

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 9, 2021

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Priscilla Wells	Vivian Searwar	Agnes Giesbrecht	Jeanette Phillips
Ronald Peters			

Present on Zoom:

Tracy Loffler	Dawn Styran	Randy Cairns	Shelley Carter
Michele Lylyk	Augusta Gladstone	Camielle Laslo	Cheryl Gabriel
Kerry-Lynn Lumsden			

1) Call to order & Welcome – Vivian

2) Acknowledgement - Vivian

- 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

- a) Marcy Buell
- b) Rick McKamey
- c) William Wells
- d) Sharon Syrette
- e) Julia Renkema

4) Review of Previous minutes of October 12, 2021

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

5) Financial Statement Review

- a) Apologies that they aren't here
 - i) Will contact Marcy and have them sent out by email
 - ii) If you have any questions, email Vivian
- b) Question from last month about the Supplies Carryover
 - i) As per Derek Welsh (Assistant Secretary-Treasurer), at the end of last year, we had a projected surplus of \$249,906.00
 - ii) It was overestimated by \$13,971.00, actual surplus is \$235,935.00
 - iii) To be transparent, this needs to be included in the Financial Statement, for clarity to show that the projected surplus was higher than it was

6) 1701 Echo Report

- a) Original estimation for the number of students self-identifying as Indigenous in SD75 (which informs the initial budget) was 1058
- b) We have approximately 1130 (fluctuates regularly)

7) Staffing Updates

- a) We are still actively looking for a K – 6 Indigenous Student Success Advocate
 - i) Unsuccessful so far finding a qualified applicant
 - ii) Additionally, we have an Indigenous Student Transition teacher position
 - (1) It's a .6 teaching position to provide support to teachers and students who attended the Band Outreach or attended school in person on a limited basis
 - (2) Funding is not through targeted funding, but a COVID special grant fund
 - (3) We have no applicants for this position
- b) Due to the surplus last year, we had room to hire more staff
- c) Currently we have an Indigenous Liaison Practicum student who is finishing this week
 - i) Started at HMS, went to MSS and also worked at Albert McMahon and École Christine Morrison
 - ii) Gave her an opportunity to experience all levels of ILW work
 - iii) Promising young woman and a positive role model
 - iv) She will be Itinerant @ HMS from present until June 30, 2021
- d) We also have a casual ILW who started working at Deroche three days per/week
 - i) For academic support for students who attended Band Outreach or attended school on a limited fashion during 2020-2021 school year
- e) HMS & Deroche have had a challenging year so far
- f) Hoping the added support at both schools will help

8) COVID Updates & Lockdown Plan

- a) We have created a tentative COVID Lockdown plan in case there is a lockdown @ Leq'á:mel or Sqewlets
- b) There are two options:
 - i) Option #1 – Students could potentially register at Summit Learning Centre where a teacher could be hired to deliver instruction virtually
 - (1) Parents and students would have to learn a new system
 - (2) Summit is full right now
 - ii) Option #2 – Probably a better option
 - (1) Students would stay connected with their teachers and their peers and work would be provided by a “Store Front Model”
 - (2) ILW's would drop off work and then pick it up to take to the teachers
 - (3) This would let students to stay connected with teachers, peers and ILW's
 - (4) Each student would be provided with a laptop from SWSW or their school
- c) The second option is the better option
 - i) We don't want to add any further stress
 - ii) There are a number of active COVID cases at Leq'á:mel right now
- d) Would you be able to utilize the casual ILW on the other two days for academic support?
 - i) The funds we have set aside for the Student Success Advocate could be used for this
 - ii) There would be an opportunity to increase her time as long as she agrees
 - iii) If she declines, we would have to consider other options

9) Learning Opportunities and Equity Update

- a) *Kevin Lamoureux* spoke to select staff for about two hours with 88 participants
- b) On November 1st, all SD75 staff were involved in an *Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression* training
- c) *Equity Centered Trauma Informed Education* book written by Alex Shevrin Venet
 - i) Offering a Learning Series to specific individuals in the School District
 - ii) Nation Education Coordinators have been invited (Dawn, Camielle, Sonya and Cheryl)
 - iii) The series is five virtual sessions throughout the school year
 - iv) This work is the gap and what was missing between Equity and Trauma Informed Practice
 - v) This author also worked with Paul Gorski on a book called *Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty*
 - vi) These two books go hand in hand
 - vii) Funded by SD75's Mental Health grant
- d) *Mental Health through and Indigenous Lens* with Len Pierre
 - i) Series of three workshops for SWSW Staff
- e) All SWSW staff will attend *The Canadian Indigenous Mental Health & and Holistic Wellness Conference*
 - i) December 8th
 - ii) Funded by the Mental Health Grant
- f) Jo Chrona on April 28, 2022
 - i) Calendar invitation to follow
 - ii) Sign up here:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zLAc0eUnh0GoyYI4TicvUq33YoYe_CIOjg2pUnvVzy9UQVpZTU5JRE5HWjFGSjdIWlhRMUI4VVBBNy4u

10) Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy Feedback Request

- a) In your package, you have a draft copy of the *Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy*
 - i) We originally began with an *Anti-Racism Policy (DRAFT)*
 - ii) Vivian worked alongside with Corien Becker (Secretary Treasurer with SD5) on the process with the development of the policies – to be shared for feedback
 - iii) Shared with all staff on November 1st
 - iv) Offering you time to look at it and offer suggestions or feedback
 - v) Aligns with SD75's Strategic Plan
- b) Cheryl - after what we witnessed last week, we saw the kinds of trauma experienced from Post-Traumatic Stress - there are different levels of Trauma that people experience
 - i) It's like going through a war
 - ii) Maybe we need to look at the different levels
 - iii) Really important to listen to our Elders, Elders are talking and sharing more
 - iv) Vivian will talk to Alex about speaking on the learning on the levels of trauma
 - v) Vivian will arrange a meeting with Vivian and Cheryl privately
- c) Rosanna Deerchild Podcast had the Honorable Murray Sinclair speaking
 - i) Says he is retired but is busier now than ever
 - ii) He said that the purpose of him doing this work, is that every single time he speaks, it's to arm those who are reasonable
 - iii) Those who are open to change

11) University of the Fraser Valley – Centre for Excellence

- a) Vivian spoke with James Mandigo from the University of the Fraser Valley
 - i) The UFV Teaching Education Program is moving to Mission, to be housed at HPMS
 - ii) Will probably include an Early Childhood Education Program and Family Child & Youth Services
 - iii) Idea is to revitalize the learning space, so it includes a concentration on the commitment to the TRC while embedding Indigenous Cultures and specifically from the local Nations
 - iv) UFV to create an Indigenous Education Working group and would like representation from local Nations, SD75, possibly Stó:lō Nation, Metis Nation BC, MFC, Halq'eméylem speaking individuals and SWSW Advisory
 - v) Want to create a working space to reflect the land it is on as well as to acknowledge St. Mary's Residential School
 - vi) If you are interested in this work, let Vivian know – Camielle Laslo is interested

12) The Ballantyne Project & Generations of Change Film Production

- a) Dwight Ballantyne with the Ballantyne Project presented to SD75 staff last February
 - i) A young man who was raised on the Montreal Lake Cree Nation
 - ii) Spearheaded a number of initiatives to support Indigenous youth who live in remote areas
 - iii) Also continues to share his story to whichever audience reaches out to him
 - iv) Presented to SD5 Administrators at their summer retreat
- b) Has a campaign called #WeSeeYou campaign
 - i) This is where schools and families can contribute school supplies and then send them to the Ballantyne Project to be distributed between families and First Nation communities in remote areas
 - ii) One school participated last year and sent five boxes
 - iii) This year, three schools participated and are sending 20 boxes
- c) Docuseries called *Generations of Change* – Moxie Films
 - i) They asked Dwight to tell his story
 - ii) Dwight has chosen Mission School District to be a part of the filming
 - iii) Want to film Dwight in action speaking to kids
 - iv) Grade 9 Indigenous students from HMS and HPMS will be part of the filming
 - v) Filming will be done at Xa:ytem on December 10th
 - vi) Really exciting because of all the School Districts that Dwight has worked with, he chose Mission
 - vii) We are honoured and privileged to have this chance
- d) Vivian will keep you posted

13) September 30 Fraser River Heritage Park Booking

- a) Vivian has secured the September 30th dated into perpetuity
- b) Consensus was to keep it on the 30th for the public

14) Thank You Letters from Students

- a) Vivian shared some thank you letters from Bursary and Scholarship recipients

15) December Luncheon Plans

- a) Pre COVID, we had regular winter meal with Advisory Council and SWSW staff
 - i) This year will be held in the gym at FLC December 14th at noon - turkey lunches
 - ii) If you wish to join us, advise Marcy

16) Closing

- a) Thank you everyone for coming
 - i) A lot of the information today was good news
 - ii) Looking forward to coming together for a meal on December 14th

**Next Meeting:
January 11, 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)**