



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.

OOCS Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

- 1.0 Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call of Board Members, Quorum Declaration:**
 - 1.1 Call to Order:** 4:35pm
 - 1.2 Board Members Present:** Agatha Armstrong, Joanne Czeswik, Tesha Dickenson, Tina Gatzke, John Morrin, Jeana Van Dyne, Patty Winchell-Dahl, ex-officio Cherie James
Board Members Absent: n/a
Community Members Present: Pam Zahn (OOCS Business Manager), Pat Hartman (Osprey Wilds Representative), Jim Martin
- 2.0 Reading of the Mission Statement by:** Tesha Dickenson
- 3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** No conflicts declared.
- 4.0 Community Comment:** Discussion if school was closed the day prior due to weather, school was open.
- 5.0 Ms. Dickenson moved to amend the agenda to include a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 2(b) for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Board's authority.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously. (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
 - 5.1 Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to approve the amended agenda with the action item to move to closed session as Agenda Item 11.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 6.0 Mr. Morrin moved to approve minutes from January 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.** Motion seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 7.0 Discussion of January Financial Reports:**
 - 7.1 Approval of January Financial Reports.** Business Manager Pam Zahn presented Financial Reports, discussing details of each report. Discussion of early release of Impact Aid payment received. Discussion of American Indian Grant, Impact Aid, and Empty Bowls grant. Discussion of salary allocations. Discussion of background check costs and worker's compensation. Discussion of instructional expenses and aid allocations. Discussion of high costs of employee benefits. Discussion of projected dismantling the Department of Education and

- potential impacts to the school. **Mr. Morrin moved to approve January Financial Reports.** Motion seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 7.2 **Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to remove former Board Chair Patty Winchell-Dahl from OOCS bank accounts (including North Shore Federal Credit Union and Security State Bank).** Motioned seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 7.3 **Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to add Board Chairperson, Tesha Dickenson, as a signer on all OOCS bank accounts (including North Shore Federal Credit Union and Security State Bank).** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 7.4 **Ms. Gatzke moved to remove Carmen Keyport, Susan Leenerts, and Paula Lorenz as Authorized Representatives for OOCS ACH authorization and to add Linda Vincent, Sandy Fussy, and Pam Zahn as Authorized Representatives for OOCS ACH authorization.** Motion seconded by Ms. Winchell-Dahl. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 8.0 **Discussion of Annual Report.** Discussion of Board Training from FY24 and academic data reports. Discussion of data unavailable to current administration in regards to the FY24 school year. **Ms. Armstrong moved to approve the Annual Report.** Motion seconded by Ms. Van Dyne. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 9.0 **Board Development and Training: Discussion of MSBA Closed Meeting Chart.** Discussion included how and why to close a board meeting in compliance with Open Meeting Law. OOCS Legal Counsel provided guidance during discussion.
- 9.1 Discussion of Board Observation Feedback from Osprey Wilds, from the 12/18/24 Board meeting. Discussion of increased Board engagement and meaningful discussion regarding academic performance and student outcomes, and Environmental Education goal progress. Discussion of how the Board's request of information to be included in Board reports can support facilitation of this dialogue. Discussion of Open Meeting Law and that individual employee job performance can not be discussed during Open Meeting, and is not public data. Discussion that OOCS currently does not have any committees.
- 9.2 Discussion of Exhibit S: *Outstanding Obligations from the Previous Contract*, (contract with Osprey Wilds). Discussion that OOCS's current contract with Osprey Wilds goes through the 25-26 school year. Discussion of teacher evaluations and observations. Discussion of teachers observing classrooms in other schools, discussion that Ms. Van Dyne observed a 3rd and 4th grade

classroom at GES in the fall. Discussion that Ms. James and Ms. Gatzke have set a goal to observe at Endazhi-Nitaawiging Charter School in Red Lake and would like to make connections with the school as they serve a mission similar to OPCS. Board advised diligent documentation of professional development and staff evaluations to ensure accurate reporting to Osprey Wilds. Discussion of Parent/ Guardian and Student Surveys. Discussion of utilizing OPCS's Cultural Liaison to support survey completion and family engagement. Discussion of holding Community Listening Sessions for gathering feedback.

9.3 Discussion of FY25 School Year Authorizing Activities document provided by Osprey Wilds. Discussion of how items are submitted to Osprey Wilds and how submission in a timely manner has been a struggle this school year with many mitigating factors.

9.4 Discussion of Director Evaluation, setting qualifications, and Professional Development Plan. Discussion of updating Director Job Description as the Board establishes Director Qualifications. Discussion of utilizing consultant Peter James to support updating Director Job Description, establishing Director Qualifications, Director Evaluation and developing a Professional Development Plan. Discussion of developing a Policy Committee to do policy work over the summer. Discussion of clarification of roles, that administration are not "co-directors" but Director and Assistant Director, with the Assistant Director having significantly less work time allocated to administrative duties, different pay scales, the Assistant Director serves to support the Director and is under the supervision of the Director. Discussion that Ms. Winchell-Dahl and Mr. Morrin will work together to bring to the Board at the March meeting, Director Job Description, Qualifications and Evaluation ideas. Discussion that Peter James be looped in and support these processes.

9.5 Discussion of Osprey Wilds site visit March 12, 2025. Discussion that Mr. Morrin, Ms. Dickenson, and Ms. Winchell-Dahl will meet with Pat Hartman during his site visit.

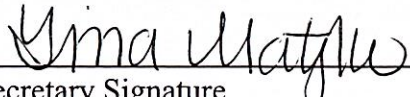
10.0 Discussion of Staff Reports.

10.1 Discussion of Director's Report. Discussion that Director James has been working on learning about grants and developing the Parent Committee. Discussion of connecting with Grand Portage Head Start. Discussion of Director James devoting a great deal of time to the Nutrition Program. Discussion of weighing the balance of the funding the Nutrition Program is able to provide and the time it requires. Discussion of developing graduation standards for Ojibwe Language.

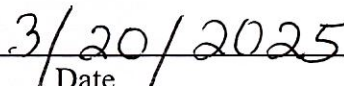
10.2 Discussion of Staff Reports. Discussion of consistent support need in the K-1 classroom. Discussion of the impressive amount of Professional Development that Ms. Van Dyne has been completing. Discussion of Academic Performance on Winter Testing for each grade level. Discussion of strategies to improving learning and academic outcomes for students, such as working to keep morning schedules consistent and planning activities for the afternoon whenever possible.

Discussion that Ms. Van Dyne has been conducting weekly formative assessments for her students and seeing continued growth and progress each week. Discussion of Environmental Education goal progress, 67% of journal entries have been completed to meet this EE goal, Ms. Van Dyne changed invasive species goal to involve only older grades. Ms. Van Dyne reports that she consulted with Addie, from Osprey Wilds about this, and it will have to be amended on the Environmental Literacy Plan. Ms. Van Dyne reported that as the Environmental Education Coordinator, she continues to work with the whole school on the Phenology Board each month. Board members commented positively on goal progress, commented on past environmental learning projects and inquired if they are still happening. Ms. Van Dyne reports that she needs to meet with the staff regarding OPCS's recycling goal and would like to spend more time discussing environmental education goals as a team. Board members inquired about recent Forest Friday projects that Ms. Van Dyne leads as Environmental Education Coordinator.

- 11.0 Ms. Dickenson moved to close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 2 (b) for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Board's authority at 7:01pm.** Motioned is seconded by Ms. Gatzke. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 12.0 Mr. Morrin moved to return to Open Session at 7:42pm.** Motioned Seconded by Ms. Czeswik. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 13.0 Chairperson Dickenson provided summary of closed session as:** The OPCS Board went into closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 2 (b) for preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Board's authority. In the closed session, the Board reviewed the allegations, discussed options for responding, and are now taking action on this resolution to request an investigation be conducted.
- 14.0 Ms. Winchell-Dahl moved to direct Martin Law Firm PLLC to conduct an investigation of the allegations discussed during closed session and provide a report in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act once the investigation is completed.** Motion seconded by Mr. Morrin. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).
- 15.0 Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Gatzke at 7:44pm.** Motion seconded by Ms. Van Dyne. Motion passed unanimously (Voting aye: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Czeswik, Ms. Dickenson, Ms. Gatzke, Mr. Morrin, Ms. Van Dyne, Ms. Winchell-Dahl).



OPCS Board Secretary Signature



Date