



**Oshki Ogimaag Community School
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 17, 2021

Time: 4:38 P.M.

Place: Oshki Ogimaag Community School Conference Area

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

- 0.0 Travis Novitsky relayed a concern from a parent who wished to remain anonymous. The parent requested contact information be put on the website for the parent committee. The Director noted that we would need the consent of the parent committee for that information to be posted. Redix said that the phone number should not be posted. Novitsky said that email might be better and the group agreed. Redix agreed to bring this up with the Parent Committee. Novitsky relayed that the parent also would like to see greater communication when a student's grade drops. Winchell-Dahl brought up the possibility of robocalls to communicate conferences and other important academic dates. Redix said as a parent of a Cook County Schools student (where they frequently use robocalls) that robocalls are very jarring to parents: parents can think their student has been injured or in trouble and when you find out this is not the case, they are viewed as a nuisance. Winchell-Dahl also raised the possibility of written notices sent home with students in backpacks. The Director pointed out that often parents don't review written notices. Novitsky pointed out that students may throw out the notices if they think they are in trouble. Redix brought up the possibility of more Facebook communication, arguing that most families on the Reservation spend a great deal of time on Facebook. The group agreed.
- 1.0 Call meeting to order 4:38 P.M.
- 2.0 Reading of Mission Statement, Yastrienne Spry.
- 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 January 20, 2021 meeting. The Director pointed out that in her report the 4-6 grade teacher notified her that she would be leaving at the end of the year. The Director noted that she has received a resume for a qualified applicant that is licensed in Minnesota. She will set up a Zoom interview shortly. Redix pointed out that in the Director's report a staff member had a theft and suggested getting an estimate from Grand Portage IT for cameras. Winchell-Dahl suggested drafting a letter to the RTC requesting action on the estimate. The Director agreed to draft a letter and Winchell-Dahl agreed to review it. Winchell-Dahl cited one of 4-5 teacher report "cultural" section and argued that in keeping with the mission of the school, the section should be Anishinaabe culture. The Director agreed to relay to the teacher the Board's concerns. Winchell-Dahl also noted that there was no Professional Development section for the K-1 Teacher. The Director agreed to discuss this with the teacher. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 5.0 Oath of Office for Tesha Dickenson, new board member. Tesha was absent: she informed the Director prior to the meeting that she had to work. Oath of Office will occur at the next meeting.

- 6.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Travis Novitsky to approve Financial Expenditures & Revenues for January. Cleveland-aye; Novitsky-aye; Redix-aye; Spry-aye; motion carried 4-0.
- 7.0 Motion by Yastrienne Spry, second by Carol Cleveland to approve Financial Audit. Cleveland-aye; Novitsky-aye; Redix-aye; Spry-aye; motion carried 4-0.
- 8.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Yastrienne Spry to approve Federal Tax Form 990. Cleveland-aye; Novitsky-aye; Redix-aye; Spry-aye; motion carried 4-0.
- 9.0 Motion by Yastrienne Spry, second by Carol Cleveland to accept Vote of Concurrence from the Parent Committee. Redix reported (as interim Parent Committee Advisor) that the Parent Committee voted last Thursday. Spry reported that the Parent Committee is planning an Indian Taco sale for a fundraiser for the week of Spring Break and that they plan to use this money to help pay for a yearbook. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 10.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Travis Novitsky to approve revised Annual Report World’s Best Workforce by authorizer (Osprey Wilds). The Director pointed out to the board the revised section based on the authorizer’s suggestions about ensuring that teachers are trained with the age group and subject matter they are actually teaching and that there are teachers with advanced degrees. Redix pointed out that in the year of the report that 3 of the 5 licensed teachers were Native American, which is good given the limited labor market of Cook County and the shortage of Native teachers in most tribal schools. The Director agreed to add this detail to the section, as another suggestion by the authorizer is that a minority students body should be taught by minority teachers. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.
- 11.0 Discussion of Home School Liaison job description. The Director reported that the Home School Liaison will begin in the 2021-22 school year. Winchell-Dahl suggested familiarity with the Grand Portage community would be a good skill for the position. Redix suggested that part of the job duties should be subbing as a para as needed. The Director noted the need for a place for students to go when they need a break from the classroom. Winchell-Dahl noted the need for the position to work as an intermediary between teachers and parents. Redix volunteered to incorporate the suggestions into the job description. Redix also reported the results of his research on the website. Yahoo is our current web host and they are not allowing changes after March 30. Redix stated that our current website is difficult to maintain and has a dated look. Redix pointed out that a more updated website may help with potential donors to the school. Also, there is no video capability. We currently pay \$12.95 per month but receive no technical support and are not provided a mobile friendly page. Redix solicited quotes from three web hosts utilized by local educators: School WebMasters (used by Birch Grove), Apptegy (used by Cook County Schools), and Bicycle Theory (used by the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools). The initial costs to update our site and move it to the new host was cheaper with Apptegy (\$1900) and School WebMasters (\$2490), but Bicycle Theory was substantially cheaper for the monthly fee (\$50/month). Redix reported that Apptegy provided services that worked for schools like Cook County that had more students and grades 7-12 that have extra curricular activities and need an app to provide notifications about games and other events. It was agreed to move forward with Bicycle Theory.
- 12.0 Board training: Chapter 16: *Book of Charter School Board* led by Erik Redix. Redix reported that the chapter dealt with toxic board members and abuse of power. One way the author saw to get around this was solid orientation for new board members, training, and policies. The author specifically mentioned adding a short one sentence policy that prohibits any one board member from giving a directive to a staff member or the executive. Redix thought this would be a good policy to adopt. According to the author, another way to avoid toxic board members is to recruit members who would be effective. Redix noted that we already do this. The author also argued that toxic members should not be confused with dissenters. The author argued that dissent is an important part of a healthy board. Winchell-Dahl agreed to present Chapter 17 at the March meeting.
- 13.0 Motion by Erik Redix, second by Yastrienne Spry to adjourn 6:49 P.M. All in favor – motion carried 4-0.