



# 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.*

## **OOCS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**73 Upper Rd, Grand Portage, MN 55605, OOCS Conference Room**

**Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 4:30pm**

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

**1.1 Call to Order:** 4:35pm

#### **1.2 Board Members Present:**

Tesha Dickenson, Parent Member, Chairperson  
Kristin Lindenmuth, Parent Member, Vice Chairperson (joined at 4:54pm)  
John Morrin, Community Member, Treasurer  
Tina Gatzke, Teacher Member, Secretary  
Agatha Armstrong, Community Member  
Cherie James, ex-officio, Director

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Joanne Czeswik, Community Member  
Patty Winchell-Dahl, Community Member

**Community Members and Visitors Present:** Peter James (OOCS Operations Manager), Pam Zahn (OOCS Business Manager), Erin Anderson (Director of Charter School Authorizing, Osprey Wilds)

**2.0 Reading of the Mission Statement by:** Tesha Dickenson

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

**4.0 Community Comment:** n/a

**5.0 Ms. Armstrong moved to approve the agenda.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin)

**6.0 Erin Anderson presented on Renewal Evaluation and Next Steps, as well as 6.1 and 6.2**

**6.1 OOCS Revised Evaluation Report**

**6.2 OW Contracting Process FY26**

Ms. Anderson commented that in her many years working with OOCS, that during the current site visit and evaluation cycle, the most progress was observed in creating a high quality learning community for Grand Portage and it is obvious how much effort is being put forth. Ms. Anderson went on to comment that this was particularly noticeable when comparing the last evaluation for renewal to the current evaluation for renewal, with much improvement made in several indicators, and observable, verifiable progress being

made, contributing to school success. Ms. Anderson went on to communicate that the recommendations made to the OW Board was for a 3-year renewal, primarily based upon the academic performance evaluation. OOCS met goals in Science proficiency and exceeded in mission-related outcomes, but still has work to do in growth and proficiency in other key academic areas.

Ms. Anderson went on to describe a path towards 5-year renewal that included after 2-years; an expectation of OOCS earning at least 75% of the points on the academic evaluation. Ms. Anderson discussed the ways the school supports the needs of students so they are best prepared to learn.

Ms. Anderson discussed areas of compliance needing to be resolved prior to the signing of a new contract, highlighting implementation of a teacher development program aligned with MDE requirements. Ms. Anderson discussed the items in Exhibit S, which includes outstanding obligations that need continued work to complete.

Ms. Anderson discussed evaluation items related to OOCS governance, including Board background check documentation, Board training, Board elections, documentation, meeting minutes, school leader accountability, evaluation, and Environmental Education oversight. Ms. Anderson encouraged the Board to reflect with intention on goals for contract renewal that genuinely reflect the program OOCS is running. Ms. Anderson encouraged the Board and staff to reflect upon student engagement goals that reflect support OOCS offers students so that they are prepared for learning. Deadline for contract revision April 15, 2026 (does not need Board approval). Contract must be approved by June meeting or earlier, new contract must be in place by July 01, 2026.

\*Kristin Lindenmuth joined at 4:54pm.

**6.3 OW Site Visit Feedback:** Discussion of the most recent site visit by Beth Ann Peck, OOCS's OW representative. Discussion of classroom management strategies. Discussion of Lesson Planning and Instruction. Discussion of Teacher Professional Development specifically in training, monitoring teacher growth, and teacher evaluation process. Discussion of Responsive Classroom training for all staff. Discussion that OOCS is compliant in special education. Discussion of academic data reports.

**7.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Dickenson moved to approve minutes from December 17, 2025 Board Meeting.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)

**8.0 Discussion of Business and Finance:**

**8.1 Finance Committee Recommendations:** Cash status staying even. Discussion of budget revisions in upcoming months. Discussion that the Finance Committee meets immediately prior to the Board meeting to do a detailed review of financial reports (including but not limited to: Reconciliation Worksheet Report, Outstanding Payments, Trial Balance Summary Report, Payment Report, Receipt Listing Report, Journal Entry Listing Report, Cash Flow Projection Report, and YTD Budget to Actuals) and will provide recommendations and/or highlights for discussion at the Board meeting. Treasurer will also offer a summary of the Finance Committee meeting at the Board Meeting. Treasurer reported a healthy

fund balance, revenues covering expenses, and discussion of food program expenses.

**8.2-8.3 Mr. Morrin moved to approve December 2025 and January 2026 Financial Reports.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)

**8.4 Ms. Gatzke moved to approve Agreement for Ojibwe Language Instruction.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)

\*Ms. Armstrong left the meeting after this discussion. Time not noted.

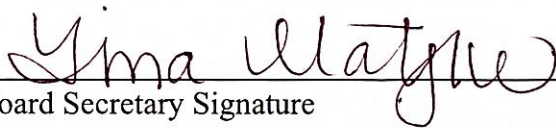
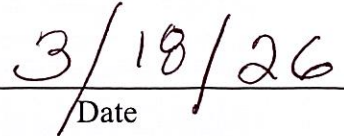
**8.5 Ms. Dickenson moved to approve proposed Lease Agreement with RTC.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)

**9.1 Director's Report:** Discussion of milk purchasing, filling in as kitchen support, invoicing, staff development, meeting with Osprey Wilds. Enrollment at 18 students. Publishing Rabbit Snaring book, copies will be provided at next Board meeting. Book submitted for an award. Three rabbits caught during snaring, rabbits were processed during the school day. Discussion of local history unit Ms. James is working on and researching for Ojibwe Language and Culture instruction. Discussion of language revitalization.

**9.2 Assistant Director's Report:** Special Education caseload remains the same (5 students, will be 6 after an IEP meeting for a student determined to be eligible for special education services through their evaluation, one re-evaluation due in spring, possibly another evaluation for a student identified through the Child Find process. Professional Development included Safe and Strong Bodies curriculum training, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. Winter assessments completed for math and reading. On average there is three days per week where there is a staff member absent, impacting students access to services (including speech, OT, and special education instruction) as well as greatly impacts ability to complete necessary tasks and compliance deadlines. Due to this and ongoing student support needs (including students without IEPs) there is also a deficit of time for meaningful communication to families and the greater community (newsletters, social media posts, web updates, etc.). Critical items to address: Support for staff coverage during absences and planned time off and student support needs, systems for front door entry and phone answering so student learning is not repeatedly disrupted throughout the day, LETRS training, and greater trauma-informed practices approaches.

**9.3 EE Report:** The Board discussed how projects designed by OOCs Environmental Education, Coordinator, Jeana Van Dyne, are meeting goals for Exhibit H and what progress is currently being made towards Exhibit H goals. Students are making progress in the Environmental Awareness goal through journaling during Forest Fridays. Discussion of Phenology Board as part of meeting Indicator 2. Discussion of Indicator 3/ Attitude -a new goal that will be focused in spring. Discussion of Indicator 4/Skills-being met through learning about habitats. Discussion of Indicator 5/Action and the different projects aligned with this indicator including wabooz snaring and a book about moon phases. Discussion that students are going to Waaban at least twice per month.

- 9.4 IPP (Indian Policies and Procedures):** Discussion that a Parent Committee is needed. Director James is working on developing Parent Committee. Discussion that Director James used a waiver to meet requirement of voting on resolution.
- 10.0 Ms. Lindenmuth moved to Waive Requirement for Pledge of Allegiance.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin.
- 11.0 Consent Agenda: Ms. Gatzke moved to approve Consent Agenda.** Motion seconded by Ms. Dickenson. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)  
 Consent Agenda:
- 11.1 Acceptance and Administration of Gifts and Donation Policy
  - 11.2 E-Learning Policy
  - 11.3 Library Materials Policy
  - 11.4 Pledge of Allegiance Policy
  - 11.5 Records Retention Policy
  - 11.6 Student Bullying Prohibition Policy
  - 11.7 Student Discipline Policy
  - 11.8 Student Journalist Policy
- 12.0 Osprey Wilds Notice of Deficiency Status Update**
- 12.1 Ms. Dickenson moved to approve Revised Minutes for the 10/29/25 OOCS Board Meeting.** Motion seconded by Ms. Lindenmuth. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)
- 13.0 Board Training:** Reading and discussion of *Sounding Board: Meeting Minutes*. Discussion of OOCS meeting minutes. Discussion that OOCS meeting minutes are robust, and a reminder for language explicit in documentation of requirements.
- 14.0 Director Evaluation:** Discussion of Director Evaluation process.
- 15.0 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Dickenson at 6:38pm.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Ms. Lindenmuth, Mr. Morrin)

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OOCS Board Secretary Signature Date