



# Oshki Ogimaag Community School

*The mission of Oshki Ogimaag Community School is to create a learning environment of excellence based upon traditional teachings. Rooted in Anishinaabe language and culture we will prepare students through hands-on, community-based projects to be lifelong learners that reach their personal and academic potential; preserve the Anishinaabe language and culture; and contribute to the wellness of future generations.*

## **Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024**

### **1.0 Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call of Board Members, Quorum Declaration:**

**1.1 Call to Order:** 4:36pm

**1.2 Board Members Present:** Patty Winchell-Dahl, John Morrin, Agatha Armstrong, Joanne Czeswik, Jeana Van Dyne, Tina Gatzke, ex-officio Cherie James. **Board**

**Members Absent:** Krysten Flett (resigned)

**Community Members Present:** Pam Zahn, Peter James

### **2.0 Reading of the Mission Statement by:** Tina Gatzke

### **3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** No conflicts declared.

### **4.0 Community Comment:** Board members conveyed Community messages of excitement about positive changes happening at Oshki Ogimaag Community School. Comments that the newsletter has been positive and informative way to disseminate information to current families and the Community.

### **5.0 Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Van Dyne moved to approve the agenda. Motioned seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

### **6.0 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2024:**

**6.1** Discussion as to if all data requests from Jaye Clearwater have been addressed. It was discussed that requests have been responded to and addressed to the best of the Board's ability. Board Chair communicated that the OOCs Board shared all information willingly and all actions taken were out of a caution to be fair and follow proper procedure as the Board understood it at the time, and all intentions of the Board were to be fair and kind. Board Chair stated she wants these comments reflected in the Board meeting minutes.

#### **6.2 Ms. Armstrong moved to approve Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2024.**

Motion seconded by Ms. Van Dyne. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

### **7.0 Financial Reports:** OOCs Business Manager, Pam Zahn presented July Financial Reports, including: Bank Reconciliation Worksheet Report, Outstanding Payments, Receipt Listing with Detail by Deposit, Check Register by Bank and Check, Trial Balance Summary Report, YTD Budget, Payroll Register, Cashflow Forecast FY25, and Cash Flow Chart FY25. Description and meaning of each report presented by Pam Zahn. Discussion of each report. Business Manager Zahn communicated there are no surprises or concerns in current financial reports. Business Manager Zahn reports that the



Worker's Comp insurance audit was recently completed; numbers reported last year were underestimated. Current numbers will increase Worker's Comp budget by about \$4000.00. Discussion of recent audit. Discussion of financial practices Business Manager Zahn has put into place; to reflect good financial oversight and best practices, systems of checks and balances, updated ordering procedures (i.e. ordering from school business accounts versus personal accounts). Discussion of guidance and supervision regarding food program budgeting and planning. Discussion of policy regarding handling leftover foods at the end of the day for greater budgetary controls and food production planning.

**7.1 Ms. Czeswik moved to approve Finance Reports.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**7.2 Discussion of Procurement Policy:** Discussion that with new systems being implemented, policy will be brought to the Board for refining and revision as Business Manager Zahn works with the team putting systems into practice.

**8.0 Approval of Director's Work Agreement:** Discussion of work agreement. Discussion from the Board, of the excitement that it feels like Oshki Ogimaag Community School is on the path to fulfilling the mission and vision of the school under the leadership of Ms. James. **Ms. Czeswik moved to approve Director's Work Agreement.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**9.0 Director's Report:** Discussion of Director's Report. Discussion of teacher recruitment processes.

**10.0 Resignation of Treasurer, Krysten Flett:** Message was sent to Ms. Flett accepting her resignation with regrets, and communicating gratitude for her contributions to the OOCS Board. **Mr. Morrin moved to accept Krysten Flett's letter of resignation from the OOCS Board.** Motion seconded by Ms. Van Dyne. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke)

**10.1 Removal of Krysten Flett from OOCS accounts: Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to remove Krysten Flett as a signer on OOCS accounts.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**10.2 Appointment of Treasurer: Ms. Van Dyne moved to appoint John Morrin as Treasurer.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**10.3 Add Treasurer, John Morrin, as a signer on OOCS accounts (including Security State Bank and North Shore Federal Credit Union): Ms. Gatzke moved to add John Morrin as a signer to all OOCS accounts.** Motion seconded by Ms. Armstrong. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**11.0 Approval of Charter School Release Agreement: Ms. Czeswik moved to approve the Charter School Release Agreement.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed



unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**12.0 Approval of Updated Nepotism Policy:** Discussion of the Nepotism Policy, and updated language required by MN statute. Discussion of how the policy, as worded, creates barriers for organizations operating in small towns, and especially on Tribal Lands. Discussion of how the policy is problematic, and creates scenarios where leaders either have to be from outside of the Community or hire only from outside the Community. Discussion on how restrictive and limiting this policy is in terms of hiring personnel and electing Board members. Discussion of how in many ways, this policy is oppositional to the mission of Oshki Ogimaag. Discussion that Board members and families can reach out to legislators to voice how this policy has not taken into consideration organizations such as Oshki Ogimaag Community School, operating on the Grand Portage Ojibwe Reservation, a small community, rural in location. Discussion of pursuit of variance for policy.

**12.1 Ms. Czeswik moved to approve updated Nepotism Policy.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**13.0 Plan for Policy and Bylaws Updates:** There are many policy updates and Bylaw updates required due to new legislation passed. The OOCS Board will approve amendments to Bylaws and updates to policies, prioritizing by deadline and need, adding to each meeting and including in Strategic Planning conversations where appropriate.

**14.0 Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes from July 30, 2024:** Ms. Van Dyne moved to approve Special Board Meeting Minutes from July 30, 2024. Motioned seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

**15.0 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Gatzke at 6:21pm.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

  
OOCS Board Secretary Signature

  
Date

*Oshki Ogimaag Community School Board Meetings are open to all. Oshki Ogimaag Community School greatly values the voices and perspectives of the families and community we serve. The Board will provide up to 15 minutes at the start of each meeting for public comment. The Board Chair may reduce or extend this time period and/or establish time limits on speakers to facilitate OOCS Board business. OOCS is authorized by Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center:*  
<https://ospreywilds.org/charter-school-division/>

