

# NAH TAH WAHSH, PSA

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 , 2021

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**Present:** Jackie Kang (Chairperson), Alicia Bertrand (Vice Chairperson), Vicki Dowd (Secretary/Treasurer), Dustin Larson, Molly Meshigaud, Marilyn Shawano, Geneva “Magg” Wandahsega

**Absent:** None

**Guest(s):** Connee Sagataw, Shianne Uskilith, Matthew Johnson-Reeves, Seth Miller, Melissa Ledford (3:15pm), Betty LaPointe (via Zoom), Angela Wandahsega, Margie Gregoire, Constance Lightfoot, Carol Bergquist and Project Visions staff, Jesse Viau, Joe Hellberg, Laura Bartel

**Location:** School Conference Room

Jackie Kang, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

- **Mission Statement recited by members**
- **Agenda**
  - See handout.
  - Motion to approve agenda with the additions of Art Club, Christmas Bonus, Audit, and Bussing Inspection made by: Molly Meshigaud
  - Seconded by: Geneva “Magg” Wandahsega
  - Motion carried:
- **Board Meeting Minutes**
  - Motion to approve November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes made by: Alicia Bertrand
  - Seconded by: Vicki Dowd
  - Motion carried: 5-0-2 (Dustin and Molly Abstain due to November meeting absence.)
- **Superintendent Update: COVID19**
  - COVID Update:
    - See Handout – information included by DMHD meetings – per Matt. Meets bi-weekly.
    - 3 week report – 15 deaths in Delta County. 72 positive cases under 18. DMHD Priority has changed to those over 60 years old who are unvaccinated. LMAS Schoolcraft County had 89 confirmed positive.
    - Focusing on Nah Tah Wahsh PSA and Hannahville Indian School, 3 students tested positive since last meeting. Those cases were considered home exposure. 1 staff member tested positive. Pfizer vaccine approved for emergency use in children aged 5-11. A Vaccine clinic was held at school on November 30<sup>th</sup> for 5-11 year olds. 27 students participated. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Vaccine clinic for 5-11 year olds will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at the school.
    - The Community-wide Vaccine Clinic offering all three brands of vaccines will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Casino Bingo Hall.
    - HIC vaccine incentive program has been extended to March 31, 2022. This vaccine incentive also includes 5-11 year age group.
    - Board discussion regarding masking in school. Per Matt Reeves, there is no other school campus in our district continuing the mask policy. Board questions what those numbers are in other schools. Per Matt Reeves, Covid-19 mitigation efforts are not being done in any of our

neighboring schools, the numbers may be skewed. To the point of our own mitigation, our numbers are being reported. Families have responded to availability of vaccines and the ability to have all school-aged vaccinated within the community. The masking policy will be re-examined at the January meeting. Any recommendation in regards to masking policy change at the school will need to be brought to the Tribal Council – per Jesse Viau, Tribal Attorney.

- **Old Business:**

- Art Club – Presented by NTW Art Teacher, Constance Lightfoot. She wants to create the opportunity to offer a club for all, even for a drop in type endeavor. Students are interested in doing murals, and other projects, the Art Club would like to bring people in from the community to teach traditional Native American crafting. The students are very excited to get more involved in the art program. Because there is a 5pm bus, after school would work for 1 or more nights per week. Board thanks Constance for coming in and promoting the Art Club.

- **New Business & Action Items**

- Fall Policy Update – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. This has been proposed by Matt, and suggested we do a reading over the next month. January meeting will have a second reading and a motion to adopt the policies presented.
- Esser III Funding Allocation – This was spoken about at the November meeting. 25-30 responses surveys have been received. More information will come forward in January, for School Board approval.
- Christmas Bonus – We are asking that Nah Tah Wahsh be extended same bonus as the HIC side. This bonus has been \$50 in the past. Discussion regarding the differences in both sides of the school. Consensus is that NTW should receive matching bonuses as HIC. On 12/21/21 (Christmas Program day) Board members are going to help distribute November staff gift cards.
  - Motion to extend any and all future bonuses to match the Hannahville Community side made by: Geneva “Magg” Wandahsega
  - Seconded by: Marilyn Shawano
  - Motion Carried : 7-0-0

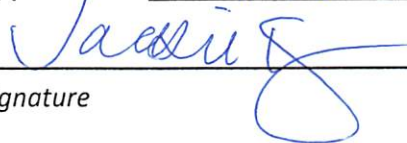
- **Informational Items:**

- NMU Monitoring Site Visit – 12/8/2-21 – site visit was completed, issues including fire exit maps and posters covering windows. These have been brought to the attention of school admin and issues will be remedied.
- NMU School Site/Facilities Review – 12/2/21 (Update) three NMU administrators came in to the building for a site review. Any findings have yet to be disclosed.
- NMU Charter School 3-year Extension (Update) this is normally a 5-year contract. The most recent contract was a 2-year with a 1-year extension. Matt is working with Seth to put together a 3-year contract extension and are in the hopes that Nah Wahsh will be granted that extension.
- Save the Date: NMU Board/Admin Retreat, Mount Pleasant, MI (4/24-4/25, 2022)
- Audit Update – Contracting with Midwest Professionals, Matt is concerned because our audits are past due (November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>). This is not the first time this is late – but this is due to staffing of the auditing firm. Auditor did not come on site until October, this should have happened in September. NMU is concerned with our lateness. We may need to look elsewhere, or get assurances in the future to meet these obligations, and re-explore that contract with Midwest Professionals.

- Bussing Inspections – Proudly, our school has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the Michigan State Police for School Bus Safety inspections. These are not easy inspections, so this is a very big award. Board would like to present the transportation department with a meal certificate.
- **Other**
  - Mr Hellberg, K-12 Music Teacher, has presented the board with an invitation for the Annual Christmas Concert. RK-5<sup>th</sup> grade will present a Christmas program beginning at approximately 1:30pm. Grade 6 and 7 have been fitted for instruments through Jim’s Music (Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone). 15 HS students have expressed interest in joining to play an instrument. It is the idea that we introduce the instruments in hopes that more will be interested in joining.
  - Betty LaPointe commented how wonderful it sounds to have the excitement about bussing and art club, the engagement in the different programs NTW is offering.
- **Public Comment**
  - The board praises the school and employees having so many that want to be involved in music and art. Also supporting the positives happening in the school by Carol Bergquist, Project Visions.
- **Adjourn**
  - Motion to adjourn meeting at 3:41pm by: Molly Meshigaud
  - Seconded by: Dustin Larson
  - Motion carried: 7-0-0

Recorded & prepared by: Angela Wandahsega

Approved on: 1-13-2022

  
Signature

Board President

Board Secretary