



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 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

- 1.0 Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call of Board Members, Quorum Declaration:**
 - 1.1 Call to Order:** 4:39pm
 - 1.2 Board Members Present:** Agatha Armstrong, Joanne Czeswik, Tina Gatzke, John Morrin, Jeana Van Dyne, Patty Winchell-Dahl, ex-officio Cherie James
Board Members Absent: Tesha Dickenson (excused), Kristin Lindenmuth (excused)
Community Members Present: Pam Zahn (OOCs Business Manager), Peter James (OOCs Strategic Planning Consultant), Pat Hartman (Osprey Wilds Representative)
- 2.0 Reading of the Mission Statement by:** Patty Winchell-Dahl
- 3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** No conflicts declared.
- 4.0 Community Comment:** Discussion of positive Community feedback regarding Oshki Ogimaag student experiences at Sugar Bush, including a full school day at Sugar Bush Camp.
- 5.0 Ms. Czeswik moved to approve the agenda.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 6.0 Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to approve minutes from the March 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, with the addition of including on item 7.0, that Ms. Winchell-Dahl asked if proper policy and procedures were followed in the termination of Ms. Spry prior to making a motion to approve the termination, and that Director James responded affirmatively, adding that OOCs additionally sought advice of legal counsel in the matter.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 6.1 Discussion of Pat Hartman's Board Observation feedback from the 02/19/25 Board Meeting and why there was a "No" rating on item 0.2.2** *"Board reviews and discusses environmental education performance related to charter contract goals (Exhibit H)/ Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP). OW expects Boards will monitor progress toward its contractual environmental education goals at least four times/year."* February 19, 2015 Board minutes include, "Discussion of Environmental Education goal progress, 67% of journals entries have been completed to meet this EE goal, Ms. Van Dyne changed invasive species goal to involve only older grades. Ms. Van Dyne reports she consulted

with Addie, from Osprey Wilds about this, and it will be have to be amended to the Environmental Literacy Plan. Ms. Van Dyne reported that as the Environmental Education Coordinator, she continues to work with the whole school on the Phenology Board each month. Board members commented positively on goal progress, commented on past environmental learning projects, and inquired if they are still happening. Ms. Van Dyne reports that she needs to meet with the staff regarding OOCS's recycling goal and would like to spend more time discussing environmental education goals as a team. Board members inquired about recent Forest Friday projects that MS. Van Dyne leads as Environmental Education Coordinator."

It was reported that Director James and Assistant Director Gatzke did inquire to Representative Hartman why the Board received a "no" on this criteria despite having lengthy discussion regarding Environmental Education goals, and at the time Representative Hartman did not have his notes and was unable to respond.

Board inquired to Representative Hartman what more Osprey Wilds would be looking for. Representative Hartman responded that he would be looking for more than reporting on goal progress and activities, he would be looking for "meaningful discussion" and for the Board to ask questions. Representative Hartman responded he could not recall the specific meeting in question and could not speak to it directly.

- 7.0 Discussion of March Financial Reports:** Business Manager Pam Zahn presented March Financial Reports, discussing details of each report. Discussion of OOCS paying the cost Transportation Services Director's physical, as required to retain Bus Driver's license. Discussion that the cost was a small amount and having a reliable Transportation Services Director is crucial. Discussion that OOCS should continue to pay the cost of this annual physical. Question about line item "Board Meeting Dues and Memberships" and what that line item represents. Response that what has been coded to that line item is Board member meals, when there is Board Workshops/Strategic Planning following Board meetings. Discussion on where costs for several line items are at now and projections on end-of-year numbers. Discussion of kitchen repairs, costs, and building maintenance.

- 7.1 Approval of March Financial Reports. Mr. Morrin moved to approve March Financial Reports.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 7.2 Contingency and Future Planning Discussion.** Discussion of looking at innovative teaching models, ways to make improvements to offerings and organizational structure while reducing costs. Discussion of enrollment projections. Discussion of seeking out bids for several contracted services to reduce costs and improve upon services.
- 7.3 Approval of Proposed Contract for Strategic Planning Consultant, Peter James. Ms. Gatzke moved to approve the Strategic Planning Consultant contract with Peter James.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

- 8.0 Discussion of Osprey Wilds Contract Renewal Process, lead by Osprey Wilds Representative, Pat Hartman.** Discussion that renewal application is due 09/15/2025. Discussion from Pat Hartman that the renewal application will require a high degree of work. Discussion that in the fall (between September-November), two representatives will visit OOCS for a full-day renewal site visit. Representatives will want to speak with parents, Board members, and Special Education Director. By January, there will be a preliminary renewal evaluation sent to OOCS for review (tentative date 01/20/26), with an opportunity for feedback to be sent in (feedback is due two weeks after the preliminary renewal evaluation is received). Pat Hartman's team will present to the Osprey Wilds Charter School Committee with their recommendation. By March 19, the recommendation will be brought to the Osprey Wilds Board of Directors. Decision will be reported back to OOCS by the end of March. Results include a 3-year Probationary Contract (which is what OOCS currently has), a 5-year full contract (involving slightly less oversight), or in rare situations, non-renewal of contract.
- 9.0 Discussion of Staff Reports.**
- 9.1 Discussion of Director's Report.** Discussion of budget planning. Discussion of Sugar Bush and WTIP interview with Director James. Discussion of Step-Up Days and connections with Grand Portage Head Start. Discussion of application for Library Grant.
- 9.2 Discussion of EE Report and Staff Reports.** Discussion of classroom structures and duties, in future planning to ensure that the right individuals are in the right roles. Discussion of ensuring use of paraprofessional support to serve and support students with special needs and not relied upon for general classroom management. Discussion of students' rights to Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and supportive management of challenging student behaviors versus punitive discipline. Discussion of student attendance and strategies to increase daily attendance rates.
- Discussion of EE report.** Discussion of nature journals and journaling reflections on cultural activities. Discussion of ongoing Phenology Board. Discussion of recycling unit, Ms. Van Dyne provided each teacher a rubric for recycling unit. Discussion of Earth Day plans to do a Community clean-up, Ms. Tess Bailey will be joining and providing instruction on environmental stewardship. Discussion of Invasive Species unit. Discussion of older students presenting to younger students. Discussion reflecting on last year's student presentations to the younger group for their environmental education projects. Discussion of student leadership. Discussion of harvesting natural resources. Questions to EE Coordinator Van Dyne regarding if anything was surprising with the goals or if there any concerns about goal achievement by the end of the school year. Ms. Van Dyne reports that next year she'd like to change the season some goals are focused on, and communicated that if classroom stay on the same trajectory they've been on, all goals will be achieved by the end of the school year.
- 10.0 Approval of OOCS 2025-2026 School Year Calendar.** Discussion that OOCS is moving trimesters in the 2025-2026 school year. Discussion that much of the proposed

calendar matches with ISD 166, with some differences due to different schedules. **Ms. Armstrong moved to approve the OOCS 2025-2026 School Year Calendar.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

- 11.0 Approval of revised Prohibition of Malicious and Sadistic Conduct Policy.** **Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to approve revised Prohibition of Malicious and Sadistic Conduct Policy.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

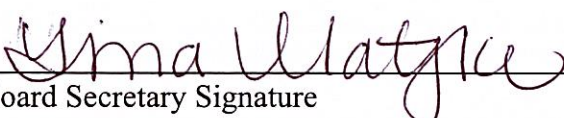
- 12.0 Open Meeting Law Notice Discussion.** Discussion of Board Observation feedback from Pat Hartman, from the December 18, 2024 meeting. Due to discussion that referenced an employee's job performance, in violation of Open Meeting Law, observed during that meeting, Osprey Wilds is extending the current intervention period. The OOCS Board must now demonstrate at least 12 consecutive months without any violation of Open Meeting Law, from the date of the December 18, 2024 meeting, which resets the intervention period.

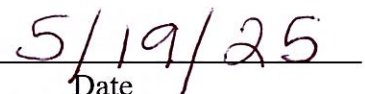
- 13.0 Approval of Director Job Description and Qualifications.** Discussion of adding "Minimum Qualifications," to the qualifications listed in the proposed Director Job Description. **Ms. Gatzke moved to approve the Director Job Description with Minimum Qualifications listed as discussed, including "4 year degree in a relevant field, Effective communication skills, Knowledge of Indigenous culture, Experience in an educational setting, and Leadership experience."** Motion seconded by Ms. Armstrong. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

- 13.1 Director Evaluation Discussion.** Discussion with Board members regarding prior protocol for evaluating Executive Director. Board members reported that the Board completed evaluation, staff completed evaluations, and a self-evaluation was included. Discussion of more administrative observations and feedback of classrooms in the next school year. Patty will get a copy of a sample evaluation form to share with the Board, further discussion will take place during the Board Workshop/Strategic Planning meeting.

- 13.2 Director Professional Development Plan Discussion.** Professional Development Plan will be developed based on data from the evaluation.

- 14.0 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Czeswik at 6:52pm.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).


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/>