



## Oshki Ogimaag Community School Regular Meeting Minutes

**Date: February 21, 2024**

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

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

- 0.0 Public and Parent comments. Winchell-Dahl shared her experience attending Doris Blank's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on Sunday. Grade 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> wrote her a card, Clearwater also in attendance. Spry requested a representative of OPCS to attend LIEC meetings. There were questions being asked about OPCS in their meetings (there are around 46 elementary school children in the community, why they aren't enrolled in OPCS?), there is a perception that OPCS students are two years/two grades behind students at Sawtooth Elementary. The Director informed that a teacher used to be a member of LIEC. StandingCloud volunteers to attend the meetings.
- 1.0 Call meeting to order 4:47 P.M.
- 2.0 Reading of Mission Statement, John Morrin.
- 3.0 Roll call with quorum present.  
Present: Agatha Armstrong, Jaye Clearwater, Jasmine Coatie, Joanne Ventura Czeswik (via Zoom), Krysten Flett, John Morrin, Patty Winchell-Dahl, Steven StandingCloud. Also present Carmen Keyport, Director; Yastrienne Spry, Administrative Assistant (notetaker); Tina Gatzke, special ed teacher; Raina Ryden, kindergarten teacher; Peter James, consultant (arrived at 4:52).  
Absent: None.
- 4.0 No conflict of interest is declared.
- 5.0 Motion by Flett, second by Armstrong to approve agenda. StandingCloud would like to add separating director and business manager positions to the meeting agenda. All in favor – motion carried 7-0  
Motion by StandingCloud, second by Morrin to approve the addition of separating director and business manager positions to the agenda. It is added as no 15. All in favor – motion carried 7-0
- 6.0 Motion by Armstrong, second by Morrin to approve January 2024 minutes. Armstrong inquired about the answers to her emailed questions (about enrollment). She didn't see those answers specified in the minutes. Winchell-Dahl answered that they discussed it under enrollment and during the strategic planning. All in favor – motion carried 7-0.
- 7.0 Discussion on director and teacher reports, EE goals. The Director pointed out where they're located in the teachers' reports. Winchell-Dahl would like to have a printed copy of the goals for the discussion. She asked about sugarbush for this year; the Director answered with details. She suggested reaching out to parents and board members if extra help is needed. Winchell-Dahl mentioned that in the past (usually towards the end) the school invited the elders to come up and spend time with the students; the Director answered that that is part of the plan.
- 8.0 Motion by StandingCloud, second by Clearwater to approve financial expenditures & revenues for January 2024. Winchell-Dahl inquired about drumming with Gene; Clearwater answered that it's been going well. Armstrong inquired about hiring a custodian; the Director answered that the position is posted on the website, but nobody has applied yet. Armstrong suggested posting on other places. Spry mentioned Coatie's suggestion to post job

openings with RTC (Reservation Tribal Council); the Director will reach out to RTC. Ryden asked whether Kat Sherer & Jodi Hyrkas get paid for cleaning after hours; the Director answered that they do. Winchell-Dahl wondered whether they would approve of the school hiring a custodian and losing the extra income; the Director hasn't talked to them about it. Morrin inquired about where most of the Impact Aid fund goes; the Director answered that it goes toward the salaries. Winchell-Dahl wondered about the work hours of a custodian. The Board discussed custodian hours, tasks, possible candidates and asking the community center for some help. StandingCloud inquired about 371% increase in purchased services; the Director answered that it's the grand funding from Friends of the Library and the purchase of IXL. It was budgeted in the spring without the knowledge of a grant that's upcoming. Armstrong-aye, Clearwater-aye, Coatie-aye, Czeswik-aye, Flett-aye, Morrin-aye, StandingCloud-aye; All in favor – motion carried 7-0.

- 9.0 Motion by Morrin, second by StandingCloud to approve updated budget. Armstrong-aye, Clearwater-aye, Coatie-aye, Czeswik-aye, Flett-aye, Morrin-aye, StandingCloud-aye; All in favor – motion carried 7-0.
- 10.0 Motion by Clearwater, second by StandingCloud to approve financial audit 2022-23. Armstrong-aye, Clearwater-aye, Coatie-aye, Czeswik-aye, Flett-aye, Morrin-aye, StandingCloud-aye; All in favor – motion carried 7-0.
- 11.0 Motion by Morrin, second by Coatie to approve the Form 990 2022 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. Armstrong-aye, Clearwater-aye, Coatie-aye, Czeswik-aye, Flett-aye, Morrin-aye, StandingCloud-aye; All in favor – motion carried 7-0.
- 12.0 Motion by Coatie, second by to approve Flett to approve change in by-laws. Morrin shared that he has never seen meeting notifications posted at the store. He would like them to be posted there. Other board members agreed. All in favor – motion carried 7-0.
- 13.0 Discussion on feedback from Osprey Wilds on January meeting. The Board discussed restarting monthly charter school book training with the first chapter. Winchell-Dahl suggested bringing in trainers with different expertise every few months. Morrin will cover the first chapter in the next monthly meeting.
- 14.0 Discussion on update on staffing/student enrollment. The Director shared that she received two resumes for the kindergarten teacher position. Winchell-Dahl would like to discuss these candidates in the next meeting. Armstrong urged the board and the Director to speed up the hiring process to not lose the candidates and asked the Director to forward the resumes. Winchell-Dahl mentioned that she prefers not to be hasty and gave examples of past teachers and employees who left after a brief employment. Morrin inquired about why those teachers and employees left; Winchell-Dahl answered that it's for various reasons. Winchell-Dahl urged board members to reach out to people they know who might be interested in the open positions. Fleet added that a bus driver might be needed as well. Winchell-Dahl thought that bus driving and janitorial position can be combined like in the past. Armstrong inquired about enrollment; the Director answered that there are 19 students currently enrolled. The Director is working with Raina Ryden to set up Step Up Day with Head Start students for the next school year. The school will welcome Head Start students for reading buddies starting March 6<sup>th</sup>. Morrin inquired whether school funding is based on enrollment and with the drop of enrollment means less funding; the Director confirmed. Czeswik suggested advertising job openings with an electronic board/sign in front of the school. Winchell-Dahl would like to see the school advertising the activities more on various mediums (Facebook, school's site, radio, newspaper). Coatie would like the board to address grievances from staff and teachers. StandingCloud brought up concerns regarding school leadership. Winchell-Dahl suggested discussing these issues during the strategic planning session (after the meeting). Other board members would like this to be discussed during the meeting and be switched into an action item. Flett felt the importance of advocating as a parent to address the toxic work environment around teachers for the benefit of the students. StandingCloud emphasized the importance of deciding on this issue for the school's survival (we might not have a school next year).

Morrin supported the discussion and voting to separate the Director and Business Manager positions. He shared some history: Carmen Keyport started working for the school in 2011, the previous Director left in 2015 and the position was open for about 18 months. Keyport was hired as a director while still performing the duties of a business manager. Morrin opined that the arrangement hasn't been working. Peter James broke down the issues being brought up as a longer term one (whether the school would survive into the next year, administration structure) and immediate personnel issue which can both be addressed tonight but only the personnel issue can be addressed in the board meeting (closed meeting). He also explained that the board can excuse members from the closed meeting who are part of the conversation. Carmen Keyport and Jaye Clearwater were excused from the closed meeting.

Closed meeting 6:19 Motion by Morrin, second by Coatie.

Meeting reopened 8:40 Motion by ?, second by ?

Joanne Ventura Czeswik left the meeting at 8:10PM.

Winchell-Dahl delivered the summary of the closed meeting. The Board reviewed the allegations in the community about Jaye Clearwater's teaching style. Clearwater is suspended effective immediately and no longer a voting board member. A special meeting on 2/27/2024 is scheduled. Winchell-Dahl would like the information about this meeting to be posted on the bulletin board, the school's website.

Winchell-Dahl stated that the other item on the agenda is a discussion on separating Director and Business Manager positions which was tabled in this meeting. The continuation of the strategic planning discussion will need to be discussed with Peter James. She'd like to know whether Peter James would be available for the Special Meeting next week. James recommended meeting up before the special meeting to figure out the framework withing which we will decide about administrative structure. A meeting via Zoom is set up for 2/26/2024 at 12:30PM.

Clearwater would like an elaboration on what people find upsetting about her teaching style. Winchell-Dahl asked Clearwater to give the Board a chance to investigate the allegations.

15.0 Separating Director and Business Manager Positions. Tabled.

16.0 Motion by Armstrong, second by StandingCloud to adjourn at 8:51 P.M. All in favor – motion carried 6-0. Next regular meeting is March 20, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.