

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 12, 2021

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Priscilla Wells	Vivian Searwar	Marcy Buell	Agnes Giesbrecht
Jeanette Phillips	Ronald Peters	Sharon Widdows	

Present on Zoom:

Dawn Styran	Randy Cairns	Michele Lylyk	Shelley Carter
Sonya Williams	Augusta Gladstone	Chantille Brown	Rick McKamey
Peggy Janicki	Camielle Laslo	Cheryl Gabriel	

1) Call to order & Welcome – Vivian

- a) Thank you for being here
- b) Hope you were able to enjoy and relax over the long weekend

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 –Priscilla

- a) Tracy Loffler
- b) Sharon Syrette
- c) Bill Wells

4) Presentation – Sharon Widdows

- a) Sharon is the Principal of E. S. Richards Elementary
 - i) E. S. Richards is an Arts Based Curriculum School
- b) Looking for direction and guidance
 - i) Attended the Arts School Network Conference - Educators from all over the world were on the ZOOM conference
 - ii) The group was humbled to see how many people were wearing orange shirts and recognizing the day, want to know and learn more
 - iii) Is there a way to consider a “Healing Through Arts” proposal we could present for this conference next year?
 - (1) Indigenous Artists: Peter Gong, and others
 - (2) Could we do Art through Storytelling and Art?
 - (3) Could we tell the story of Truth & Reconciliation in Art?
 - (4) Could we include Elders willing to share their stories while the artists listen and create?
 - (5) ESR to engage with Megan Egan (ILW), Peggy & Jennifer Lane
 - (6) The next conference is in October 2022 - proposal needs to be submitted in March
 - (7) Could we include C.K. Hogan, to document this digitally, to tell the story?
 - (8) Thank you, Sharon

5) Review of Previous minutes of May 11, 2021 & September 14, 2021 – Priscilla/Agnes

- a) Name correction: Ronald Peters, not Ron Phillips
 - Minutes from May 11/21: Accept – Jeanette; 2nd – Priscilla; Motion Carried
 - Minutes from September 14/21: Accept – Ronald; 2nd – Agnes; Motion Carried

6) Financial Statement Review - Vivian

- a) Vivian to consult with Derek Welsh (Asst Secretary-Treasurer):
 - i) Increase the funds for the Telephone
 - ii) Supplies Carryover (currently a negative balance of \$-13, 971.00)
 - iii) Will report back at the next meeting
- b) Grant Selection is tomorrow - next month the Financial Statement will show school allocations
- c) If students need food or supplies, where do the funds come from? From school's funds (Community Links funding) and from Indigenous targeted School-Based Funding allotments
- d) Goal is a unified approach – so students receive support from school and SWSW
- e) Do students get a textbook refund when they graduate? - Vivian will look into this and report back at next meeting

7) 1701 Update - Vivian

- a) We currently have approximately 1,130 students who self-identify as Indigenous
 - i) We have approximately 100 Nominal Roll students within the 1,130 (10% are Nominal Roll)

8) Indigenous Student Transition Teacher – Vivian

- a) Addressing Student Learning Concerns Fund: Senior Management met to discuss gaps
 - i) Presented to Members of the Board
 - ii) Approval of a .4 Teaching Position (2 days per/week) for an Indigenous Student Transition Teacher
 - (1) To work along with classroom teachers/course teachers for the following students
 - (a) Previous Band Outreach School students
 - (b) Indigenous Students attending on a limited basis
 - (c) Indigenous Students who received education via 'Storefront' program
 - (d) Support transitions back into school
 - (e) Were allotted an additional .2 FTE from BCTF (to compensate for Peggy's absences due to her work with the BCTF)
 - (f) Total .6 Indigenous Student Transition Teacher – schedule Will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
 - (g) Vivian will report back at next meeting
- b) This will be for students mainly at Deroche, HMS & MSS

9) COVID Updates – Vivian

- a) Vivian shares regular COVID updates with SWSW Advisory (information Supt Wilson shares with All Staff and SD75 school community)
- b) Potential lockdown on Reserve due to COVID
 - a. Would like your feedback
 - b. If lockdown does happen, it would be helpful if both Leq'á:mel & Sq'éwlets would be on the same day
 - c. Vivian will report back at next meeting for potential plan

10) Equity Scan Update - Vivian

- a) For the past two years, we have been laying the foundations for Equity in SD75
- b) Now that we have the foundation, Equity is a common language among many SD75 staff
- c) Learning Series – Equity Centred Trauma Informed Education by Alex Shevrin Venet
 - i) Dates: Nov 4, 2021; Jan 13, 2022; March 10, 2022, April 21, 2022, June 9, 2022 from 330-530pm
 - ii) Approx 25 people interested so far (Education Coordinators from Nations; SD75 Staff - Admin, Student Services Staff, SWSW Staff etc)
- d) Len Pierre – Mental Health Consulting
 - i) Vivian has a scheduled meeting with him to discuss possibilities for Mental Health training from Indigenous perspective, cultural humility and relevancy training – Vivian will report back at next meeting
- e) November 1st – All SD75 staff to receive training on Racial Equity
- f) SD75 Policies Review: Vivian is working with Corien Becker to review a number of policies – Vivian to report back at next meeting

11) National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Debrief – All

- a) Thank you, Vivian for the ‘lion’s share’ of work
- b) Humbled to be part of the work
- c) Hands raised to you for your time, all the meetings, work ethic, vision & leadership
 - i) Send on thank you’s to your bosses as well for letting this go through
 - ii) Fantastic day
- d) Thank you for the planning and the connections that were made
 - i) The growth in numbers in Non-Indigenous and Indigenous faces is heart warming
 - ii) It’s because of Siwal Si’wes
 - iii) We need to see it grow more
 - iv) Shows equity in the community
 - v) Our sphere of influence got bigger
 - vi) In awe of the work that you did
 - vii) Awe in the Elders
 - viii) Raise my hands to you
- e) Thank you to you as well Michele and the MFC
 - i) It was meant to be a partnership
- f) Raise hands to connections and community
 - i) Gratifying for survivors to see non-Indigenous people attend
 - ii) Made a difference in the community
- g) The Elders’ held Vivian’s hand and led her through it
- h) Want to thank Phyllis
 - i) Learned a lot from her
 - ii) She deserves a big hug
- i) Thinking of Priscilla who said it wasn’t about Trudeau, It’s about the children
- j) Thank you, Vivian, for letting us all be involved in the planning
- k) Honoured to be part of this table
- l) Emotions are still up and down
 - i) Didn’t know what our numbers would be
 - ii) Had a few challenges
 - iii) Huge mixture of people attended
 - iv) Everything went better than expected
 - v) An amazing day
 - vi) Many things were going on

- vii) So proud at the end of the day
- viii) Thank you all for your support
- m) Amazed to see all the photos on Facebook
 - i) Thank you to Vivian, Marcy, and the School Board Office
- n) Touching experience for me
 - i) Didn't know what went on there until recently
 - ii) Husband and ex-husband went there
 - iii) Very happy that I was there
 - iv) Felt like I was there for my husbands and sons
 - v) Hope the survivors get the help they need
 - vi) It wasn't their fault
- o) You need to share that
 - i) People need to hear it
- p) Thank you to everyone for your contributions
 - i) It will help people heal
 - ii) It was a beautiful day
- q) For next year
 - i) Always been a School District event\
 - (1) This year, it was a partnership
 - (2) What will this look like next year?
 - (a) Should we do this on September 29th so schools can attend?
 - (b) Should we do September 30th again?
 - (3) Fraser River Heritage Park is going to be very popular
 - (4) Would like to book the park now so we don't lose out
 - (5) It's important to keep it on September 30th as this is the National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
 - (6) Trustees can bring this up as an agenda item at the School Board meeting to get support
 - (7) Consensus: To continue to host a community event on Sept 30 every year
 - (8) Vivian to reach out to Maureen to book the park
- r) Apologies to Shelley Carter for not calling you up with the other Trustees on September 30th
 - i) Did not know that you had attended

Next Meetings:

**November 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 15 in Room 104 at SWSW)