



Tłchq Community Services Agency Special Board Meeting Minutes February 1, 2022

In Attendance: Ted Blondin - Chairperson
Rosa Mantla - Behchokò Representative
Mary Adele - Wekweetì Representative
Irene Mantla - Gameti Representative

Executive and Staff: Kevin Armstrong- Chief Executive Officer
Linsey Hope - Director of Education
Sara Nash – Executive Director of Operations & Program Integration

Regrets: Alex Nitsiza – Whati Representative

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:07am. Chairperson Ted Blondin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Opening Prayer

Ted Blondin led the TCSA Board in an opening prayer.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

To perform good governance, TCSA Board meetings begin with a declaration of any real or perceived conflict of interest by board members. Conflict of interest declarations help ensure public confidence in the Board as they make decisions that affect strategic and financial actions of the TCSA. Conflict of interest declarations are recorded in the meeting's minutes.

The respective Northwest Territories Conflict of Interest Act states:

2. (1) *Where a member, either on his or her behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any direct pecuniary interest*
 - a. *in a contact or proposed contract with the municipality or board,*



in a contract or proposed contract that is reasonably likely to be affected by a decision of the council or board, or in a manner in which the council or board is concerned, and is present at a meeting of the council, board, or committee of the council or board at which the contract, proposed contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, the member shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the meeting, disclosed his or her interest and the extent and nature of the interest, and

- d. *Shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on any such question with respect to, the contract, proposed contract, or other matter, or attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question.*

2. (2) Where the interest of a member has not been disclosed as required by subsection (1) by reason of his or her absence from the meeting referred to in subsection (1) or by reason of the interest having been acquired or having come to his or her knowledge after the meeting, the member shall disclosed his or her interest and otherwise comply with subsection (1) at the first meeting of the council, board or committee that he or she subsequently attends.

No conflicts of interest were declared relevant to the agenda for this meeting of Feb 1, 2022.

TCSA School Closure Recommendation

This is a special meeting to review the NWT COVID-19 situation including JESH outbreak, and school reopening/ continuation of remote learning. The board will also set the date for the next in person meeting.

Sara Nash – COVID update: no active cases in Gameti and Wekweeti, 17 new cases 105 active Behchoko, 3 new cases 22 active Whati, Behchoko health center and JESH have significant staff with COVID, JESH has been in outbreak mode since early January – outbreak is declare with 1 staff positive, no Elders have COVID. Struggling with staffing in all areas in Behchoko – offering only emergency services in Behchoko.

Kevin Armstrong – recommendations for school: Current plan is to return to in person learning in Whati, Gameti and Wekweeti (based on current active case counts and numbers stabilizing) support from Chief and Board Representative to reopen. Behchoko is more difficult – looking to reopen on Feb 14, 2022 as we are still seeing 15-20 per day and fearful that if school reopen this will escalate. Staff feedback in Behchoko are nervous and looking for another week before returning back to school.

Ted Blondin – While we are concerned about safety we are recognizing how impactful the lack of in person is for our students. Even before COVID our students we were behind and working to catch up (example reading levels) – should make parents aware that we have programs to help students recover missed academic work if they come in person. Want to respect feedback from staff who are feeling nervous and keep our staff and students safe.

ACTION: Briefing note for board members to use in communications with community about remote learning, academic recovery, and importance of attendance.



Board will accept this recommendation – Whati, Wekweeti, and Gameti will reopen as planned and Behchoko will remain closed to in person learning for one additional week.

Rosa Mantla – hearing from students that online learning is very difficult and our students are not doing well online classes (not participating and difficult to do from home). Listening to medical information on radio – benefits of vaccination, distancing, masking, looking after each other. Would be good to continue to do these verbal updates for community (radio). Suggestion to use other TCSA staff as part of translation.

Ted Blondin – Important to remember that the TCSA is not just health, but CFS and education. Agree with Rosa that radio updates from Norah is very important and all other programs are still available.

Action: TCSA will keep up the communications, specifically radio to supplement Facebook and other ads (in partnership with TG) to update the community on all TCSA programs. Specifically – discuss this motion and why the board is accepting the recommendations of OCPHO, recognizing case numbers, and desire to support students in recovering academics.

Be it resolved that the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency Board approves a continuation of distance learning for Behchoko schools (EMES and CJBS) until February 11, 2022 (inclusive). All other Tłı̨chǫ schools (JWGS, MCS, and AAS) will reopen to in person learning on February 7, 2022 as planned.

Moved by: Marie Adele Football Seconded by: Rosa Mantla Motion Carried Unanimously.

Discussion around agenda items for the next in person meeting (March); operating plans, calendars, board training/development, and items brought forth by board members.

Closing Prayer

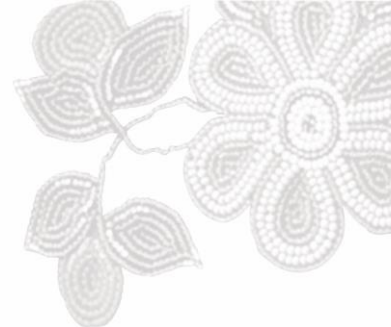
Rosa Mantla led the TCSA Board in a closing prayer.

Board Meeting Schedule

The next meetings will be on March 9-11, 2022 in person in Yellowknife. 2nd board meeting for 2021-22.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40am





Chairperson Signature

March 11, 2022

Date

Chief Executive Officer Signature

March 11, 2022

Date