



**Oshki Ogimaag Community School
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 17, 2021

Time: 4:42 P.M.

Place: Oshki Ogimaag Community School Conference Area

Present: Carol Cleveland, Travis Novitsky (via Zoom), Erik Redix, Yastrienne Spry, and Patty Winchell-Dahl. Also present Carmen Keyport, Director; Jean Spry, Administrative Assistant (notetaker). Absent: John Morrin.

- 0.0 Yastrienne Spry expressed a concern that other cultures be represented in the curriculum given that some of our students come from multi-cultural backgrounds. Redix thought this was a good idea and said just because we live in a community of color doesn't mean that we are diverse and learning about different cultures helps students learn about diversity. Redix suggested that diversity should be a separate category from Ojibwe culture in teacher reports. The group agreed and the director will talk to the teachers about this change. Carol Cleveland inquired about smudging in school. The Director reported that there are no planned smudges and that it is up to the individual teachers or paras and that if students don't want to they know they don't have to. Cleveland suggested that maybe the students get more explanation about why we smudge.
- 1.0 Call meeting to order 4:42 P.M.
- 2.0 Reading of Mission Statement, Erik Redix.
- 3.0 Roll call with quorum present.
- 4.0 Motion by Yastrienne Spry, second by Carol Cleveland to approve agenda items, reports, and minutes from the February 17, 2021 meeting. The Director reported that the cameras are ordered and will be installed during spring break. Spry asked Redix how the first grade was doing in Ojibwe. Redix responded that their behavior is better and they have always been very good language learners and they have a lot of potential to learn advanced Ojibwe during their Oshki tenure: they just have issues this year with focus. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 5.0 Motion by Yastrienne Spry, second by Erik Redix to approve Financial Expenditures & Revenues for February. Chairwoman Winchell-Dahl pointed out that the expenditures are more than the revenues for February. The Director responded there are times throughout the year when we get large sums of money such as the impact aid. Right now, we are on track to be about \$20,000 short but we have several hundred dollars in assets that can offset that annual deficit this year and even if we ran a similar deficit for many years. Cleveland-aye; Novitsky-aye; Redix-aye; Spry-aye; motion carried 4-0.
- 6.0 Motion by Carol Cleveland, second by Yastrienne Spry to approve Revised Budget. Cleveland-aye; Novitsky-aye; Redix-aye; Spry-aye; motion carried 4-0.
- 7.0 Discuss email from Tesha Dickenson. The Director reported that Tesha Dickenson informed her via email that she would be unable to serve on the board. Chairwoman Winchell-Dahl expressed gratitude for the notice and that she should be encouraged to serve the school in the future when she is able. The board agreed to not have a special election to fill the seat as the bylaws of the board do not require more members but to instead fill the seat during the regular election in December.

- 8.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Carol Cleveland to approve automatic renewal of CD from North Shore Federal Credit Union. Cleveland-aye; Novitsky-aye; Redix-aye; Spry-aye; motion carried 4-0.
- 9.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Yastrienne Spry to accept resignation of Nancy Dumas effective March 19, 2021. The Director reported that earlier in the year Dumas told her she would not be back next year but then decided to not return after spring break but then decided to leave immediately. Redix expressed extreme frustration with Dumas: she had been acting very erratic in the weeks leading up to her departure: for example, changing plans with the Wolf Ridge instructor at the last minute without telling students or staff. Redix expressed a concern that the 4-6 classroom has had three teachers in three years and suggested the board invest in a candidate to recruit a quality candidate that will remain at the school. The Director reported that the Special Ed teacher will take over as the classroom teacher while still working with special ed students in K-3. The 4-6 para will take on more duties and both will get more pay. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 10.0 Review Osprey Wild February Observation findings. The major criticism was poor student attendance. The Director reported that reporting excessive student absences to Cook County creates issues with families and Grand Portage Human Services does not typically follow through. Redix suggested adding working with families that have students with attendance issues to the job description for the home school liaison position and that we share this information and our plan to rectify it with Osprey Wilds. Redix suggested an attendance policy that students get held back a grade for excessive absences. The Director agreed to research this. The Director reported she will send more letters home with deadlines. The other finding from Osprey Wilds was the role of “technology” in the mission. Redix stated it was his understanding that “technological world” referred to retaining Ojibwe culture in a modern world and that the schools mission did not emphasize technology and that we should eliminate “technological world” from the mission. Winchell-Dahl will talk to Osprey about this and add this to the agenda in April as an action item.
- 11.0 Update on Home School Liaison job description. The Director reported that Redix has helped with the job description based on Board input last month and that working with families of students with poor attendance will be added to job duties.
- 12.0 Update on Teacher Recruitment 2021-22. The Director reported that she interviewed a promising candidate for the 4-6 classroom teacher position and that an offer was made and that she is still waiting to hear back from the candidate.
- 13.0 Sharing MN Charter Schools Compensation Survey Report. Redix criticized the report for its broad ranges of salaries with little specific information about the unique job market due to labor shortages and high costs of housing in Cook County.
- 14.0 Board Training: tabled until next meeting. Winchell-Dahl will present Chapter 17 at the April meeting.
- 15.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Carol Cleveland to adjourn at 6:49 P.M. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.

Next meeting April 21, 2021 at 4:30 P.M.