



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.

Special School Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

- 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:** Patty Winchell-Dahl, John Morrin, Agatha Armstrong, Joanne Czeswik, Jeana Van Dyne, Tina Gatzke
Board Members Absent: ex-officio Cherie James (excused)
Community Members Present: Pam Zahn (OOCs Business Manager), Fish Deschampe, Robert Haas, Peter James
- 2.0 **Reading of the Mission Statement by:** John Morrin
- 3.0 **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** No conflicts declared.
- 4.0 **Community Comment:** Discussion of Annual Meeting turnout.
- 5.0 **Ms. Gatzke moved to amend the agenda to add item 10.7 Strategic Planing Discussion.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
 - 5.1 **Approval of Agenda, Ms. Van Dyne moved to approve agenda with amendment item 10.7 added.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
- 6.0 **Safe Route to School Presentation by Robert Haas.** Discussion of Safe Route to School Plan and next steps, the next step will be creating blueprints after grant funding is secured. Mr. Deschampe expressed concern of lack of safe infrastructure for pedestrians, Mr. Haas expressed goals for safe walking and bike paths.
- 7.0 **Approval Meeting minutes from October 15, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Armstrong moved to approve minutes.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
 - 7.1 **Approval of Special Board Meeting minutes from October 23, 2024. Ms. Czeswik moved to approve minutes.** Motioned seconded by Ms. Van Dyne. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

- 8.0 Approval of Request for Impact Aid funds early. Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to approve Business Manager request of Impact Aid funds early.** Discussion of cash flow, and while currently OOCS is in good fiscal health, cash flow should be monitored closely. Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
- 8.1 Approval of October Financial Reports. Mr. Morrin moved to approve October Financial Reports.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
- 8.2 Approval of Revised Budget. Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to approve.** Motioned seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
- 8.3 Approval of Indian Policies and Procedures (IPP).** Discussion that there is need for parent committee members and perhaps. Discussion that OOCS Cultural Liaison could work on parent recruitment for parent committee. **Mr. Morrin moved to approve IPP.** Motion seconded by Ms. Van Dyne. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
- 8.4 Employee Health Insurance Discussion:** Discussion that OOCS is more fully staffed this year and staff have opted in on health benefits. Currently OOCS covers 100% of health and dental insurance premiums, discussion that in next year's budget OOCS may have to revisit covering 100% of health and dental premium costs due to the high costs. Discussion of looking into being part of a co-op to increase OOCS buying power for benefits and/or seeking bids.
- 8.5 School Lunches - free second servings.** Discussion that historically, OOCS has provided breakfast, lunch, and snack, including second servings at lunch, at no cost to families, including prior to Free Breakfast and Lunch being required for public schools in MN. Second servings are not reimbursable and are considered a "second meal." Discussion that second meals must be covered by OOCS's General Fund and tracked in meal counts. Providing seconds at lunch significantly increases food expenditures and during the MDE nutrition program site visit it was recommended OOCS not provide seconds or alternatively, offer seconds at a cost to families. Discussion from Board members that part of the values of OOCS since the founding of the school, has been to provide meals, including second servings to students at no cost to families. Discussion that the Board believes in providing second servings, but reiterated that portion sizes be in alignment with nutrition program guidelines and to encourage fruit and vegetables.

Discussion that the menu is more nutritious and food expenditures are \$1500 less this year than last year, despite increased student enrollment from last year and purchases of kitchen equipment. Board expressed appreciation of Stella Morrison,


Nutritional Services Director and Director James for their work in improving the school's nutrition program.

Ms. Van Dyne moved to continue providing second servings at meal times at no cost to families. Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).

- 9.0** Discussion of Reports from Director, Teachers, and Environmental Education goals. Discussion that 2nd grade appears to be thriving. Discussion of art and poetry studies in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. Discussion of the Indigenous artists included in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade art studies. Discussion on increased reading levels of students. Discussion of focus on handwriting in 2nd grade as an area of development for the class. Discussion of pros and cons of teaching cursive.
- 10.0 Benefits Policy.** Discussion of PTO policy, to be in compliance with MN Sick and Safe Time requirements. Discussion of front loading versus earned time per hours worked, and paying out versus carry-over. **Mr. Morrin moved to approve Benefits Policy.** Motion seconded by Ms. Winchell-Dahl. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).
- 10.1** Discussion of positive feedback from Osprey Wilds site visit. Discussion of support from Osprey Wilds, Board members inquired if OOCS feels well supported by Osprey Wilds. Staff responded that OOCS's representative from Osprey Wilds is very responsive. Discussion of the high number of trainings required of Board members and how demanding and burdensome this is for Board members in terms of time. Discussion of Star Tribune article series targeting charter school infrastructure, failing to highlight how charter schools are more highly regulated, have greater oversight, and have greater obligations to meet with their authorizers, that include greater requirements than residential schools for Board development and training, student academic performance, student attendance, policies and procedures, financial reporting and goals, teacher development and retention, and mission related goals, in order to stay open.
- 10.2** Reflection of Annual Meeting and discussion of planning meeting for next year. Discussion of moving Annual Meeting to end of school year celebration.
- 10.3** Discussion of Board Election results. Community Members elected to Board: Agatha Armstrong, Joanne Czeswik, John Morrin, Patty Winchell-Dahl. Teacher Board Members elected: Tina Gatzke, Jeana Van Dyne. Parent Board Members elected: Amy Deschampe, Tesha Dickenson, Kristin Lindenmuth. New Board members will be seated at the January Board meeting.
- 10.4** Discussion of Data Practices and Policy. Discussion that Board members should be using their Oshki Ogimaag email for all OOCS Board business. Discussion that Board emails should not be deleted. Discussion regarding data requests, and that even anonymous individuals may make data requests, and OOCS is required to respond.
- 10.5** Strategic Planning Discussion: Peter James communicated he will draft a document based on his work with the Board, in terms of the Strategic Plan,

including some main goals to revisit in the spring. Mr. James emphasized the importance of working with Director James and the staff for support, between January and March. January-March, Mr. James will focus his time with Director James and OOCS staff, and resume Strategic Planning with the Board in April 2025. Mr. James communicated Director James requested greater support. Mr. James will sub for Tina in 2nd grade two times per month in order to for her to have some time to work on other duties. Discussion of Board support with teacher recruitment.

- 11.0 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Gatzke at 7:47pm.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Winchell-Dahl, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Gatzke).


OOCS Board Secretary Signature

12/18/24
Date

Oshki Ogimaag Community School Board Meetings are open to all. Oshki Ogimaag Community School greatly values the voices and perspectives of the families and community we serve. The Board will provide up to 15 minutes at the start of each meeting for public comment. The Board Chair may reduce or extend this time period and/or establish time limits on speakers to facilitate OOCS Board business. OOCS is authorized by Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center:
<https://ospreywilds.org/charter-school-division/>