

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday February 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
Fond du Lac Ojibwe School

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Reading of Mission Statement & Vision
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
 - Regular Meeting January 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes
6. Review Ledger
7. New Business:

	RA	IPA	I
i. Student Council	X		
ii. Cloquet/FDLOS MSHSL Agreement	X		
iii. COGNIA School Accreditation			X
iv. 2024-2025 SY Calendar			X
v. Omit July 8, 2025 School Board Meeting	X		
vi. Nominations for Co-Chairperson	X		
vii. Board Member Intent to Resign			X
viii. Post for open board positions	X		
8. Old Business:

	RA	IPA	I
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9. Supervisor Reports:
 - i. Tara Dupuis, Superintendent
 - ii. Valerie Tanner, Principal
 - iii. Blake Ludemann, Education Grants and Accountability Manager
 - iv. Michelle Hamski, Interim Special Education Coordinator
 - v. Mace Fonoti, Kitchen
 - vi. Hailey Martin, Wellness Coordinator
 - vii. Ashley Jaakola, School-wide Activities Supervisor
 - viii. Cameron Thompson, Athletic Manager
 - ix. Dawn LaPrairie, Cultural Coordinator
 - x. Barbara Francis, FACE Coordinator
 - xi. Kathy Nelson, Transportation
10. Other
11. Adjourn

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Superintendent
School Board Report
February 6, 2025**

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OJIBWE SCHOOLS MOTTO

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"Work, study, strive, succeed"

Travel/Trainings:

- Working on the 2022 BIE audit with HR.
- IEFA meeting.
- AIPAC 2142.
- Language expanding Ojibwe.
- Budget formula meeting.
- Compliance Awareness Meeting.
- TNEC Meeting.

Accomplishments:

- Carlton School Board Meeting.
- LSPP Report completed.
- Leadership Meeting.
- Fond du Lac Annual Report turned in.

Challenges:

- Transportation for FACE Program.
- Expanding Ojibwe Language.
- The threshold for staff out of building.
- Athletics.
- Waiting for language grant funds.

Employee updates:

- Nicholas Hinchliff is our new elementary Sped staff.

Goals within Department:

- Special Education teachers needed.
- Licensed staff in area of licensure.

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
K-12 Principal
School Board Report
February 6, 2025

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Travel/Trainings:

- 1/16 -Ojibwe Language for staff.
- 1/31 – *Restorative Practices and Resilient Communication* for All-Staff.
- Teachers continue professional development in reading programs as required by the MN READ Act.

Student Activities:

- 1/15 – Senior class tours Black Bear Casino Resort and have lunch.
- 1/16 – Junior class tours Black Bear Casino Resort and have lunch.
- 1/21 – 3rd quarter begins.
- 1/23 – Quiz Bowl team participated in Cloquet High School Quiz Bowl.
- 1/24 – Bowling trip for students who helped with Elder's Diner.
- 1/31-Students attend the Rose Warner Reading Series at The College of St. Scholastica.
- Throughout the month students begin Northwestern Educational Assessment testing which measures student growth.

Challenges:

- Staffing in specific licensure areas.
- Canceled training (National Science Foundation), as well as meetings (USDA), due to the new administration's executive orders.

Employee Updates:

- New Hire-Nicholas Hinchliff (Special Education).

Other:

- Working with computer science (CS) grant in partnership with the University of Minnesota "K12 CS Pathways for Rural and Tribal Communities - for CS Champions".
- Continued work with USDA Cooperative Agreement - "Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Plan."
- Continued work with John Hopkins grant and their Native Visions Curriculum (health-based curriculum) development and implementation (3rd and 7th grade).
- Continual work with Mickelson Consulting on Restorative Practices.
- Continual work on READ Act requirements (i.e., training).
- Continual work with Cloquet High School for Career and Technical Education programming partnership.
- Planning for "*I Love to Read*" month in February.
- Working with BMH for student resources and programs.

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Grants and Accountability Manager
School Board Report
February 6, 2025**

Travel/Trainings:

- Various webinars, Microsoft Teams calls with BIE staff for assistance with their asset management software, Maximo, and meetings with Dan Anderson.

School Programs Accomplishments:

- FACE will receive two new Elkay water bottle filling units, one for each building, to replace their wasteful and expensive water jug delivery subscription. This will save the FACE program ~\$1200/year and improve our environmental impact.
- Working with Northern Door to repair our handicap buttons on several of the exterior doors. It was brought to my attention in recent months that these have not functioned in some time, so this will be a valuable and necessary improvement for any mobility impaired individuals in the school.

Facilities/Operations and Maintenance/Environmental Management System

Goals of the program: Protect the health and well-being of students, staff, and visitors to the school. Provide a clean and safe environment for learning and working.

Accomplishments:

- School HVAC system upgrade project contract development ongoing. Construction is planned for this summer.
- School playground project contract development will begin soon. We have experienced a delay in the additional supplemental funding we were awarded due to an issue with the grant amendments that fund our programs. A slight overpayment occurred which BIE will need reimbursed before further grant amendments can be processed. Accounting had not seen several emails from BIE grants management team regarding this issue which led to this delay.
- Preparation for our first Environmental Management Assessment Performance (EMAP) Audit since 2016. These are typically done every three years but were impacted by both COVID and the break between BIE and BIA. This will be our first baseline audit. It covers items like boiler inspections, emergency plans, a variety of other inspections, waste management systems, and chemical inventories to name a few. This audit will take place in early May.

Employee Updates:

- None

Challenges:

- None

Goals within Department:

- Continued development and management of school program grants.
- Continued development and management of facility improvement projects.
- Continue improvement with the day-to-day operations, management, and safety of the Ojibwe School.

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Interim Special Education Coordinator
School Board Report
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Travel/Trainings:

- Ongoing Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals participating in and completing the READ Act Trainings.
- Ongoing Special Education Staff completing Direct Step Trainings that cover topics in Special Education.
- Recurring meetings with BIE Special Education Specialist.

Accomplishments:

- Nick Hinchliff-Special Education Teacher started January 22nd!
- Updated and will begin Elementary/Middle School Special Education schedule.
- Minnesota Paraprofessional Recognition Week- January 20-24, 2025.
- Met with Health Pro about contracting for a school psychologist.

Student Updates:

- Total Students Receiving Service: 35
- 2 students transferred out and 1 student re-enrolled.
 - DD: 1
 - SLD: 18
 - EBD: 8
 - OHI: 2
 - S/L: 6
 - ISEP: 22/35

Employee Updates:

- Special Education Teacher started.
- One Paraprofessional resigned.

Challenges:

- Waiting to hear back on Unmet Needs Funding.
- Reviewing the budget.
- We need to update IEPs.
- Not having a psychologist to complete IQ testing.
- Getting positions posted filled.

Goals within Department:

- Better collaboration and communication between special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and classroom teachers to ensure that all the special education needs of each individual student are being met.
- Retain qualified special education teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Hire/Contract with psychologist.
- Being consistent and maintaining superior standards within the Special Education Team.

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Kitchen Supervisor
School Board Report
February 6, 2025**

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Accomplishments:

- In January, the Ojibwe School menu highlighted 6 days of local foods out of the 19 days of school. These foods are locally procured, culturally relevant, and / or Minnesota Harvest of the Month items.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Purchases washing machine, dryer, water/ice machine, mixers, microwaves, and smaller items have arrived at the Ojibwe School.
- On January 31st the Ojibwe School will host a Quiz Bowl Competition. Breakfast and lunch will be available, snacks will also be available all day to participants and guests who come to support provided by the Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Working with students to begin a mural project in the cafeteria.

Challenges:

- To find funding for cafeteria murals.
- To find funding for cafeteria remodel.
- Storage for equipment not utilized daily.
- Hiring on-call staff.

Goals within Department:

- To coordinate with partnerships to develop an opportunity for student artists to create a mural for the school cafeteria.
- To continue to maintain a smooth-running and effective School Nutrition Program and Summer Lunch Program.
- To continue to provide all meals within the MDE & USDA Guidelines.
- Continue to keep the cafeteria safe for students and staff to congregate within the E.O.C. Guidelines.
- To resource and incorporate more Indigenous and local foods into the FDLOS menu. To include and introduce meats locally raised and Indigenous to area like venison, moose, rabbit, fish, bison, and buffalo.
- To continue to network with all staff and available resources within and outside of the community to provide the best meal experience at the Ojibwe School.
- To add signage using technology in the cafeteria to inform students and staff about support programs, available resources, kitchen partnerships, menus, etc.
- Obtain more funding for kitchen staff training, equipment, and local foods.

**The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Wellness Coordinator
School Board Report
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Travel/Trainings:

- Working with our Restorative Practice consultants to schedule training for myself and the reset team.

Accomplishments:

- Collaborating with our School Linked Mental Health therapists regarding our students' needs.
- Working with our RP consultants to better understand my role as RP coordinator.
 - Scheduled weekly meetings with the RP consultants and our reset team to start developing our goals for the year.
- Communicating with Kathy to have the bus barn assist the school with rides to the clinic for student therapy.
- Met with Samantha Martin to see how we can improve staff wellness.
- I had a meeting with Brooke DeFoe, the Harm Reduction Registered Nurse at the clinic.
 - She will be presenting monthly to our 7-12 grade students on different topics.
 - Overall hygiene, female/male hygiene, dental hygiene, nutrition, etc.
- I met Valerie, Tara, Abigail Otis, and Tracy Grove regarding Families First and Truancy.

Challenges:

- Trying to fully understand where we are in every aspect of the Wellness Policy.
- Understanding the RP grant.
- Staffing shortages with our therapists.
 - We have sixteen students on our waitlist.

Other:

Goals within Department:

- Cut down the wording on the Wellness Policy so it is an easier read for others.
- Implement more activities to meet standards in the Wellness Policy.

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Schoolwide Community Activity Supervisor
School Board Report
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Accomplishments:

- Quarter 3 After-school Activities have a total of thirty-five students signed up.
- Added Boys' Drum to After-school Activities.
- The Gifted and Talented meetings with BIE representative occurred via Zoom. We are continuing to have progress GT meetings every other week.

Challenges:

- We need more staff to run activities for the younger grades (1st and 2nd).

Employee updates:

- After-school Activities: eight staff to run ten activities.
- Gifted and Talented Education: five staff to give services to GATE students.

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
FACE Program
School Board Report
February 6, 2025**

Travel/Trainings:

- Marella-Foundational Two Training for age 3–5-year-olds.
- Tasheanna-Foundational One training for birth-3-year-olds.
- Tasheanna and Barb are scheduled for Foundational Training within the next two months.
- No travel this month.

Accomplishments:

- Marella completed her Foundational Two training and is now able to service 3–5-year-olds.
- Tasheanna completed her Foundational One training for birth to 3-year-olds.
- A GED student in Adult Ed passed her history portion of the test. We are setting her up for science next.
- Ojibwe Immersion teacher updated her teaching license for Minnesota.
- FACE Audit gave us a rating of two which is right on schedule. We are meeting expectations with all the new guidelines.
- We are in the final stages of getting new FACE merchandise which includes a banner, tablecloths, posters to distribute within the community with a direct link back to our FACE program.
- Adult Ed has met the fifteen student expectations.

Challenges:

- Busing home for our preschool children.
- Absences due to illness this month.
- FACE vehicles need repairs, and we do not need three vehicles.

Employment Updates:

- None currently.

Goals within Department:

- Continue to recruit new families and get the word out.

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School
Transportation School Board Report
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Travel/Trainings:

- Vickie is still studying and working towards her school Bus indorsement.

Accomplishments:

- Our two new buses will arrive at United Truck at the end of February with delivery to Fond du Lac in March.
- All vehicles except one expedition have passed the DOT inspections for the year.

Challenges:

- We are still waiting for repairs to the one expedition that did not pass DOT inspections.
- We are still short drivers, and we have posted the position with HR.

Employee updates:

- None.

Goals within Department:

- We are looking forward to hiring drivers in the department and to restarting offering advanced driving skills that will equip our driver's knowledge, which will help keep our drivers and students safe.