

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 8, 2022

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Priscilla Wells	Agnes Giesbrecht	Vivian Searwar	Marcy Buell
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Present on Zoom:

Rick McKamey	Camielle Laslo	Corien Becker	Julia Renkema
Randy Cairns	Shelley Carter	Sharon Syrette	Dawn Styran
Sonya Williams	Augusta Gladstone	Cheryl Gabriel	Chantille Brown

1) Call to order & Welcome

2) Acknowledgement

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

3) Apologies/Regrets

- a) Tracy Loffler
- b) William Wells
- c) Jeanette Phillips
- d) Ronald Peters

4) Review of Previous minutes of January 11, 2022

- a) Accept – Dawn Styran
- b) 2nd – Priscilla Wells
- c) Motion Carried

5) Financial Statement Review

- a) Funds haven't been allocated to the schools
- b) Now been corrected and will show on next month's statement
- c) Why is there a negative balance on supplies carryover?
 - i) Surplus budget was overestimated last year
 - ii) To be transparent, must show it this way
 - iii) We are not in a deficit

6) Special Presentation – Corien Becker, Secretary Treasurer of SD75

- a) Draft policies
 - i) Need to begin the formal process
 - ii) Has been submitted to staff for review
 - iii) Would like feedback and input from Advisory Council members
- (1) Halq'emeylem Language Policy (see attached)**
 - (a) To ensure there is instruction for students
 - (b) Equal right to space and resources as other languages taught in BC
 - (c) Once the policy is made, then there would be guidelines to follow
 - (d) Hopefully will be completed by June2022 to use in the new school year
 - (e) Corien to share the draft with Vivian and Vivian will share with the Advisory for further feedback

(f) Feedback from Advisory:

- 1) It says that Halq'emeylem originates from Xá:ytem but it comes from Leq'á:mel
- 2) Appreciates Halq'emeylem being brought to Mission because of the Territories
- 3) Dialect changes depending on the area
- 4) In 1993, Heather Hansson met with Coqualeetza to see about bringing the language to Mission
- 5) This policy is to be true to the language
- 6) Even if there is a change in Board members, the policy stands
- 7) Worked with Seabird Island to get the base, to get started
- 8) Lucky to have fluent Halq'emeylem speakers to be a part of this, like Cheryl and Camielle
- 9) If you have to say, "It is said", put a footnote to clarify
- 10) 1978- 1980, first Halq'emeylem Dictionary from Seabird
- 11) Importance of having a policy, is that it's a statement saying the Board supports it
- 12) Thank you everyone for sharing, it's a learning experience
- 13) Does it need a specific dialect, or can it say Halq'emeylem?
- 14) Want to have substance, not just words on paper
- 15) History of language is crucial to the policy
- 16) Thank you Camielle for helping Corien
- 17) Need to honour traditional Territory in "Purpose"
- 18) Maybe take this draft to Elders and Chief in Council for their feedback

(g) Response from SD75 & Board:

- 1) Board puts out the purpose for a policy then gets staff input
- 2) Then it goes out to public process and then the Committee of the Whole
- 3) It can go back and forth until the Board can provide the need and make it meaningful
- 4) Gain knowledge from the community

(h) Tasks:

- 1) Nation representatives will share draft with Nation Councils
- 2) Vivian to check with Jen Lane to provide a list of resources
- 3) Corien will make revisions
- 4) Will revisit in March

(2) Policy for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- (a) Will share this policy and then discuss it at the next meeting
- (b) Want to paint a positive picture of what we want
- (c) It's a policy of respect
- (d) The purpose is to outline expectations of equity, diversity, and inclusion within SD75
- (e) Some definitions are still a work in progress
- (f) Significant list of guidelines

(g) Feedback from Advisory

- 1) This is a start to a large undertaking
- 2) If this takes longer to pass and be ready for the next school year, that's okay
- 3) There is so much to this, people will need time to read and re-read this
- 4) We can set aside time in March to discuss this
- 5) Want to get this right and be respectful
- 6) Want to acknowledge that Agnes and Sharon have seen a lot of the last 20 years
- 7) Hear complaints from students about Gender Equity or Sexual Orientation
- 8) Also let's look at this policy through eyes of both of these
- 9) Thank you Corien for sharing this work

7) Updates

- a) Board Nation Liaison – Rick McKamey
 - i) Rick has a new position, he is the Board Nation Liaison
 - (1) The Board felt that we needed to go deeper into the communities to grow the knowledge
 - (2) Need to build stronger relationships with Nations within the School District
 - ii) Dawn will be taking over for Camielle with the Education Portfolio
- b) Equity PATH
 - i) Vivian spoke with Rick on having PATH facilitators over the next couple of years
 - (1) Creating PATH with different groups and facilitators, includes Nations, Indigenous Community Members, Members of the Board, Siwal Si'wes Staff, Equity Focus Groups, Senior Management, School Administrators, Operations (Facilities, Health & Safety, Human Resources etc), Parent community and students
 - ii) School District is giving us \$25,000.00 to do this work
 - (1) Funds won't have to come out of Targeted funds
 - iii) Good way to engage with the Indigenous community
 - iv) Small group Equity PATH planning meeting is on February 25th
- c) Staffing Shortages
 - i) Staff shortages are within every department of SD75
 - ii) Liaison workers are covering for other ILW's
 - iii) Thank you for your patience

8) Dialogue & Discussion

- a) **Territory Acknowledgment Dialogue**
 - i) Vivian spoke with Rick
 - ii) How do we word this?
 - iii) Do we include Sumas?
 - iv) Extensive discussions with Council at Leq'á:mel
 - v) Recognize Sumas should be included
 - vi) Matsqui also agrees
 - vii) Still have more discussions to go
 - viii) Heather Hansson met with Gwen Point in 1994 to discuss the language for acknowledgement
 - ix) Will probably need another month or two to work on discussions
- b) **How Are We Doing Report – Open Discussion**
 - i) We had a discussion at our meeting last month
 - ii) Very close to completing the Annual Report
 - iii) Have used some data from the HAWD report
 - iv) Specifically, why is this always comparing Indigenous students with non-Indigenous students
 - (1) Thank you, Cheryl for helping Vivian see this report through a different lens
 - v) Some parts of the report have now been scaled back from previous years
 - vi) The Annual Report needs some proof reading but will be ready soon
 - (1) Can discuss this report at the next meeting
 - vii) Would like the report to say how “our” kids are doing, and not being compared to non-Indigenous kids
 - (1) Likes the comparison of the students who live and don't live on reserve
 - viii) Is there something we can learn to make better decisions?

- c) **Bursary – Global Education & Outdoor Education**
- i) Don Cosens, High School Indigenous Student Success Advocate, brought up an idea for a Bursary for Global Education & Outdoor Education
 - ii) As part of the course, students travel to a foreign country for one week, participating in a service project
 - iii) \$3,500.00 per/student to attend
 - iv) Would like a Bursary to help pay for a student to take this trip
 - v) Criteria
 - (1) Indigenous Ancestry
 - (2) Grade 11 who will be taking this class in grade 12
 - vi) Would like your input on this special Bursary
 - vii) Trip is during March Break but cancelled this year due to pandemic
 - viii) No rush on a decision as we won't be doing this until the next school year
 - ix) Process takes time
 - x) Virginia Joe Scholarship started as a discussion
 - (1) Virginia always talked and encouraged students to stay in school
 - (2) From the time we started discussing another scholarship, we were doing 2 - \$1,000.00 scholarships, one for Virginia and one for Les Mitchell but things got changed
 - (3) Originally started talking with Carolyn Schmor and then with Joe Heslip
 - (4) Kept being told that it was being worked on
 - (5) Got the Scholarship 3 years later in the amount of \$2,000.00 and it was called the Virginia Joe Memorial Scholarship
 - (6) Joe did his best to keep us informed
 - (7) The previous winners have done very well and are continuing their education
 - xi) Is there sustainable funding available for this new Bursary? Yes.
 - xii) Should give a \$2,000.00 Bursary and then have the student/family raise the rest
 - xiii) We will think on this further and revisit at another meeting
- d) Ground Penetration Website: <https://www.stolonation.bc.ca/residential-school:project-information>
- i) Vivian was given this website by David Schaepe
 - ii) Check back frequently for updates on this work
- e) Thank you for coming today

**Next Meeting:
March 8, 2022
11:30 a.m. in person or 12:00 p.m. on ZOOM
Room 104**

(If you would like to attend in person, please advise Vivian, as there is a maximum capacity of 15 in Room 104 at SWSW)