

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 14, 2021

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Bill Wells	Priscilla Wells	Vivian Searwar	Marcy Buell
Agnes Giesbrecht	Jeanette Phillips	Ron Phillips	Jody Shaw

Present on Zoom:

Tracy Loffler	Randy Cairns	Cheryl Gabriel	Peggy Janicki
Dawn Styran	Rick McKamey	Sonya Williams	

1) Call to order & Welcome – Agnes/Priscilla

- a) Good to see everyone today

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'ám:el, Matsqui and Sq'éwlets Territories
- b) Room capacity in Room 104 has increased to 15 instead of 8

3) Apologies/Regrets –Marcy

- a) Camielle Laslo

4) Éy kwesé e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions - Viv

- a) Welcome everyone

5) Special Presentation - Jody Shaw, Advocate for Children and Youth in Care

- a) Jody works at MSS as an Indigenous Counselor Advocate for Child & Youth in Care and an Indigenous Instructional/Program Area Leader
 - i) The Thirteenth-Year framework
 - (1) Work began with Elders
 - (2) Program was developed in 2014
 - (3) Changed the way we work with Youth in Care; Focus is on what they need
 - (4) Spoke with Kelly Buccini @ Xyolhemeylh; She was in favour of the plan
 - (5) It's up to us to make a difference; Believe we can't look to people in power
 - (6) Start with our Community to look for Advocates
 - (7) Want this to be Provincial
 - (8) Took the idea to Carolyn Schmor at the School Board Office, that's how it was adopted in MPSD; and was shared at the Ministry level
 - (9) Jody is now the rep for all kids in Care
 - (10) Bill C92:
 - (a) Co-developed with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners;
 - (b) An Act respecting Indigenous Youth in Care
 - (c) There are 6 points of reference
 - (d) Invite you to look and examine Bill C92 and hold people accountable
 - (e) Any questions, contact Jody Shaw – jody.shaw@mpsd.ca
 - (11) Thank you, Jody, for sharing the work you do; Jody comes to this position with her heart open and her arms spread wide

- 6) Review of Previous Minutes of May 11, 2021 – Agnes/Priscilla**
- a) In June, we didn't have a regular Advisory meeting
 - b) Instead, we talked about the children that were found with Helen Joe from Tzachten sharing progress and plans for Coqualeetza and St. Mary's in Mission
 - c) Will accept the May minutes at the October Advisory meeting
- 7) Returning During COVID 19 – Vivian**
- a) Refer to information shared by Vivian (previous email) MPSD September Start Up Plan
- 8) Financial Statement Review – Vivian**
- a) Schools have not had funds allocated yet
 - b) ILW's are working on their Grant Proposals which will be reviewed by the Advisory Council in October
 - c) Ministry increased the allotment from \$1,500 to \$1,540 per/child
- 9) Year of the shxwlheq'lomet, wisdom, sqelá:w, the beaver – Vivian**
- a) Leo Rast, Grade 3 student from AME designed the Beaver
 - b) On September 30th, Leo and his family will be standing with Vivian at the Closing
- 10) Q'pethet Ye Tel:exw – Gathering to Understand: A Framework for Creating a Culture of Equity (Highlights and Report) - Vivian**
- a) Vivian shared the updated Equity Scan working document and the Equity Scan report required by the Ministry
 - b) Beginning Year 3
 - c) Pages 20 to 25 are where you will notice the greatest change, if you compare Year 1 and Year 2
 - d) Thank you to all of you for supporting this
 - e) More work to do but feet are in the right direction
- 11) National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – Priscilla**
- a) Still in the planning stage
 - b) Had a meeting on September 8th and will have another meeting this Friday
 - c) One more meeting before September 30th
 - d) Next week, Vivian will collate all notes and plans and share out
 - e) Thank you for attending meetings and your support
 - f) Excited to have Phyllis Webstad speak
 - g) It's history in the making
- 12) Project of Heart Canoe - Peggy**
- a) Will be a Project of Heart Inquiry Project
 - i) Would like release time for teacher to attend virtual meetings
 - ii) Will be teacher centered
 - iii) Everyone is invited to take a look at the Canoe
 - iv) Will be ordering class sets of the wooden tiles @ \$20.00 per/set for interested educators
 - v) Peggy's husband, Rick Joe and herself will bring the Project of Heart canoe to FRHP on September 30th
 - b) Secret Pocket
 - i) Would like to extend thanks for including "The Secret Pocket" story for the graduates in June
 - c) Truth-Marking Walk
 - i) Peggy and her husband will also be hosting a Truth-Marking Walk @ Stó:lō Nation in Chilliwack on September 30th

- ii) If you would like tickets, here is the link. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/truth-marking-tickets->

13) Territory Acknowledgment Dialogue - Vivian

- a) Wanted to bring this forward for discussion
 - i) In light of the new Agreement between the provincial government and Leqamel, Matsqui and Sumas, where do we go from here?
 - ii) Do we change our acknowledgment to reflect this agreement?
- b) Traditionally, Leq'á:mel was part of Sumas
 - i) The Territory goes from here across the border
 - ii) Still have families in Sumas
 - iii) It was all one tribe at the beginning
 - iv) Sumas should be part of the acknowledgment
 - v) Band with lands in boundaries of SD75
 - vi) Sumas didn't have this before, but they do now
 - vii) We have several staff who would like consistency
 - viii) Children are still recognized as living on traditional land
- c) Should do this the proper way
 - i) Want to make sure we don't forget anyone
 - ii) Want to be inclusive
 - iii) Curious to know if there is a proper process for this table to make?
 - iv) Want to do this in a good and right way
 - v) This is the correct place for the discussion to begin
 - vi) This is a discussion for the Elders in the community, so they are a part of it right from the beginning
 - vii) Maybe should have some of our leaders sit at this table to discuss this
 - viii) Are we missing anyone?
- d) Maybe give the Board time to meet with the Bands first
 - i) So much at stake with LMS
 - ii) It will be Band Lands, not Reserve
 - iii) This would make students living on these lands, Nominal Roll students
- e) Elders that attend Advisory meetings now are from Head of the Lake
 - i) Looking at a huge stretch of people, especially from Stl'atl'imx Territory
- f) Like to thank the words of the Elders
 - i) As a School District and a governance body wanting to support TRC, a lot of constraints we hear today are made by non-Indigenous peoples (those of the dominant culture)
 - ii) With the right teachings, the acknowledgment would be self-evident
 - iii) Governance bodies need to get together
 - iv) It's incumbent to have a true history
 - v) In the interim, the Board will start having conversations with individual nations
- g) Would like to ensure that this conversation to be on each Advisory agenda
- h) Don't want to misstep on Acknowledgment
 - i) In the interim, would it be appropriate to include Sumas in the acknowledgement?
- j) What is appropriate now and on September 30th?
- k) Will continue with status quo so as not to create confusion
- l) It took a long time to get to this place
- m) Now we are in a place where we want to acknowledge other Territories
- n) Want to make sure we honour the history
- o) This talk today is a lesson
- p) Want to make sure that people are proud of where they are from
- q) Make sure children are respected and valued

- r) This conversation is long overdue
- s) With the conversations, that's where the decision will be made

14) Format of Meetings (Virtual, In-Person, Hybrid) - Vivian

- a) What is your preference for our meeting format?
- b) Can now have 15 people in Room 104
- c) Should we keep it at 15 in person and then send a Teams invite for the others? Yes

15) Gratitude from Scholarship & Bursary Recipients – Vivian

- a) Received a thank you letter from Tori Jack
- b) She made gifts for the Advisory members and a drum for Siwal Si'wes

Next Meetings:

October 12, 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)