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, September 17, 2025

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

- **1.1 Call to Order:** 4:37pm
- **1.2 Board Members Present:** Agatha Armstrong Tesha Dickenson, Tina Gatzke, John Morrin, Patty Winchell-Dahl, ex-officio Cherie James
  Board Members Absent: Joanne Czeswik, Kristin Lindenmuth
  Community Members Present: Pam Zahn (OOCS Business Manager), Peter James (OOCS Strategic Planning Consultant)

2.0 Reading of the Mission Statement by: Tesha Dickenson

3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest: No conflicts declared.

4.0 Community Comment: Students are happy getting off the school bus at the end of the day.

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

6.0 Ms. Armstrong moved to approve minutes from the August 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Ms Winchell-Dahl. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

7.0 Discussion of Business and Finance:

- **7.1 OW Budget Review Letter:** Business Manager Zahn provided narrative to explain the meaning of the letter. Items highlighted included SpEd expenses, more detailed descriptions of line items and formatting of finance reports.
- **7.2 Exhibit R Financial Template:** The Board reviewed the Financial Template provided by Osprey Wilds.
- **7.3 Finance Committee Recommendations:** Business Manager Zahn provided narrative regarding Finance Committee meeting. Finance Committee Recommendations include: keeping a close eye on food service budget and keeping a close eye on any spending outside what has been budgeted (overtime, purchases, hiring, etc.), as any spending outside the budget will require adjustments.
- **7.4 Finance Reports:** Business Manager Zahn presented August 2025 Finance Reports including bank reconciliations, outstanding payments, expense/payment

register, deposits, YTD budget and cash flow. Discussion if there is any Success for Future/Indian Education funding coming in. Discussion that this funding is disbursed based upon the prior year's numbers and OOCS will not receive funding this school year despite having been eligible, due to errors in reporting. Discussion that based on the current enrollment number of at least 20 American Indian students the 2025-2026 school year, OOCS will receive the funding next year. **Ms. Gatzke moved to approve August 2025 Finance Reports.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

7.5 **Ms. Armstrong moved to approve the New Hire of Megan Heikes (General Education Teacher), Emma James (SpEd Paraprofessional), Marideth Duhaime (Food Service Support), and Alyssa Spry (SpEd Paraprofessional Sub).** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

7.6 **Ms. Gatzke moved to approve the contract of Strategic Planning Consultant, Peter James.** Motion seconded by Ms. Winchell-Dahl. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

7.7 Discussion of reimbursement of monthly Arrowhead Transit Passes for full-time staff. Discussion of staff retention incentives and encouraging use of Arrowhead Transit as an environmentally sound choice. Discussion that monthly pass is $54.00. Discussion that either OOCS will purchase passes or reimburse for passes based on advice from EdVisions. Discussion that Tina will check with EdVisions on if OOCS should purchase passes directly or reimburse staff. **Ms. Armstrong moved to approve monthly Arrowhead passes as employee retention incentive for full-time employees.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

8.0 Discussion of Instructional Programming and Policy:

8.1 **Discussion of Director's Report**. Discussion that Director James has been working a great deal with Mr. Duhaime on food service, and serving both lunch and breakfast. Discussion that Renewal Application has been submitted to Osprey Wilds. Discussion that facility management has been time-consuming, specifically summer community use of building. Discussion of more connections with Grand Portage Head Start. Discussion of a positive Open House turnout. Discussion that the OOCS Board would like to see OOCS participate in WTIP radio doing School News.

8.2 **Discussion of Assistant Director's Report.** Discussion of SpEd caseload. Discussion of onboarding new staff. Discussion of developing schedules for SpEd services, and related service provides (Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy). Discussion of Literacy Lead work. Discussion of 1 student referred for

Special Education evaluation. Discussion of Teacher Board reports, and teachers providing on a scheduled basis.

8.3 Discussion of Environmental Learning Plan (ELP). Discussion of how weekly nature journaling works for students in kindergarten and special education. Discussion that EE Coordinator, Jeana Isaac used feedback from Board discussion when developing EE goals. **Ms. Gatzke moved to approve ELP.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

8.4 **Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to approve Enrollment and Lottery Policy.** Motion seconded by Ms. Armstrong. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

9.0 Board Training and Development:

9.1 Discussion of Exhibit S progress. Discussion that at the time the contract renewal application was turned in to OW all of Exhibit S had been addressed. Discussion and review of Board oversight.

9.2 Discussion of Osprey Wilds site visit on October 07, and site visit schedule to OW on September 22. Discussion that Patty and Tesha can be present to meet with OW, and that Business Manager Zahn and SpEd Director Zimmerman will meet remotely with OW.

10.0 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Gatzke at 6:13pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin.Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).

Board Workshop Training with Peter James, Strategic Planning Consultant, followed the regular Board meeting. Topic: Charter Contract Renewal Process: Board Roles and Responsibilities after the renewal application is submitted. Next steps moving forward: Supporting School Staff Part 2.

Ymailatzke 10/29/25

OOCS Board Secretary Signature Date