

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 12, 2024

Present:

Vivian Searwar	Angela Magon	Nicholas Louie	Priscilla Wells
Tracy Loffler	Pixie Wells	Camielle Laslo	Sonya Williams
Marcy Buell			

1) Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Words – Priscilla/Nicholas

2) Territory Acknowledgement - Vivian

- a) Mission Public School District is located on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unsurrendered, and Shared territories of Stó:lō people, of Leq'á:mel, Semá:th, Máthxwi, Sq'éwlets and Qwó:ltl'el First Nations, stewards of this land since time immemorial.

Halq'eméylem is the language of this land and of Stó:lō ancestors. The place from where Halq'eméylem (Upriver dialect) originates is Leq'á:mel. The language comes from the land, and it has been this way since time immemorial.

- i) Thank you for putting time aside to come here to guide the work in SD&% with Indigenous students put front & center

3) Apologies/Regrets – Priscilla/Nicholas

- a) Bill Wells
- b) Jeanette Phillips
- c) Ronald Peters

4) Ey kwese e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions - Priscilla/Nicholas

5) Meeting Minutes

- a) Review of Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024
 - i) Accept: Camielle Laslo
 - ii) Second: Sonya Williams
 - iii) Motion Carried

6) Presentations

- (1) None this month

7) Financial Statements Review – Vivian

- a) SWSW Financial Statements & Overall Budget
 - i) If you compare the Instructional Supplies line on this one with the one in November, it has changed
 - (1) Were at a negative balance of about \$15,000.00
 - (2) Now we are at a positive balance of \$52,061.78
 - (3) The Finance Department did a shuffle from staff salaries as there was a bit of a running surplus due to the unexpected departure of two ILWs in early September 2023.
 - ii) Re: School Grants:

(1) SAFA funds were transferred to SBF. You will not see these funds in a separate column on the financial statement, but instead Finance has logged them as a journal entry and so it is embedded in the last column (is why even though there are funds that have been used/expended the balance is higher than the original allotted budget amount).

b) SAFA

- i) We have \$283.05 left in our SAFA funds
 - (1) Using it sparingly for family emergencies
- ii) Fraser Valley Métis Association has some funding to top this up
 - (1) For any students in need
- iii) MNBC also has funding form Métis families
- iv) Vivian will connect with Pixie to discuss

8) Information, Updates & Reminders – Vivian

a) Siwal Si'wes Annual Report

- i) Hot off the press
- ii) If you have any questions after you read this, let Vivian know
- iii) We will revisit this again next month
- iv) Two errors noted – Vivian will edit and resend

b) Distinctions-Based Approach (see attached)

- i) You each received a copy
 - (1) The purpose of this document is to assist the Government of BC in building an understanding of the legal basis for, and core elements of, a distinctions-based approach in all of the Province's relations with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit in what is now BC
 - (2) The meaning of this document is that the scope of rights enjoyed by an Indigenous People is contextual and that the Province's relations and dealings with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit will be conducted in a manner that is appropriate for the specific context, recognizing and respecting the distinct and different rights , laws, legal systems, and systems of governance of each
- ii) Should have all Nations attend and work together at the same table
- iii) If you have any questions, please ask Vivian

c) Sonya

- i) Sq'ewlets received Education Governance Funding from FNEESC
 - (1) Will be having their first Sq'ewlets Education Meeting on March 19, 2024
 - (2) Want to get parents more involved
 - (3) Will also be doing some mentoring

9) New Discussion & Considerations - Vivian

a) Scholarship Proposal

- i) Have been thinking about Agnes' passing
 - (1) Vivian contacted her family to see about having a Scholarship in her name and they were very honoured and gave permission for us to proceed
 - (2) Vivian will talk to Joe Heslip about the process for when the Virginia Joe Scholarship and report back next month
- ii) We now have a chair with a blanket for the Elders who have passed

- b) Language (in reference to Nations)
 - i) Have been having conversations in many different meetings
 - ii) How do the Nations want to be referred to in documents (the term used)?
 - iii) Name them for who we are, First Nation, Metis & Inuit
 - iv) Keep it specific, name the five Nations
 - v) Indigenous partners means “working together”
- c) Paddles
 - i) At our Graduation ceremonies, we do the “Passing of the Paddle”
 - (1) Have been doing this for the past eight years
 - (2) We have now started Round 2
 - (3) We have done one of the 7 Sacred Teachings for the first 7 years and then last year we did the Equity Scan paddle, so what should we do now?
 - (4) Could do a SWSW logo paddle this year and then start new next year
 - (5) It would be a good way to end off
 - (6) Could we do Cedar Hats or Medallions?
 - (7) We have more time to think for what to do for next year
 - (8) The image of SWSW encompasses Agnes as well, since she was here from the start
 - (9) Vivian to check with Heather Hansson and Mel Jack for the complete story of Siwal Si’wes
 - ii) Everyone is in favour of the SWSW Paddle for this year
- d) Metis Education Service Agreement
 - i) Vivian sent an email out a few weeks ago about creating a Metis Education Service Agreement
 - (1) Representation of the Nations to be part of the committee and part of that work
 - (2) If you want to take part, let Vivian know
 - (3) It’s in the early stages
 - (4) Want transparency
 - (5) If any or all of you want to read it and provide input, you are welcome too

10) Follow Up Discussion, Considerations & Standing Agenda Items – Vivian

- a) Equity PATH/Equity in Action Plans & Updates
 - i) Same place as the last time we met
 - ii) The focus now is on the questions for the survey for parents, Nations, MTU & CUPE
- b) SBO House Post
 - i) Potential Artists
 - (1) There are two local artists that are interested
 - (2) What are the next steps?
 - (3) Where does the funding come from?
 - (4) House Posts can run up to \$100,000.00
 - (5) They charge by the foot
 - (6) Vivians will share information from Brandon Gabriel with Tracy and Tracy will share with the Board
- c) Cultural Days
 - i) Some bumps and hills, but it went off very well

- (1) Nicholas was asked to join for the larger schools as a backup and he presented at Hillside Traditional Academy
- (2) Thank you, Nicholas, for your meaningful work
- d) District Name Change
 - i) Powell River School District changed their name to the name of the Land
 - ii) No word yet for Mission School District

Next Meetings:
April 9, 2024
11:30 a.m. in person only
Room 104