

# NAH TAH WAHSH, PSA

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

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**Present:** Vicki Dowd, Jackie Kang, Molly Meshigaud, Connee Sagataw, Marilyn Shawano, Geneva Wandahsega

**Absent:** Alicia DeCota (excused)

**Guest(s):** Dr. Matt Johnson-Reeves, Lacey Kinnart, Betty LaPointe (Zoom), Shianne Uskilith, Henry Philemon Jr., Melissa Ledford, Rebecca Spreitzer, Jesse Viau, Alissa Ingersoll, Cara Koster, Laura Bartel

**Location:** Youth Center Lobby

Jackie Kang, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

- **Mission Statement recited by members**
- **Agenda**
  - See handout.
  - Motion to approve agenda made by: Connee Sagataw
  - Seconded by: Marilyn Shawano
  - Motion carried: 5-0-0
- **Board Meeting Minutes**
  - Motion to approve April 8, 2021 meeting minutes made by: Vicki Dowd
  - Seconded by: Molly Meshigaud
  - Motion carried: 4-0-1 – Geneva Wandahsega abstains
- **Superintendent Update: COVID19**
  - See handout
  - Positive numbers are decreasing in Delta and Menominee County
  - Hospital capacity – not a whole lot of demand.
  - Pfizer will now be available for 12-15 year olds.
    - Matt will work with the HIC Health Clinic to possibly have a clinic here.
  - Had a student test positive in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade which caused the classroom to quarantine.
  - Had a staff member test positive which required no staff quarantines.
  - On Mondays, the school tests the student athletes.
    - So far, no students have tested positive.
  - Also on Mondays, staff that are not vaccinated are able to get tested as well.
  - Kids no longer required to wear the masks while outside on recess.
  - Per Tribal Chairperson, fully vaccinated staff members are able to resume work-related traveling.
  - Staff asking for field trips – would like Board input on that.
    - If they follow the mandates and protocols to stay safe, they are okay with that.
    - Focus on keeping classes together and not mixing as much as possible.
    - Matt will inform staff that the Board is okay with field trips.
  - Matt will bring a plan for the next school year's COVID plan to the board over the summer.
- **Old Business**
  - School Board NMU Training
    - See handout.

- Recap/Summary: Jackie Kang, Vicki Dowd, Connee Sagataw, and Molly Meshigaud attended.
  - Betty to talk to KC about the incentive prize for a quorum attending the training.
- Focus on what do communities want for their schools and children.
- During the retreat, KC Holder talked about 6 specific books.
  - Matt has those books on-site and available.
  - KC Holder will follow up in the near future.
  - Ask the board to check them out and Matt can order the ones they want.
- **New Business & Action Items**
  - BRH/NTW Collab Discussion
    - Matt reached out to Jason Lockwood and he was receptive to have the boards coming together and having a joint meeting.
    - Matt wants to meet/talk with Jason monthly to update each other.
    - Discussed possibility to have BRH students attend NTW for Potawatomi Language for a foreign language credit.
    - Discussed possibility to have NTW students attend BRH for Band class.
    - Discussed options of using one bus between the two schools to attend track meets.
    - Board would like Matt to discuss with Jason how they dropped the grade-passing requirement for their students to participate in sports.
  - Spring 2021 Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Review
    - See attached and see emailed full packet
    - Review for a month and bring back next month to approve/deny.
    - Many of the updates are compliance issues.
    - Will get hard copies to Vicki Dowd and Marilyn Shawano.
  - Graduation Class of 2021 Events
    - 8 graduates
    - Senior Banquet is tonight, Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at Hereford and Hops
    - Graduation is in 2 weeks at the Casino in the Conference Center.
    - Grad update from Lacey
      - Limited number of attendees due to COVID – casino’s capacity is 220. Our table set up allows us 196 but trying to fit more tables in there.
      - Masks are going to be required when not eating and when not sitting at table.
      - Food is plated and served – no buffet this year.
      - Graduates from other schools and retirees are not invited this year due to limited attendees.
  - Initial Planning for 2021-2022 School Year
    - See handout – proposed new positions
      - Behavior Intervention Specialist
        - Critical to offering a change in behavior as opposed to just a consequence.
        - Student-centered, individual plans for students.
        - Seeks person with Special Education and social worker background.
          - Would like the person to have specialized tools to help behaviors.

- Would allow the principal to focus on his job and focus more on discipline instead of discipline and behaviors.
- Discussion regarding drug exposed babies are now students, and everything related to that.
- Social Worker
  - Our school needs to have access every day. Currently the ISD supports us with a staff member one day a week. We have a high need.
  - Would like to utilize the check-in/check-out program to check in and out with students each day and go over goals.
- Music Teacher
  - We have a need and it is important to offer music to students
  - As more students get involved in music in elementary, the more it will grow the desire in high school.
  - Possibly to help the behavior issues decrease to have music as a focus.
  - Need to focus on cultural traditions including music.
  - Challenging to find qualified candidates.
- Discussion
  - Board discussion about what they want for the students:
    - Music, Home-Ec, Restaurant Management, and Tribal History.
- Social-Emotional Learning Itinerant Class
  - Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) – dedicated curriculum.
- Speech and Language Teacher
  - Currently serviced by the ISD 3-days a week.
  - Would like to have someone here every day to expand services.
  - Challenging to find qualified candidates.
  - Discussion to search Indian Country-wide to find qualified native candidates from Native Colleges and work to get them certified in Michigan.
    - Potential to get involved with Bay Mills Tribal College.
- Special Education Teacher
  - An additional special education teacher
  - Would allow the teachers to really focus on high-quality and individualized care with their caseloads.
  - Would allow teachers to have a smaller case load.
- Potential Grant Funded Positions:
  - Title I Teacher (additional)
  - Instructional Coach – Reading and/or Math
  - Renee and Matt are confident that the budget can support these new positions.
  - Would like to get these posted as soon as possible to start recruiting.
  - Motion to approve positions listed to post and hire made by: Marilyn Shawano
  - Seconded by: Geneva Wandahsega
  - Motion carried: 5-0-0
- Superintendent Evaluation – Discussion – Complete at June Special Meeting
  - See evaluation packet handed out.

- Review for a month and write down notes.
- We are wrapping up testing now, and will be able to bring the results next month.
- Will do at next month's board meeting.
- Start Supt Evaluation at 9:00 in a special meeting, followed by the NTW Meeting at 10:00.
  - New board members and officer elections to occur for that meeting.
- **Reconfirmation of Extended Learning Plan April 2020-21**
  - See handout
  - No changes from original plan.
  - 8 students attending via virtual format.
  - Public comment on the plan: Question about what grades are online. Majority of online students are seniors.
  - See two-way communication numbers in the report.
  - Motion to accept Extended Learning Plan for April 2021 made by: Vicki Dowd
  - Seconded by: Connee Sagataw
  - Motion carried: 5-0-0.
- **Other**
  - **Staff Resignation**
    - Lacey Kinnart announced she took position with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition in Minneapolis and will be leaving as the School Secretary in the next few weeks.
- **Public Comment**
  - Question about having community fun day:
    - Want to keep it somewhat restricted.
    - Work with the teaching staff to come up with a plan in order to follow COVID protocols.
- **Adjourn**
  - Motion to adjourn meeting: Connee Sagataw
  - Seconded by: Geneva Wandahsega
  - Motion carried: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Recorded & prepared by: Lacey Kinnart

Approved on: June 10, 2021

Victoria J. Dowd  
Signature

Board President

Board Secretary