

Bug O Nay Ge Shig School
Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 6th, 2022
4:30PM via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:37pm

2. Invocation

3. Roll Call

☒ **Anita Cloud/District I**
☒ **Rose Robinson/District I**
☐ **Ronald Burnette/District II** absent excused
☐ **Shirley Young/District II** absent excused
☒ **Ingrid Mesarina/District III**
☒ **John Johnson/District III**
☒ **Laurie Harper/District III**

4. John made a motion to approve the Special Agenda for April 6th, 2022. Anita seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-yes, 0-nay, 0-abstained.

5. New Business

A. Niigaane Discussion-Staff present: Camille Naslund, Maggie Goodwin, Aazhoobines, Waabano Anang

Dan: Niigaane has had consistent attendance, routines. Acknowledges the steadiness the staff has brought through an unsteady time.

Camille Naslund (0.5 Director/0.5 Teacher) reports current staff of 3 teachers and 1 elder. Niigaane team meetings conclude 5 positions they would like: Two additional teachers, Three paraprofessionals bringing the total to 9.

Niigaane elder won't likely be returning next Fall. She is willing to be a part-time consultant and provide on-site support.

Current enrollment: 20 total students, Grades 1-2: 9 Grades 3-6: 11

Niigaane daily routine: Meet in gym, go to breakfast, come back go to morning meeting, English language in morning grades 1-2. Others divided by ability for math, Ojibwe language reading in the morning, recess specials.

Camille is willing to share curriculum. Teaching students to read in Ojibwe language.

Heather first started as curriculum developer focusing on syllable work. Most are past that doing more difficult work. Other teachers that have worked with higher level students utilized different books, Portage Lake and other stories. Camille put worksheets together. Board discussed the need for material to stay at Niigaane and would like to see curriculum maintained on site.

Multi-age curriculum- One of the challenges, students vary in reading level. Camille will send samples of curriculum to Dan to share.

Mike S- Three grandkids in Niigaane, one in Duluth. Discussed materials they are using and the consortium to share materials with other schools.

Aazhoo Bines: Gimiwan, the director of the MIIN org will visit Mesaabikang. MIIN network will have access to their curriculum once they have permission to upload to the website. Possibly within the next month or so.

L.H: Old Hard Drive- Should be considered a priority as it includes founding documents.

Brian is in contact with a data recovery service in Bemidji. Data can be successfully transferred to another device. Need to purchase a device and provide to PB.

Discussion of new positions. More positions would require increase in enrollment numbers.

Discussion held on second language learners, assessment. Gimiwan will work with to develop a family assessment.

Immersion vs Bilingual discussed.

Aazhoobines shared resource Addalingua.com, currently offering language PD course starting June 20th. 5-week program. Summer, Fall and Winter session. Cost is \$1,000 per teacher. Recommends for staff. Includes 3 levels.

Level 1 – Foundations: Fundamental practices for dual language immersion educators

Level 2 – Applications: Student engagement strategies for dual language immersion classrooms

Level 3 – Extensions: Collective responsibility for dual language immersion programs

Need Ojibwe Language scope and sequence.

On hiring staff: Need to more than posting on website. Intentional recruiting including to former Niigaane students that are graduating, CLB, LLTC students.

Last three years classes have been grouped into 3. Beginning K-1, 2, Mid-group 2-3, high end 4-6th

This year we had lower group 1-2nd, higher group 3-6th. Next year, 2-3 will need to be moved to middle group. With 4-6th in the higher group. Accept new K, with 8-10 in K-1. Need 3 FT teachers.

Niigaane used to have 4 teachers, 3 teachers and Waase giizhig doing seasonal activities/science, and curriculum work. At one time, had a total of 36 students, 11.5 staff.

K turned away this year would be accepted as 1st grade next year.

How can the School Board support Niigaane?

Supporting additional positions, Someone to focus on seasonal activities, gym class instead of sending to English gym or team teaching with them, Former students could work with George. Seasonal Activities person could teach science with kids in Ojibwemowin.

Ojibwemowin assessment, Professional Development. Limit the time spent in English instruction.

Apprenticeship program. Utilizing and supporting Ningaabi'anook.

Increase classroom access to technology. Better WiFi

With the new group coming in Niigaane should go back to Ojibwe reading first.

Immersion projects often used as stepping stools. Need to retain teachers. Increase pay.

Discussion held on the possibility of moving Niigaane to the old cafeteria, other areas in the main building. Staff like their current spot. Could use more maintenance from O&M.

6. Rose made a motion to move into Executive Session. John seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-yes, 0-nay, 0-abstained.

7. John made a motion to Exit Executive Session at 7:35pm. Anita seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-yes, 0-nay, 0-abstained.

The next regularly scheduled Bugonaygeshig School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7th at 4:30pm on Zoom.

8. John made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:36pm. Anita seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4-yes, 0-nay, 0-abstained.