

Marlene Watashe

Mrs. Marlene Watashe is the current President of the Dine Grant School Association, Inc. in Farmington, NM. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.(RNSB) in Pine Hill, NM continuing on her third year in this position.

Marlene was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 4, 1971. She is a member of the Navajo tribe on the Ramah Navajo Reservation. She graduated from Pine Hill High School in Pine Hill, NM in May 1989 and from New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) at Las Vegas, NM with a Bachelor in Business Administration degree in May 1995. She remained at NMHU to complete her Masters in Business Administration degree in May 1997.

After receiving her education, she returned to her community and began working for RNSB as a Fiscal Officer, a few years later she was promoted to the Budget Officer position and then to the Director of Administrative Services. After working 14 years, Marlene left RNSB to pursue other interests.

She returned to Las Vegas, NM to be close to and help care for her grandchildren while their mother, Marlene's first child, attended college at NMHU. Marlene started work for the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute (NMBHI) in Las Vegas, NM as a Quality Manager overseeing the Incident Management Program for the facility. She worked for NMBHI for four years and once again returned home in January 2017 to fulfill her duties as an elected school board member. She served as RNSB President from January 2017 to December 2018. She has been actively involved in all aspects of the RNSB board functions and is now dedicated to serving the Grant Schools throughout the Navajo Nation through the Dine Grant School Association.

Marlene is happily married to Ben Watashe and together they have eleven children and eleven grandchildren. She is very passionate about Indian education and the importance of educating children so they may one day become strong leaders in the future.

