

**Fond du Lac Ojibwe School Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday January 9, 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 December 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes
6. Review Ledger
7. New Business:
 

|                            |    |     |   |
|----------------------------|----|-----|---|
|                            | RA | IPA | I |
| i. MN Student Survey-Vicki |    |     | X |
| ii.                        |    |     |   |
| iii.                       |    |     |   |
8. Old Business:
 

|                           |    |     |   |
|---------------------------|----|-----|---|
|                           | RA | IPA | I |
| i. Strategic Plan Updates |    |     | X |
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  
January 9, 2025

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**Travel/Trainings:**

- School Budget Formulations BIE training
- Strategic Planning FDL
- AIPAC 2142
- Language Committee
- South Ridge Earl meeting
- IEFA meeting
- ISD 2142 Tirbal Consultation South Ridge & Cherry only
- TNEC Meeting

**Accomplishments:**

- BIE Part Band C complete (early childhood)
- Biennial Report completed for BIE Child Find (early childhood)
- BIE TCS Program Review complete (workbook due Jan 8<sup>th</sup> HR)
- Government plates issued for all vehicles

**Challenges:**

- Transportation for FACE
- 1 special education teacher applicant
- Job postings still not posted
- Athletics
- Waiting for language grant

**Employee updates:**

- Maggie Defoe resigned
- Mary Barney resigned bus driver

**Goals within Department:**

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

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
School Board Report  
K-12 Principal  
January 2025

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**Travel/Trainings:**

- 12/5-7 – One staff attended Speech/Language/Hearing Convention in Seattle, WA
- 12/11 – Admin attended Strategic Implementation Planning meeting
- 12/12 – Ojibwe Language for staff
- 12/17 – One staff attended Safe Together: Empowering Peaceful Responses
- 12/19 – Staff attended Bureau of Indian Education Leadership meeting (virtual)
- Teachers continue professional development in reading programs as required by the MN READ Act

**Student Activities**

- 12/6 – High School Students serve at Elder Holiday party
- 12/12 – Elementary Music Concert
- 12/17 – Band students and Seniors to Premier Theaters Cloquet
- 12/17 – Quiz Bowl team participated in Mille Lacs Quiz Bowl Competition
- 12/19 – Quiz Bowl team participated in Bois Forte Quiz Bowl Competition
- 12/19 – Biboon Celebration for K-12
- 12/21 – Band students perform at Duluth Zoo

**Challenges:**

- Staffing in specific licensure areas

**Employee updates:**

- Margaret Defoe (Elementary teacher) – resignation
- Britney Johnson (Social Studies teacher)- resignation

**Other**

- Working with computer science 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Continual work with Mickelson Consulting on Restorative Practices.
- Continual work on READ Act requirements (i.e. screening selection and training)
- Continued work with Cloquet High School for STEM programming partnership
- Met with FDLTCC to discuss partnership

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
Grants & Accountability Manager – Blake Ludemann  
School Programs and Facilities  
January 9, 2025

**Travel/Trainings:**

- Various webinars, Microsoft Teams calls with BIE staff for assistance with their asset management software, Maximo, and many meetings with Dan Anderson.
- Attended Grants4Schools Conference in Bloomington.
- Attended the annual BIE two-day Division of Program Accountability training sessions

**School Programs Accomplishments:**

- Awarded \$25,000 for the National School Lunch Equipment program grant. Mace will use this funding in combination with Blue Cross Blue Shield grant funding to purchase a new oven for our school kitchen. Our current oven is original to the school.
- Awarded ~\$5k in Farm to School grant funds. This funding is utilized to purchase from local producers for our cafeteria.
- Given notice that the OJS supplemental funding request was approved for our playground project. This is an additional \$301,478.00 that will ensure our playground projects' entire scope can be achieved.
- Submitted supplemental funding request for our HVAC replacement/upgrade project of 332,827.28. If awarded, this will allow us to replace the buildings' original exhaust fans, deemed necessary by FDL construction and our contracted engineering firm, Widseth.

**Facilities/Operations and Maintenance/Environmental Management System**

**Goals of 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 has been awarded to BP Builders. Contract development being handled by Widseth and ongoing.
- OJS confirmed the purchase order for two new 72-seat school buses from United Truck
- Bleachers will have their annual inspection in January
- In talks with White Earth to receive a propane school bus at no cost to OJS. No updates on this yet as they are checking their policies and were of course also on winter break.

**Employee Updates**

- None

**Challenges**

- None

**Goals:**

- 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  
School Board Report  
Interim Special Education Coordinator  
January 2025

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**Travel/Trainings:**

- Attended Annual American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention December 5-7 in Seattle, WA
- 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
- Attended BIE Monthly School Leader Meeting
- Recurring meetings with BIE Special Education Specialist

**Accomplishments:**

- Submitted BIE Special Education Local School Performance Plan December Progress Report
- Identified and clarified requirements for one area of “needing assistance” from BIE Determination of Performance Letter and working to resolve the second area with Vicki and BIE Staff
- 5 students in Special Education are participating in paid work experiences

**Student Updates:**

- Total Students Receiving Service: 36
  - DD: 1
  - SLD: 18
  - EBD: 9
  - OHI: 2
  - S/L: 6
  - ISEP: 22/36

**Employee Updates:**

- Still waiting for Special Education Teacher to start

**Challenges:**

- Reviewing the budget
- Adjusting the elementary/middle school special education schedules to be more effective while waiting for potential staff to begin
- Needing to make changes to IEPs
- Not having a psychologist to complete IQ testing

**Goals:**

- 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
- Hire qualified special education teacher
- Hire/Contract with psychologist
- Retain special education staff and paraprofessionals
- Being consistent and maintaining high standards within the Special Education Team

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
School Board  
Kitchen Report  
January 9, 2025

The Mission of the Fond du Lac Ojibwe Schools are dedicated to providing a quality education, which focuses on integrating the Ojibwe culture into all students' learning experiences. Every learner will have the opportunity to be challenged, to succeed, and to be prepared for the future. Parents, staff, community, and students will demonstrate the highest level of expectations for themselves and the school.

**Accomplishments:**

- In December the Ojibwe School menu highlighted 5 days of local foods out of the 15 days of school. These foods were locally procured, culturally relevant, and / or Minnesota Harvest of the Month items.
- The Ojibwe School continues to network with FDL Natural Resources to open opportunities to students at the Ojibwe School for more hands-on learning about Treaty Resources and Treaty Foods, going into 2025.
- In close coordination with the FDL Planning Division's Jamie Adams and Jeanne Smith, using Blue Cross Blue Shield Funds the Ojibwe School was able to purchase all new equipment for the Home Economics Room. Over \$15,000.00 was spent in December to replace old equipment and supplies. Items from silverware, plates, cups, pots, pans, cooking sheets etc. to brand new top of the line washer, dryer, countertop food mixers, microwaves and more will arrive at OJS in 2025. An additional \$5,000.00 was used to purchase a monitor for the cafeteria and an ice maker/ filtered water machine for the school.
- In December the Ojibwe School hosted its Annual Biboon Celebration where a dinner feast was provided for the community, vendors that attended Biboon, students, and staff. All of the purchases for the feast were from tribal producers, local producers, and local businesses.

**Challenges:**

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

**Goals Within the 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 OS 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 through the use of technology to the cafeteria for students and staff to consistently be informed about, support programs, available resources, kitchen partnerships, menus, etc.
- Obtain more funding for kitchen staff trainings, equipment, and local foods.

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
Wellness Coordinator School Board Report  
January 9, 2025

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**Travel/Trainings:**

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

**Accomplishments:**

- Working with our School Linked Mental Health therapists regarding our students' needs.
  - Putting together schedules for our Thursday pop in sessions.
- First Witness came to present to our students in grades K-6.
- Took over the Restorative Practice (RP) Coordinator position.
  - Working to develop organizational systems for our weekly data we collect (resets & student concern logs).
  - Working with our consultants to better understand my role as RP coordinator.
- Communicating with the county regarding student placements.
- Hosted a station at our Biboon celebration.

**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 16 students on our waitlist.
- Communication with Tagwii regarding smoking/drug and alcohol use.

**Other:**

**Goals within your departments for 2024-2025:**

- 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  
School Board Report  
Schoolwide Community Activity Supervisor  
January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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**Accomplishments:**

- Quarter 2 After-school Activities had a total of 42 students sign up.
- Homegrown Lacrosse has partnered with us to bring lacrosse to our After-school program.
- The Gifted and Talented meetings with BIE rep have been held via Zoom. We are having progress GT meetings every other week.
- Our last PAG meeting was held November 21<sup>st</sup> and we had three parents attend.
- We had our Biboon Celebration on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We had 12 activities available for students and their families to attend.

**Challenges:**

- When I call parents/guardians to invite them to attend our PAG meetings, some say they will come but they do not show up; sometimes the phone numbers don't work, or I am unable to leave a voicemail.

**Employee updates:**

- After-school Activities: 10 staff to run 13 activities plus Homegrown Lacrosse staff to run the lacrosse activity.
- Gifted and Talented Education: 5 staff to give services to GATE students

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
Athletic Manager School Board Report  
January 9, 2024

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**Travel/Trainings:**

- Traveled to Sebeka and Crosby-Ironton for BBB holiday tournaments

**Accomplishments:**

- Boys' basketball took first place in the Sebeka tournament in a 1-point nail biter victory in the championship game
- We had 2 boys make the all-tournament team at the Crosby holiday tournament one from JV and one from Varsity as well as ending the tournament on a high note winning a hard-fought battle against a tough team Crosby-Ironton
- Girls Basketball competed in their first ever holiday tournament over the Christmas break weekend at Chisholm.
- Shirts were gifted to both girls' and boys' varsity teams from Round Lake Traditions

**Employee Updates:**

- None

**Challenges:**

- Keeping community happy with the Cloquet/FDL compact

**Goals:**

- Keep things running smoothly as they have been

**Budget Update:**

- See ledger

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
FACE Program School Board Report  
January 9, 2025

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**Travel/Trainings:**

- Met with a Social Worker from the St Louis County Public Health and Human Services that has a Minor Parenting Program-she may have an adult student or two for our program.
- Tasheanna completed her mandatory Foundational 1 training for Parent Education.
- Barb attended a Webinar on the Best Books for Students 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Accomplishments:**

- Ojibwe Immersion Preschool has an enrollment of 6 children.
- Adult Ed has an enrollment of 14 with participation both in classroom instruction and in parent engagement.
- Both parent educators have 10 families each-they are actively recruiting more families.
- All students are up to date so far with their schoolwork for graduation.
- TS Gold Check Point is up to date.
- Complete Resource Directory.
- Mandatory FACE training is now complete for the 2024 school year.
- GED Adult student is scheduled to take her first test on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Attendance for the program has been at 80 percent this month.
- An article was submitted to the newspaper from the Immersion Preschool.
- Face Family Circle held a traditional feast on December 17<sup>th</sup> in the school cafeteria, catered by the kitchen staff and all foods were donated by a grant.
- Toy drive was implemented by the FACE Program for the community. Gifts handed out at the FACE booth at Biboon Celebration.

**Challenges:**

- Busing is still an issue, one preschool student is picked up and doesn't arrive until 9:30- 9:45. The student misses circle time and the start of the day. It would be ideal if students could get here on time, but we understand the issue. On days staff cannot transport home, a gas card is given to parents.

**Goals of Program:**

- Support parents/primary caregivers in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher.
- Strengthen family-school-community connections.
- Increase parent participation in their child's learning and expectations for academic achievement.
- Support and celebrate the unique cultural and linguistic diversity of each American Indian Community served by the program.

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School  
Transportation School Board Report  
January 9, 2025

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**Travel/Trainings:**

- Vickie, our new hire has been working on obtaining here CDL – Bus license through LSC and will be continuing to study over the break.

**Accomplishments:**

- Blake has notified me that the PO for our 2 buses was submitted to Tim at United Truck, so we are looking forward to their arrival.
- The Transportation Department had a potluck and gift exchange to start off the winter break.
- While most drivers will be utilizing vacation time, Bob and Janica will be alternating services to provide bussing for the Sawyer Center for their winter break activities.

**Challenges:**

- DOT inspections were on December 17th, and the buses passed with only a few that had minor issues and are back on the road. One expedition did not pass DOT due to repairs that need to be made.

**Employee updates:**

- Mary Barney resigned bus driver

**Goals within Department:**