

**Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe
Public School Academy Board of Directors
Emergency Special Meeting
Thursday January 13, 2022 at 5:45 p.m.**

Minutes

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by President Castro.

B. OPENING

Board Member Carr offered an opening to begin the meeting.

C. ROLL CALL

Castro – present; Habusta – absent; Roe – present; Batho – absent; Strahan – present; Murdock – absent; Carr – present.

Motion by Roe and supported by Carr to excuse Habusta, Batho and Murdock from the meeting.

Ayes: Castro, Roe, Strahan, Carr

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Carr and supported by Roe to approve the agenda with no changes.

Ayes: Castro, Roe, Strahan, Carr

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

F. CLOSED SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION

Motion by Carr and supported by Strahan to go into closed session at 5:50 p.m.

Roll call vote as follows:

Castro Y Roe Y Strahan Y Carr Y

Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened into open session at 6:33 p.m. per motion carried in closed session.

G. NEW BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Carr and supported by Strahan to approve the January 10, 2022 Tribal Health Executive Order Approval of Tribal Health Executive Order.

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Board member Strahan said the vote at the last Regular Board meeting was against moving to Virtual Learning and therefore they will need to revise the verbiage of the action document. Roe confirmed that they would not be approving virtual learning and will need to update the verbiage to reflect this. Roe asked to remove "During this time the school will move to Virtual Learning" in the recommended action. President Castro asked to remove "face to face instruction" to keep in line with the decision that was made Tuesday.

Motion by Carr and Supported by Strahan to revise the verbiage of the action document H1 Approval of January 10, 2022 Tribal Health Executive Order, to reflect the recommended updates.

Ayes: Castro, Roe, Strahan, Carr

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Motion by Strahan and supported by Carr to approve the revised January 10, 2022 Tribal Health Executive Order with a roll call vote.

Roll call vote as follows:

Castro Y Roe N Strahan N Carr Y

Motion failed.

Board Member Carr commented that as he stated in his opening of this meeting, we must follow our teachings and do what is best for the next generation, and though he stands firm in his decision, he will not disobey the Tribal Law. He urged all Tribal members and JKL families to contact the Tribal Board of Directors as they have the responsibility of closing our school.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & SCHEDULING OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Paquin, in attendance, asked as teachers if they could have time to prepare. He said it is hard for teachers to get ready and have materials and supplies ready to drop off for families. He asked that if it comes to this point again, they would appreciate time.

Public comment via zoom:

Chloe Kannan introduced herself as the new Literacy Coach at JKL. Chloe gave her credentials and praised the school. She said that in her experience decisions should not be made until they have all data. She said that as a Literacy Coach, she feels that staff are burnt out and that it is difficult for them to do their job. She said that kids and teachers are in a mental health crisis, with Omicron spreading like fire. She asked how teachers are expected to share duties when half are in quarantine and they are so short-handed. Discussed staff having to take time off without being paid, some getting sick more than once. She questioned if she should risk her own health or kids' health. She said that we need a COVID plan for front line leaders. Chloe asked if we could host talking circles.

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Robin Bouschor introduced herself as a parent of JKL students. She said she fought last year for a teacher who was in quarantine, when the school wasn't allowing him to do his job at home even though he felt he was capable. She advocated that teachers have the option to work from home. She is asking other parents to write the School Board in support. Robin said she wrote to Dr. Kallstrom and would like to put \$1000 toward COVID leave pay for staff. She discussed the legal letter urging JKL to listen to the Executive Order asserting that the Tribal Health Department had the authority, and the school did not comply. She asked if this would open us up to some type of liability. Robin said that as a parent she is concerned what this will mean for the school. She asked what will happen if a parent or teacher gets really sick. She asked if we could lose the school and why this wasn't addressed back then when the school was on fire with so many out sick. She said that this is a legitimate concern.

Tiffany Williams introduced herself as a parent of students at JKL. She explained that one of her students would do fine with virtual learning and the other is very social and would not do as well. She asked the question if the school is going to virtual or staying open. She said it is unclear from the vote.

Dr. Kallstrom explained that the Board voted to continue face to face instruction at the January 11, 2022 Regular Board meeting. Today the motion to approve the Tribal Health Emergency Order of January 10, 2022 failed, but the Order still stands and Tribal Health could close the JKL facility.

Tiffany said she knows that the school is doing everything we can and that this is not an easy job. In closing she said that she is glad we are staying open and she appreciates it.

Rob gave thanks for staying open.

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Rob said that the school as a whole has done an excellent job keeping students safe. He said that he can't imagine that any parent would agree that students are provided the same education with virtual learning. He said that as parents he encourages others to contact the Tribal Board based on the fact that other Tribal entities are open.

Autumn Menard stated that she understands that this was a hard decision, and is wondering why aren't we looking to other resources like Sault Schools in regards to testing for students. She said this might help to continue more face to face instruction rather than assuming the virus is spreading. She said this would help keep students and staff safe.

Written comments via zoom:

Jenna Graham wrote that she feels like she has no choice but to pull her student. She wrote that it is too political, and she feels her son's education is at risk. She wrote that JKL masks

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all day long and she does not know how many more hits her son can take in regard to his education.

Return to public comment via zoom:

Barb Smutek asked if we could listen to the health dept and listen to health dept to make the determination, my family got COVID please reconsider vote and do what is best for everyone, it is insulting that testing scores became part

Ernest Menard said that we are going to have a lot of angry parents and he feels that in person learning is most important and the school should do all they can to continue to stay open.

A parent asking why we would open the school up to legal action, and risk closing the school forever.

Kristen Corbiere commented that as a parent of JKL students she would like to let the Board know that as far as receiving communication from other parents regarding hardship on families when not in school, she asked if the school has considered the staff and their hardships. She asked if any of them have signed up to sub in any classes. She asked about the mental health of the students who are in school right now and how they are doing. She said while she appreciates what the school is doing for their experience, we should ask what the school is doing to support staff and their wellbeing.

Merran Arbic joined the meeting but lost connection.

Troy McBride commented that he is now in a new position as Dean of Students and that he sees things differently than before. He discussed talking to teachers and supporting them when they need coverage. He said he feels that himself, Administration and other staff are doing all they can to help to keep kids in school. He said he talks to the kids and they want to be in school. He said he does understand if it is a safety issue, but asks that we take into account that this is their life and their learning period. He said kids want to be with their friends and that they are doing well washing their hands and wearing their masks. Look at the MAP scores and the growth that is occurring in social and emotional learning since kids are back in class. Troy said he is here first for the kids, then the parents then the school. He said that speaking for the kids, they want to be here and they will do what is asked of them to keep people safe.

Merran Arbic commented that she wants to reiterate what Chris Paquin said that if we do move to virtual she asks that the Board and Administration please give grace and time to prepare students and families. She said she knows that the Board voted not to go virtual but is asking for clarification on what this means exactly as it would alleviate stress on parents and staff.

Dr. Kallstrom explained that the Tribal Health Executive Order closes the facility if they should choose to enforce it, it will stand. There will be no move to virtual learning.

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Andrea commented that she would like to add to what Troy McBride said. She said he was her son's teacher during virtual learning in the past. She said that during this time she saw the drop in his learning. She said it was like herding cats to keep him focused on schoolwork, and feels that home is not conducive to learning. She said that while her son doesn't enjoy wearing a mask he does it. She said there are so many mitigation strategies in place at JKL and feels it is the best set up for keeping our students safe. She said that while the school goes above and beyond to help with virtual learning, her son was falling behind and it was basically one step forward and two steps back.

Kaylynn Cairns commented that she is a parent of students at JKL and an alumni student of JKL. She said she would like to thank the Board, staff and Administration for the work that they are doing. She is asking for time for preparation for tomorrow. She said she doesn't have a support system of people who are home and she is unable to prepare for this on her own. She is asking for clarification on the rate of vaccination and the approval of shots for 5 to 12-year-old students. She said she is a former tribal employee and would like to ask why the Tribe is not closing their facilities and continuing to host hockey tournaments. She asks why if our kids are the most important is JKL the only school who is being closed.

Julie Hober said she would like clarification on whether there is a chance that the Tribe will enforce the Executive Order tomorrow.

Dr. Kallstrom answered yes, and that the Tribe does have the option to close the facility. She added that we will notify parents as soon as possible.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m. by President Castro.



School Board President



School Board Secretary