

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 16, 2021

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Agnes Giesbrecht	Priscilla Wells	William Wells	Vivian Searwar
Marcy Buell			

Present on Zoom:

Randy Cairns	Rick McKamey	Sharon Syrette	Cheryl Gabriel
Dawn Styran			

1) Call to order & Welcome – Viv

- a) Meeting called to order at 12:09 p.m.
- b) Good to see everyone here today

2) Acknowledgement - Viv

- a) Mission Public School District 75 is located on the traditional, ancestral, Unceded and shared territories of the Stó:lō people, Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sq'ewlets Territories

3) Apologies/Regrets –Marcy

- a) Tracy Loffler
- b) Jeannette Phillips
- c) Peggy Janicki

4) Review of Previous Minutes - Agnes

- a) January 12, 2021
 - (1) Accept – William Wells
 - (2) Second – Cheryl Gabriel
 - (3) Motion Carried

5) Financial Statement Review – Viv

- a) Telephone Budget still needs to be amended to show the increase in costs
- b) Funds will also need to be transferred to the Office Supplies as well
- c) ****UPDATE**** - These amendments will be made within the next couple of weeks
- d) Surplus Funds are rolled over as a surplus for the next school year
 - i) We had a surplus last year due to COVID
 - ii) Derek is working on the Budget and we will have a better idea in spring about where we are currently financially
 - iii) Fiscal year is April 1st to March 31st
- e) Would like to see more students receiving Scholarships/Bursaries
 - i) Last year because of the surplus, all students who applied for Scholarships/Bursaries, received something

6) Staffing Update - Viv

- a) Current postings:
 - i) Indigenous Success Coach for Elementary – this is temporary (funding from surplus from 2019-2020 school year); those who have applied are unqualified; would like to consider this as a permanent posting (need to confirm with budget)
 - ii) COVID Funding: Indigenous Liaison Worker for Band Outreach - ****UPDATE**** - we have hired someone who previously worked with SWSW in this role, they will start on March 1, 2021.

- iii) CORE Funds: Halq'emeylem Teacher for Middle Schools; currently zero applicants, has been posted since December 2020; currently Brenda Pierre, Indigenous Liaison Worker is working alongside TTOC; we are presently researching the possibility of a Letter of Permission through the Ministry of Education, is a challenging process; Some teachers at Riverside College work from Letters of Permission every year; must be renewed every year; comes with a cost
- b) Halq'emeylem in Elementary Schools:
 - i) In September 2020, we had two ILW's teaching Halq'emeylem at the Elementary Schools
 - ii) One was away on Leave for a few months and one no longer works for SD75; replacement for the past staff member is Brenda Pierre (see above for details); currently we have one ILW working part-time in elementary schools delivering Halq'emeylem instruction
- c) All ILW Postings are posted both internally and externally concurrently
- d) Sharon: Would like more support added for students who live off Reserve

7) Cultural Day Update - Viv

- a) Cultural Days at six elementary schools
- b) All presentations are virtual, except Archery
- c) Grateful for:
 - i) The work that Marcy, Deanna, and staff have done
 - ii) Johnny Williams for the Opening and Closing ceremonies
 - iii) Chrystal Williams and the Bannock
 - iv) School Staff
 - v) Student participation
 - vi) SWSW Staff/Presenters
- d) A number of bumps and challenges but still continuing through COVID
- e) Steep learning curve

8) Curriculum Update – Viv

- a) Peggy is unable to be here, so Vivian will update on SWSW collaborative projects
- b) Good Medicine Song Project:
 - i) CME Staff working with Elders, Halq'emeylem Speakers, and musicians to learn songs in Halq'emeylem and English
 - ii) Includes Siyamiateliyot, Eddie Gardner, Chief Johnny Williams
 - iii) Idea is to provide a concert, may be virtual (stay tuned for updates)
- c) Salish Weave Art Exploration
 - i) Donated works of art created by Coast Salish artists; received from a private donor who wanted the prints to be shared for education
 - ii) Prints are in the Siwal Si'wes Library being barcoded before they go out to schools
 - iii) ESR and Hatzic Middle School will be using this artwork in their teaching; sharing their learning journey later in the school year
- d) Stó:lō Sitel Story Revitalization
 - i) Working with other School Districts and SD75 educators; share experiences of using the stories in the classrooms

- e) Pro-D opportunity
 - i) Dwight Ballantyne presented The Ballantyne Project on the Feb. 12/21 Pro-D
 - ii) Approximately 40 educators attended
 - iii) Hope to bring Dwight back to share his stories (perhaps for Admin, Members of the Board, schools) – Vivian is working on options
- f) Grandmother's Lake Story (draining of Sumas Lake)
 - i) Integrated heritage photos with artwork
 - ii) Vivian acquired about 300 copies
 - iii) Siwal Si'wes Library has a class set
 - iv) SWSW staff members have a copy
 - v) Teacher-Librarians have a copy
 - vi) K-6 classroom teachers have a copy
 - vii) Learning Support Teacher and Inclusive Support Teacher in each school have a copy

9) Equity Scan & Anti-Racism Update - Viv

- a) Anti-Racism Learning Opportunity
 - i) Offered to all staff
 - ii) Approximately 82 participants (sign up)
- b) How can we extend this further? There is much more to do here.
- c) Thank you, Members of the Board, for participating
- d) Randy: Thank you for facilitating this Vivian and your direction; Learn something every time; Gives us tools to combat racism; Beneficial and needs to be expanded

10) Walk for Reconciliation - Viv

- a) Self-guided safe walk May 28th – 30th
- b) Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/reconcilingchurch>

11) Other

- a) Information Items:
 - i) Dr. Lorna Williams has videos on You Tube, it's a wonderful tool
 - ii) The Reach Gallery in Abbotsford has a traveling exhibit until sometime in March featuring B.C. Languages
- b) Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - i) Siwal Si'wes will be presenting at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 2nd, 2021
 - ii) Indigenous Success Coaches, Katy Brookes and Don Cosens will be speaking as well as the Band Outreach Teacher, Glenda Scrimshaw
- c) Book: Courage to Speak
 - i) The book *Courage to Speak* has Elder stories from 1974 – 1980
 - ii) Sharon and Agnes, thank you so much for the book
 - iii) Started work on this book in 2017; Took about 4 years to complete the book
 - iv) Thank you to, Siyamtlot (Shirley Leon)
 - v) Copies for MSS, HMS and MSS are ready; SWSW will have some in the SWSW library
 - vi) Will there be a chance to order more?
 - vii) Stó:lō Gift Shop has ordered 40 more copies
 - viii) Cost: \$20.00 each

- d) Pathways to Education
 - i) Partnership between SD75 and Douglas College
 - ii) Four students from Mission attending; All are Indigenous

Next Meeting:

March 9, 2021

**11:30 a.m. at Siwal Si'wes (Room 104)
and 12:00 p.m. on Zoom (calendar invitation to follow)**

(If you would like to attend in person, please advise Vivian, as there is a maximum capacity of 8 in Room 104 at SWSW)

Scholarship Selection Meeting

March 30, 2021

9:00 a.m. at Siwal Si'wes (Room 104)