



## Oshki Ogimaag Community School Regular Meeting Minutes

**Date: August 16, 2023**

**Time: 4:30 P.M.**

**Place: Oshki Ogimaag Community School Conference Area**

- 0.0 Public and Parent comments. Winchell-Dahl noticed that ISD 166 recently switched to FASTbridge test and that makes OPCS ahead of the game. Clearwater added that the teachers like it.
- 1.0 Call meeting to order 4:47 P.M.
- 2.0 Reading of Mission Statement, Jaye Clearwater.
- 3.0 Roll call with quorum present. Present: Jaye Clearwater, Daniel Deschampe, John Morrin, Travis Novitsky and Patty Winchell-Dahl. Also, present Joanne Ventura Csezwik; Carmen Keyport, Director; Yastrienne Spry, Administrative Assistant (notetaker). Absent: Steven StandingCloud.
- 4.0 Motion by Morrin, second by Novitsky to approve agenda and declaration of conflict of interest. Winchell-Dahl inquired whether this is the same as the declaration from Miller McDonald. The Director explained. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 5.0 Motion by Novitsky, second by Deschampe to approve minutes. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 6.0 Discussion on Director's Report. Winchell-Dahl inquired about the audit; the Director explained that it's ongoing until December 31st. She also inquired about the impact aid monitor review; the Director explained, mentioned a change in procedure for this period's review (BIA Realty Specialist signature required instead of Grand Portage Roads and Realty Manager). Winchell-Dahl wondered whether a waiver could be obtained which the Director explained that it is to replace IPP (Indian Policy and Procedure) not the signature required.
- 7.0 Motion by Novitsky, second by Morrin to approve Joanne Ventura Csezwik as a board member. Csezwik introduced herself. Winchell-Dahl felt that Csezwik would be a great addition to the board. Novitsky brought up the part-time residency factor to other members to discuss. He felt that for him personally it was not an issue. Deschampe inquired about the minimum amount of board members required and expressed concern that Csezwik doesn't quite meet the criteria as a community member. Deschampe stated that a board member should be a community member and that he had never seen Csezwik in the community before. He also felt that the board met the required minimum number of members. Winchell-Dahl acknowledges Deschampe's concern; asked members would they like to table the voting. After a long pause Clearwater suggested that we should move to vote. Aye 3, Nay 1 (Deschampe) - Motion carried 3-1.
- 8.0 Motion by Clearwater, second by Novitsky to approve Financial Expenditure and Revenues for June, July. Winchell-Dahl inquired about Zip Recruiter, school sign, Capernaum Pediatric Therapy, how often we pay cmERDC; the Director explained. Morrin inquired about housing charges for some employees; the Director explained. Winchell-Dahl informed the board that she and Clearwater completed the signature cards at the bank. Winchell-Dahl inquired about the school bus readiness; the Director answered. Csezwik-aye; Clearwater-aye; Deschampe-aye; Morrin-aye; Novitsky-aye; All in favor – motion carried 5-0.
- 9.0 Motion by Clearwater, second by Csezwik to approve hiring Raina Ryden (kindergarten teacher). Winchell-Dahl expressed her excitement about this hire; inquired about Ryden's license status, whether she'd be able to start while it's pending; the Director answered. Deschampe inquired about the number of students enrolled in each

grade; the Director answered. Csezwik inquired whether we'd get new student enrollees during the open house; the Director answered. Winchell-Dahl suggested for the school to remind parents to keep school supply receipts for tax reimbursement; the Director mentioned that a flyer about it was mailed out with other paperwork. After the board motioned, Deschampe strongly expressed his disappointment that the school didn't attempt to bring at least 5<sup>th</sup> grade back to fulfill its mission statement while having more teachers and more help; that it's not even discussed with the new teacher hire (Raina Ryden) at all; Winchell-Dahl explained that after listening to recommendations from teachers, the Board decided that it is in students' best interest to have a separate Kindergarten class and combine 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> grades and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> grades. The Board also weighed in how commonplace it is for parents to transfer their children to town school(s) early (before 6<sup>th</sup> grade). Deschampe stated that the mission statement should be changed to better represent the current situation; Winchell-Dahl explained that it was discussed with Osprey Wilds and Erin Anderson recommended to leave it the way it is because things might change in the future. Deschampe wanted the school to work towards fulfilling its mission statement (bringing 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade back). Clearwater highly doubted that the students that will be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade next year would stay here even when 5<sup>th</sup> grade is added. Csezwik mentioned that some students in charter schools in St Paul go to the public schools to get some of the resources. She wondered whether it's a possibility for our students; the Director answered only when parents provide transportation because the school doesn't. Clearwater like Deschampe's idea for the future, that the Board can discuss later on, thinks that the current grade structure is best for students education and socially; explained that it is really important to have a standalone kindergarten, that 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade mesh really well together and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade don't really match; stated that there is a big difference among 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades (to be combined together). Csezwik asked how the school add the extracurricular activities, the band, the sports; Clearwater responded that the board would have to think about later. Csezwik inquired about when teachers get a break; the Director answered. Winchell-Dahl chimed in that sometimes the teachers don't get prep time when the school is short staffed; mentioned that there's no substitute teachers nor a janitor. Deschampe asked why the janitor position is not posted; the Director explained that it is not currently posted that the school has a janitor on and off, but it was tough with Covid due to constant cleaning throughout the day, that the position could be posted again. Csezwik inquired about who handles the heating system, who handles security (who open and close the school), whether the community center's janitor might be able to clean the school; the Director answered. Novitsky commented that if agreed, the board could vote on changing the mission statement at the next meeting, suggesting for the school to keep looking for a 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher while acknowledging that Covid made it hard to find and hire people. He felt that it's important for the upper grades' students to stay at Oshki, provided his personal experience as an example. Csezwik thought that it'd be nice to bring some community resources back to the school; Spry commented that the school is always on the lookout for them and got volunteers; Winchell-Dahl gave some examples. Csezwik asked whether the kindergarten teacher can do some extra science materials; the Director answered that she and one of the paras both have science backgrounds. She inquired about whether the kindergarten students went to preschool; Clearwater answered. Winchell-Dahl thought that this year's program looked promising and good but didn't need to rule out having 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She recommended the board to look at the numbers, discuss and make plans for the future. All in favor – motion carried 5-0.

- 10.0 Approve hire Marideth Duhaime (part time paraprofessional). The Director explained that the candidate declined the offer. Winchell-Dahl mentioned that she might want to volunteer instead. Spry chimed in that she could be persuaded to join the board. No voting took place.
- 11.0 Motion by Novitsky, second by Clearwater to approve EDIAM board resolution for IOWA. The Director explained the resolution to the Board. All in favor – motion carried 5-0.
- 12.0 Discussion on Strategic Plan. Winchell-Dahl mentioned the importance of having a person to guide through the process, that we should reach out to a few people. Csezwik inquired what it is for and whose requiring it; the Director answered. Spry mentioned that the school has a strategic plan, but it's outdated; Winchell-Dahl added that it should be updated every 3 to 5 years or 10 years the longest. Winchell-Dahl inquired about water safety instructor; the Director explained.
- 13.0 Motion by Novitsky, second by Morrin to adjourn at 6:09 P.M. All in favor – motion carried 5-0.

Next me September 20, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.