

AFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING – MINUTES

Friday, June 20, 2025

6:00 pm

Virtual – MS Teams & In-Person



ATTENDANCE

AFS BOARD MEMBERS:	William Johnson, Chair James Agnew Patricia R. Lofstrom	Rick Hamilton Jane Omollo Lucia O'Connor	Dania Kuzbari Dan Swystun David Petersson
REGRETS:	Wes Lavergne	Megan Bernard	Jennifer Geenen
STAFF/LEADERSHIP:	Ali Juma Natalie Young Marsha Ledyit Myriam Cyr Lisa Vance	Arlene Smith Jacob Bruzas Angela Ebenau Lisa Fritsch Alexis Lopez	Stephanie Fetherston Brenda Clarke Renee Cazabon Lisa Riche Obianuju Fadijo

MINUTES

1.0 Quorum

Quorum established.

2.0 Constitute Meeting

2.1 Call to Order

The Board Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2.2 General Welcome

The Board Chair welcomes everyone to the meeting, both in-person and online.

2.3 Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chair provides the land acknowledgement.

2.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

3.0 Presentation

Introduction of the East District Team in Elliot Lake.

4.0 Agenda & Minutes

4.1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION

BIRT, the board approves the June 20, 2025, Public Board Meeting agenda as amended.

Moved by: Patricia R. Lofstrom

Seconded by: David Petersson All in

favour. CARRIED.

4.2 Approval of Minutes

MOTION

BIRT, the board approves the May 28, 2025, Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Moved by: Dan Swystun

Seconded by: Dania Kuzbari All in favour. CARRIED.

4.3 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

No business arising.

5.0 Consent Agenda

MOTION

BIRT, the board approves the June 20, 2025, consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Rick Hamilton

Seconded by: Patricia R. Lofstrom All in favour. CARRIED.

6.0 Items Removed from Consent Agenda

No items removed from consent agenda.

7.0 New/Ongoing Business

7.1 Board Membership - Update

The Chair noted that at the Governance Committee meeting, Wes mentioned that he would create a policy and have it ready for review and approval at the September Board meeting.

7.2 Board Annual Work Plan/Committee Input

David stated that there were updates to the annual work plan.

7.3 Youth in Transition Program – Update

Brenda reported that recruitment for the Youth in Transition Program has been completed, and a candidate has been successfully hired for the role. The position is structured as a four-day workweek. Although the new employee has started work, her official start date is the week of June 23rd.

7.4 Urgent Funding Request to Support Indigenous

The Chair noted that an acknowledgment of our letter was received from MPP Chris Scott and Diane Rusnak, Program Supervisor at the Ministry of Health. Rick proposed sending a follow-up letter endorsed by all Board members and offered to assist in drafting the correspondence.

7.5 Audit Report

David reported that during the Finance Committee meeting, BDO presented the audit report in detail, reviewing it line by line. The auditors issued a clean opinion, with no concerns noted. The Committee is recommending that the Board approve the audited financial statements and present them at the Annual General Meeting in October.

MOTION

BIRT, that upon the recommendation of the Finance and Operations Committee, the Board approves the 2024-2025 audited financial statements presented by BDO be brought forward to the membership at the AGM for approval.

Moved by: David Petersson

Seconded by: Jane Omollo All in favour. CARRIED.

Other Business:

8.0 CEO Report

8.1 Ali Juma provides the CEO Report as provided in the board package. Highlighting the following:

- Ali mentioned that AFS recognized two PRIDE events – PRIDE Prom and Family PRIDE – both events were well attended.
- At our All-Staff Meeting on June 11th, members of the Maamwimadibiwig (“They sit together”) working group – Dr. Stephanie Hayes (Psychologist), Carly Bumbacco (Psychometrist), Kim Cavanagh (Indigenous Outreach Counsellor), with members of the Garden River provided a presentation of the integration of traditional indigenous approach and western approach to the treatment of autism. Additionally, a survey was conducted and the main concerns impacting morale are wages, workload and clear leadership communication. The Leadership met to discuss how to address those concerns.
- We received \$125,000 for the Student Nutrition Program to address food insecurity.

9.0 Board Committee Updates

9.1 Finance and Operations Committee Chair Report

Board members were encouraged to review the report provided in the board's package.

9.2 Governance Committee Chair Report

The board members were encouraged to review the report provided in the board package.

9.3 Service and Advocacy Committee Chair Report

Patricia advised board members to review the report as contained in the board package.

10.0 Adjourn to In-Camera

MOTION

BIRT, the board moves to adjourn to the in-camera segment of the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Moved by: Patricia R. Lofstrom

Seconded by: Rick Hamilton All in favour. CARRIED.

11.0 Resume Regular Public Board Meeting

MOTION

BIRT, the board moves to resume the regular public board meeting at 7:05 pm.

Moved by: Patricia R. Lofstrom

Seconded by: Dania Kuzbari All in favour. CARRIED.

12.0 Accept Motions Made In-Camera

No in-camera motions.

13.0 Adjournment

MOTION

BIRT, the board moves to adjourn the regular public board meeting at 7:06 pm.

Moved by: David Petersson

Seconded by: Patricia R. Lofstrom All in favour. CARRIED.

14.0 NEXT MEETING

- Next Regular Board Meeting September 24, 2025 @ 5 PM

Submitted by: Obianuju Fadjo, Executive Assistant