

# **MIIN - Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network Meeting Agenda**

Date: February 13, 2023

[Zoom Link](#)

## **I. Call to order**

Board Vice-Chair Michael Sullivan calls to order the regular meeting of the MIIN Board of Directors at 5:40pm on February 13, 2023 via ZOOM meeting.

## **II. Roll call**

Secretary Wm Howes conducts a roll call.

Members Presents: Migizi Michael Sullivan, Baabiiyawigiizhigookwe Melissa Boyd, Jiigewegaabaw Joe Nayquonabe, Naawakwe William Howes III

Staff and Others:Gimiwan Dustin Burnette, Zhaangweshi Brooke Simon, Nora Livesay  
Members Absent: Niizhwaasanangookwe Miigis Gonzalez

## **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Link to DATES of last meeting meeting minutes:

[November 28, 2022 MIIN Board of Directors Meeting](#) : Motion to approve by Naawakwe and second by Jiigewegaabaw; Discussion: none; Passes Unanimously

## **IV. Action Items**

- a) Listed action to be taken/decided: Review email on Policy Changes from E.D. Gimiwan and respond to it

## **V. Ongoing Topics**

- a)

## **VI. New Topics**

- a) [Exec Director Report](#) : Note for Board to review email from E.D. on recommended policy changes from contracted Agency; Is there a need for

more consistent Board meetings? Not at this time - stay with Quarterly;  
Overview of Recent Presentations - 2 presentations at FDL Ojibwemowin  
Language  
Symposium for \$500.00 each for a total of \$1,000.00 to MIIN,  
Anishinaabemowin-teg for no compensation, Language Presentation for  
Walpole Island for no compensation; Facebook Page and GoFundMe  
Donation Page; \*Motion to accept E.D. report by Baabiiyaw, seconded by  
Jiigwewegaabaw, unanimously accepted

- b) Presentation of Request from Nora Livesay (motion to amend tonight's agenda was made during meeting by Naawakwe, seconded by Jiigwewegaabaw, unanimously approved): Two Requests:
1. Proposal to collaborate on the OPD where MIIN will serve as an Advisory role (policy issues, outreach to the Ojibwe communities who use the OPD, finding an editor of the OPD who is an Ojibwe Linguist and is a permanent Tenure-track position based on University Funds);
  2. Should the UofM discontinue its support of the OPD, MIIN shall become the housing agency of the website and the ones responsible for providing an Editor (the OPD is in a precarious position given that the Editor position is soft-funded and not guaranteed; the domain Ojibwemowin.org is owned by Nora Livesay and once the web-design work is done, it will be moved off the current University web-host "RubyOnRails" and hosted somewhere else; this would cost \$200.00/monthly and then \$75.00/year for domain name ownership) \*(Background information - the web platform format was changed by the University of MN Library System which changed the database structure making it less friendly to update and edit on the technical back-end issues and limiting its functionality)
- \*\*Discussion: Suggested campaigning to networks in Board Member's realm to put pressure on UofM to maintain and support the OPD legitimately (There are not any political or procedural issues from the Board reaching out to contacts and networks about putting pressure on); Is there a timeline for a decision on either of the two Requests? No, there is no timeline for either. Who would MIIN enter into an agreement with for either request? The OPD Editor (currently Nora Livesay). Who owns everything in OPD? How could it be handed over from UofM to MIIN? The data sits in a database on various servers, programming language from webhost (currently RubyOnRails), Grouple open source program to create things like menus and headers.
- Can we get a form letter from Nora Livesay that we can cite in our requests of support for the OPD from our contacts? Yes, that will be sent

## VII. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 7:04pm by Vice-chair Migizi

Minutes submitted by: William Howes III

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

# ***MIIN - Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

Date: May 8, 2023

[Zoom Link](#)

### **I. Call to order**

Board Chair Miigis Gonzalez calls to order the regular meeting of the MIIN Board of Directors at 5:47pm on May 8, 2023 via ZOOM meeting.

### **II. Roll call**

Secretary Wm Howes conducts a roll call.

Members Presents: Migizi Michael Sullivan, Niizhwaasanangookwe Miigis Gonzalez, Naawakwe William Howes III

Staff and Others: Gimiwan Dustin Burnette, Zhaangweshi Brooke Simon,

Members Absent: Melissa Boyd (Treasurer), Jiigewegaabaw Joe Nayquonabe

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting and today's agenda**

Link to DATES of last meeting meeting minutes: motion by Wm Howes, seconded by Mike Sullivan - unanimously approved

[February 13, 2023 MIIN Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Agenda approval: motion by M. Gonzalez, seconded by M. Sullivan, unanimously approved

### **IV. Action Items**

- a) **Policy edits** - Board gave direction to ED at the last general meeting to make edits to MIIN policies as suggested by Human Resources Consulting LLC. Please see the proposed edits, highlighted in red, on pages 29, 38, 40 and 42.
- b) Wm. Howes makes a motion to approve all changes, seconded by M. Sullivan, unanimously approved.
- c) **Ojibwe People's Dictionary Editor's Request** - Action Requested

MIIN Board of Directors serving as the Advisory Committee to the OPD: This matter is tabled for official approval. E.D. will set up a meeting with UofM OPD staff as a next step in this process.

- d) **Approval of MIIN: Nimaawanji'idimin**, through Native Fundraisers Community of Practice grant program. This document is included as an attachment in the MIIN Director's Report May 2023 email, titled Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network (Miin) PDF.

This is a \$10,000 award that, per our fiscal policies referenced at the top of this report, I need Board permission to accept.

Motion to accept by Wm Howes, seconded by M. Sullivan, discussion: clarification, unanimously accepted

- e) **LCOOU Teacher Training Track Agreement** - attached in email. This item is tabled until the Official Agreement is available. The E.D. will then request approval via email or Special Meeting.

## V. Ongoing Topics

a)

## VI. New Topics

- a) [Exec Director Report](#): overview of Director Report and areas for Action Items; Meeting with LCOOU on May 10th, 2023 between MIIN and LCO Ojibwe University; Data Collection Report;

b)

## VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm

Minutes submitted by: William Howes III

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

# ***MIIN - Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network Special Meeting Minutes***

Date: June 6, 2023

[Zoom Link](#)

## **I. Call to order**

Board Chair Miigis Gonzalez calls to order the regular meeting of the MIIN Board of Directors at 5:39pm on June 6th, 2023 via ZOOM meeting.

## **II. Roll call**

Secretary Wm Howes conducts a roll call.

Members Presents: Migizi Michael Sullivan, Niizhwaasanangookwe Miigis Gonzalez, Naawakwe William Howes III, Jiigewegaabaw Joe Nayquonabe

Staff and Others: Gimiwan Dustin Burnette, Nora Livesay (Editor of OPD)

Members Absent: Baabiitaw Melissa Boyd

## **III. Special Meeting Topic: MIIN Board as Advisory Board for OPD**

- a) MIIN Board of Directors serving as the Advisory Committee to the OPD: This matter is tabled for official approval. Exec. Director will set up a meeting with UofM OPD staff as a next step in this process.
- b) Started this conversation with questions from the Board Members to Nora Livesay: Where is John (Nichols) at with this situation? He is worried the UofM will not continue Nora's position after a grant that ends in 2025. He is fully supportive of OPD coming under MIIN after looking at the MIIN Board membership; If Nora does get covered as the Editor in the future, how will the lines of communication work between Nora and the MIIN Board? Nora would like to use the current MIIN Board approaches for meeting structure. The Quarterly meetings of MIIN would be sufficient for the needs of advice to the OPD; Is the majority of this role for MIIN be in the area of policy development? Yes, but not burdensome in the frequency. We would usually just address the occasional question or complaint that comes up; If Nora is not continued after 2025, how does the line of communication work? Well there needs to be a shared full-time tenure-track position for the Editor that is 0.5 Amln Studies and 0.5 Linguistics that is an Ojibwe Speaker, so the UofM needs to hire that person. If this does NOT happen, then the OPD does not need to live at the UofM and then OPD Staff would come to MIIN to then ask if it can live with MIIN; If there

is a current Advisory Council, who has the authority to change the membership or participation in this from the current people who remain to the MIIN Board? Well MIIN actually has the widest representation in line with the use of the OPD and aligned with the idea that the OPD belongs to the Ojibwe people as a whole. Yes, the Editor retains the authority to make MIIN the Advisory Council. The UofM does not own the OPD, and it has always been this way. We would need to convene a meeting of sorts if we were to ask the current Elder Speakers their thoughts on this. There hasn't been a meeting since 2016; How much time would we need to add to the current Board Meeting for OPD Advisory roles? All requests would be sent prior to meeting for consideration, a decision would not need to be made at that meeting, a quarterly update would be provided at each Board Meeting by the Editor.

- c) Board sends E.D. and Nora L. to breakout room while discussions is had by the membership: Nora should activate the group of current living Elder Speakers to get them together again as a "steering committee", MIIN would address advisory issues that wouldn't need to bother the elders with; Joe, Naawakwe, Migizi, and Miigis are all in favor of accepting this role by MIIN, but we want to hear from Baabiitaw before finalizing. Naawakwe will reach out to Baabiitaw and share the minutes and ask for her thoughts. MIIN Board will then make a final decision via an email Motion and Decision.
- d) Motion to adjourn by Naawakwe and seconded by Joe.

#### **IV. Action Items**

- a)

#### **V. New Topics**

- a)

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm

Minutes submitted by: William Howes III

Minutes approved by:



# ***MIIN - Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network***

## ***Meeting Agenda***

Date: August 14, 2023

[Zoom Link](#)

### **I. Call to order**

Board Chair Miigis Gonzalez calls to order the regular meeting of the MIIN Board of Directors at 5:36pm on August 14, 2023 via ZOOM meeting.

### **II. Roll call**

Secretary Wm Howes conducts a roll call: Michael Sullivan, Miigis Gonzalez, William Howes, Nora Livesay, Dustin Burnette; Members absent Melissa Boyd, Joe Nayquonabe, Jr.

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Link to DATES of last meeting meeting minutes: M. Sullivan motion, 2nd by W. Howes - Approved unanimously

[May 8, 2023 MIIN Board of Directors Meeting](#)

### **IV. New Topics**

- a) [Executive Director Report](#) - November 8 & 9, 2023 for MIIN Board Workshop; Additional Certain Language Supports to State agencies, districts, schools, and/or staff in Ojibwe Language - Goal would be to provide certain language services to non-immersion Ojibwe language educators - W. Howes notes that this should be done with the goal of always advocating and pushing for high quality immersion content and pedagogy with these states, districts, schools, and staff in the guidance and support we provide;

### **V. Action Items**

- a) WEND funds - \$50,000 to MIIN for Organizational Costs
- b) OPD action - Continue to work on MOU between MIIN Board and Ojibwe Peoples' Dictionary; MIIN is awaiting advice from Legal Counsel on item #17 on the draft MOU; MIIN Board will approve the MOU via an email vote; A media

release will be done once the MOU is fully signed and approved - both MIIN and OPD will release this via their websites and social media accounts; **NO ACTION at this meeting**

- c) Switching bank accounts from Hayward Community Credit Union (HCCU) to Superior Choice Credit Union (SCCU) - HCCU is merging with SCCU, so MIIN accounts will transfer to SCCU
- d) Form C1 - approval and signatures needed from Chair and Vice-chair
- e) Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University (LCOOU) Teacher Training Track Agreement - Agreement now signed by LCOOU, everything MIIN wanted initially is included in the Agreement;
- f) RFP - Grant Contractor - contingent on NDN Collective funds
- g) RFP - Financial Contractor - contingent on NDN Collective funds

**\*Motion to approve all Action Items listed above by M. Gonzalez, second by M. Sullivan - no discussion, Unanimous approval**

## **VI. Ongoing Topics**

a)

## **VII. Adjournment:**

Minutes submitted by: William Howes III

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

# ***MIIN - Midwest Indigenous Immersion Network***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

Date: November 27, 2023

[Zoom Link](#)

### **I. Call to order**

Board Chair Miigis Gonzalez calls to order the regular meeting of the MIIN Board of Directors at 5:40pm on November 27, 2023 via ZOOM meeting.

### **II. Roll call**

Secretary Wm Howes conducts a roll call: William Howes III, Melissa Boyd, Miigis Gonzalez, Michael Sullivan, Dustin Burnette (E.D.)

Members absent: Joe Nayquonabe, Jr.

Motion to approve tonight's Agenda by M. Boyd, seconded by Wm Howes; discussion on whether the Board Strategic Planning session will be included - Approved unanimously

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Link to DATES of last meeting meeting minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Wm Howes, seconded by M. Boyd, no discussion - Approved unanimously

[August 14, 2023 MIIN Board of Directors Meeting](#)

### **IV. New Topics**

- a) [Executive Director Report](#) : several funding updates on Book Publishing; NDN Collective grant was not chosen and feedback was provided by grantee; Next NDN Collective opportunity to apply will be spring of 2024; WEND does not have a direct application cycle currently, but E.D. will follow-up with WEND; Less-Commonly Taught Languages grant is in the process of review for the \$15,000.00 grant application; Seeding Cultural Treasures grant was accepted and awarded for \$70,000.00 for 30 months; \*Motion to amend tonight's Agenda and add **Address Change for MIIN** as an action item by M. Boyd, seconded by M. Gonzalez - no discussion, Approved unanimously; MIIN is in the process of hiring a new CPA Contractor; Service request by MIIN Network Partners for services from MIIN staff and contractors - funds would be non-discretionary; there are 3 organizations requesting services for their program for a total of

est.\$101,000.00 - updates will be provided as these requests move forward;  
Brief discussion on Lerner Publishing Project opportunity to create and provide  
16 books for Ojibwe immersion schools and classrooms - discussion on future  
grant opportunities to offset or fully fund this for partners; \*Tax Revenue  
question by M. Boyd - E.D. will ask new CPA specifically about this issue prior to  
bringing in funds; \*Are there other publishers willing to give back by allowing  
their books to be translated in a similar way (i.e. Sesame Street)?  
\*Comment by M. Boyd on donors and donations and the level of accessibility for  
us to collect donations and MIIN's efforts to do so - add to next Board Meeting

- b) [MIIN 2024 Organizational Budget & Narrative](#): motion by M.Boyd to go into  
Executive Session, seconded by M. Gonzalez - no discussion, Approved  
unanimously - 6:36pm moves into Executive Session  
Motion to move out of Executive Session by M. Boyd, seconded by M. Gonzalez,  
Approved unanimously - moved out of Executive Session at 7:11pm

E.D. will receive a revised Employment Offer Letter by Friday, December 1,  
2023. Board requests that an agenda item for the next Board Meeting be on  
revisions to the Policies in the area of adding Retirement and Salary  
Negotiations related to selection of various benefits like Health Benefits.

Presentation on the MIIN 2024 Organizational Budget by the E.D. with various  
clarifications. Motion to approve the budget by M. Boyd with suggested wording  
changes on 'confirmed' and 'pending' to be completed, seconded by Wm  
Howes, no discussion - Approved unanimously

## V. Action Items

- a) Address change for MIIN: Motion to change the address for MIIN to "46754 Earle  
Brown Drive Garrison, MN 56450" by Wm Howes, seconded by M. Gonzalez, no  
discussion - Approved unanimously  
b) Approval of MIIN 2024 Organizational Budget - Approved (see notes above)

## VI. Ongoing Topics

a)

## VII. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Minutes submitted by: William Howes III

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_