research of the pros and cons of several types of school district/system options such as Bureau of Indian Affairs Contract school operated by the community, a Bureau of Indian Affairs school operated by the Bureau’s system, and a New Mexico State Public School.
1. **Resolution Number M70-79-1054**  Dated May 07, 1979
   This official resolution authorized the Zuni Tribal Government to obtain funds from the United States Bureau Of Indian Affairs and to hire a staff to plan for the separation of the Zuni schools from the Gallup McKinley County School District. The plans would be to create a new school district that will be a State of New Mexico Public School District.

2. **Resolution Number M70-79-1108**  Dated December 18, 1979
   This official resolution was to request the State Board Of Education of the State of New Mexico “to create a public school district” coextensive with the McKinley portion of the Zuni reservation to be known as the “Zuni Public School District”

   Zuni Tribal Council
   1978
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

SCHOOL BOARD

OF

EDUCATION

APPROVES & CREATES

NEW

ZUNI PUBLIC

SCHOOL DISTRICT
1. NEW MEXICO STATE SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES ANDCreates the New Zuni Public School District.

On January 07, 1980, the State Board Of Education Of The State Of New Mexico approved the Zuni Tribal Council’s request for the New Zuni Public School District. Zuni Public School District was created by an official order by the State Board of Education of New Mexico. On that very important day of January 07, 1980, the State Board Of Education Of The State Of New Mexico honored the wishes of the Zuni people by approving their Tribal Council’s request to have their own public school district.


In this official resolution of the New Mexico State, two Findings, pertinent to curriculum and instruction specifically expressed the rationale and support for bilingual education for the Zuni Public School District students. These Findings are numbers ten and thirteen in the official document and are presented below.

a. Finding 10 – “The creation of the Zuni Public School District would recognize the significance of the uniqueness of the Zuni Indian community and return to the Zuni Indian people the ability to preserve their heritage and culture, and would enable them to identify and attempt to solve the special problems and situations peculiar to the educational needs of the Zuni Indian children.”

b. Finding 13 – “There currently exists a high percentage of Zuni children not completing their secondary education; and there also exists a high percentage of Zuni children, who despite completing various educational programs, are unable to perform adequately on achievement tests. These facts appear to be related to the unique cultural, economic, and social experiences of the children, which experiences can be better understood, accepted, and worked with if the new Zuni Public School District is created.”

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In the New Mexico State Board of Education’s Official Order, there were twenty three other Findings and Provisions. These Findings and Provisions addressed such issues as geographic boundaries of the district, organizational structure, School Board make-up, administrative procedures for staff transfers, transfer of facilities and equipment, and other issues related to the transference of jurisdiction from the Gallup-McKinley County School District to the new Zuni Public School District. Based on all twenty five Findings and Provisions of the Official New Mexico State Board of Education Document, on July 1, 1980, the new Zuni Public School District started implementation of all school related operations and activities.

Mandated and guided by Findings numbers 10 and 13, Zuni Public School district has developed it’s student instruction related board policies and instructional programs to support and implement the wishes of the Zuni people as validated by the State Board Of Education of the State of New Mexico on January 7, 1980. The school district has developed and implemented Zuni/English bilingual education programs for it’s students.