

# Summary: Former Alamo Navajo School Board Member Stole Federal Funds and Accepted Kickbacks

**Report Date: April 30, 2024**

**Report Number: 18-0361**

The OIG investigated allegations that Bucky Apache and three other elected Alamo Navajo School Board (ANSB) members defrauded the ANSB by misusing Federal travel funds.

We substantiated these allegations. Our investigation determined that Apache and three other ANSB members defrauded the ANSB out of nearly \$60,000 in Federal travel funds. This amount consisted of payments made directly to the four ANSB members for traveling to meetings that never took place, traveling to meetings that took place but the members did not attend, failing to return advance payments received for canceled trips, and submitting falsified receipts and documents to increase the amounts reimbursed.

We also determined that Apache and one other ANSB member received kickbacks from an IT company in exchange for an IT services contract awarded by the ANSB.

On April 24, 2023, Apache pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico to one count of Federal Program Theft and of Aiding and Abetting in violation of 18 U.S.C § 666(a)(1)(A) and 18 U.S.C § 2. On November 2, 2023, Apache was sentenced to 5 years of probation and ordered to pay \$15,079.14 in restitution.

During our investigation, two of the ANSB members who were under investigation died, and a third member who was originally indicted was not prosecuted after the District Court of New Mexico dismissed the indictment against him for reasons unrelated to this investigation.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Director of BIE.

