

Kyah Wiget Education Society

Board of director's regular board meeting



Monday September 8, 2025, 4:30-6:30 (in person)

Attendees- IN PERSON-, Helen Nikal

Zoom -Caroline Muir, Diana Johansen, Chantel Michell, Kayla Mitchell

1-Welcome, opening prayer, (5 mins)

2-Approval of Agenda (5 mins)

Suggested resolution: Be it resolved that the KWES board of directors approves the meeting agenda as presented.

Move to accept: Chantel Michell

Second: Helen Nikal

3-Approval of minutes (5 mins) – TABLED – awaiting copy of minutes

Suggested resolution: Be it resolved that the KWES board of directors approves the minutes of the KWES board meeting of Monday, June 9 2025.

Move to accept:

Second:

OLD BUSINESS

4- Jurisdiction... summer distribution, fall Q&A, spring vote. Who does what, how

- Staffing an issue – hard to find contract work
 - o Chantel and Kayla agree it would be good to repost
- Q+A with community
- Take time (neygoozyez – slow)
- Not rushing to a vote, but gradual and intentional
- *potential for contracting with Kayla – Kayla and Aaron to connect

5- Elders Advisory Committee... Board clan reps so far, initial committee meeting end of June. ToR, Oath of Confidentiality.

-Other committees board reps, policy, Pro D, Finance.

ELDERS COMMITTEE:

- Gitdumden – Joyce Quock, Hannah Forsyth Lucy Gagnon
- Tsayu – Gloria Michell Alice Alfred
- Liksilyu – Barb Naziel, Ron Mitchell, Linda Higgins,
- Likhsamishu – Barb Wilson, Mike Wilson

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- Gilhsehyu- Jennifer David, Brenda Michell, Virginia Pierre
- Starting committee – need to plan TOR and Oat of Confidentiality

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Board members and staff/ community need to be appointed roles defined

PRO-D COMMITTEE:

- Staff focused

POLICY COMMITTEE:

- Staff and board review and update

6- staffing/hirings/postings...

- Elementary school teacher – Natasha Seymour 2/3
- Skyze' Hibi Yikh - Heather Potkins – till Christmas – teaching exchange
- Sabaaya Bazil - EA
- David Dennis – at Witset now
- Jessica Genereux – after school
- Jordana Oliarny – staying on for one day a week, looking to get filled with special education
- Lindsey – Bachelors in finance – public firm experience – mentoring with Elaine for now
- HR posting still available
- Jurisdiciton needs to be posted
- Special-ed EA

7- Land dispute...lot 100 and KWES/WFN property lines

- In camera

8- ED evaluation...

- Kayla followed up with Edith

NEW BUSINESS

9- KWES board of directors remuneration...change to by-laws, membership vote to approve

- Members (teachers, parents, AGM attendees) can approve/deny at AGM
 - o Remuneration rate to be suggested/confirmed by members within approved budget
- 7 board members (1 council rep not included – already paid through band – put into by-laws)

10- AGM...Sept 25, board member term renewal. Clan reps 2 yr term up, teacher 1 yr, council rep Oct WFN election

- Evening, 5 pm?

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- Clan reps to connect with dini ze' tsake ze'

11- Hargus and Distinctly Witsuwit'en... There has been over 25 years of work creating a new orthography using the Distinctly Witsuwit'en writing system. KWES has inherited this work from the many hands that worked with Sharon Hargus and the many ancestors who are no longer with us, recommend that our organizations - except the Office of the Wet'suwet'en use the Hargus writing system that all our SD54 resources are created with. Over 20 years ago, the Chiefs directed us to use this writing system that gives us an opportunity to grow speakers if we are unable to have fluent speakers working with us...MOTION

Board motion:

Be it resolved that the KWES board of directors mandate all communication, whether written or published, use the distinctly Witsuwit'en orthography utilizing the Hargus methodology.

Move: Helen Nikal

Accept: Caroline Muir

12- Grad feedback... To continue as feast style, or simple ceremony.? Share some community commenting. Some holding chief names, Facebook posting. KWES staff social media policy. What is Witsuwit'en/cultural protocol to effective communication? Nobody reached out to Priscilla, myself or Grad planning committee members. More Chiefs? Hadagami/Hagwilneklh...Smogilhgin/Lho'imggin...Midik/SueAnn Naziel (phonetic; gyoleget)

- June grad – feast-style event
- 1 chief in the clan previously, more chiefs coming in now
- **Suggestion: 1 chief per housegroup**
- Format question: need more seats/bigger hall, RSVP (based on space available and student #),
- Aaron to bring back to grad committee
- Feedback forms for June grad

13-Donation Policy

- Policy/procedure needed
- Nepotism can occur
- Education institute for on reserve members right now, not able to always for off reserve – bursaries is an option with application process/board review
 - o Extra curricular for off-reserve
- Aaron to create a draft donation policy, bursary list, bursary proposal for WFN to cost share

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14-AE student's non-Acceptance into programs

- In camera

15-AE scheduling and timetable feedback

- Scheduling/timetable
 - o Monday-Thursday 8:15 – 5:00 pm

16- Financials... up to date fiscal year overview

Suggested resolution: Be it resolved that the KWES board of directors approves the financial statements as presented.

Move to accept: Johnny Morris

Second: Kayla Mitchell

NEXT MTG DATE – Mon Oct 6 2025, in person