

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 13, 2023

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Randy Cairns	Tracy Loffler	Ronald Peters	Jeanette Phillips
Nicholas Louie	Agnes Giesbrecht	Corien Becker	Angus Wilson
Priscilla Wells	William Wells	Vivian Searwar	Marcy Buell

Present on Microsoft Teams:

Camielle Laslo	Alan Nicholson
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1) Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Words

- a) Good to see everyone here
- b) Looking forward to meeting exclusively in person next year (no Zoom meetings)

2) Territory Acknowledgement - Vivian

- a) Mission Public School District 75 is located on the traditional, ancestral, Unceded and shared territories of the Stó:lō people, which includes Sq'éwlets, Leq'á:mel, Sema:th, Matheqwí and Qwó:ltl'el First Nations.
- b) Acknowledge all of you for attending our monthly meetings
 - i) Couldn't do this without your support
 - ii) Makes SWSW whole

3) Apologies/Regrets

- a) None

4) Ey kwese e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions

5) MSS Replacement Project Discussion (Guest: Alan Nicholson)

- a) MSS will be replaced by a new school
 - a. Long process – 5-8 years
 - b. \$130 million in costs
 - c. Meeting with project planners to make it right for Mission
 - d. What works for the community and what is right for Mission
- b) Alan Nicholson is the lead consultant
 - a. One of the things identified is the inclusion of Indigenous Culture coming into the elements, and including mention of St. Mary's
 - b. Would the Nations support this idea?
 - c. Want Acknowledgment for Reconciliation
 - d. Want to know what is right for this group
 - e. Want meaningful engagement and communication
 - f. Not only for students, will also have access for the Community
 - g. Accessibility for all
 - h. Carbon neutrality, reduce greenhouse gas
 - i. New track & field track
 - j. Maybe an upper-level track like the one at NVIT?

- k. Students will still be attending the old MSS while the school is being built
- l. Designed for a capacity of 1,500 students
- m. Indigenous Education space that is culturally safe
 - i. Indigenous Education
 - ii. Historical teachings
 - iii. Elder Space
 - iv. Indigenous Mental Health Space
 - v. Community Space
 - vi. Culturally appropriate
 - vii. Comfortable, respectful & proud
- n. What would the cultural theming look like?
 - i. Signage to include Indigenous languages
 - ii. Incorporate the river, cedar, House Posts to welcome, blankets, weavings, innovative tools, Pit Houses, Long Houses
 - iii. Coqualeetza has Archives and items from St. Mary's
- o. Two things to think about
 - i. #1 – Function of space
 - ii. #2 – Esthetics
- p. Don't have stairs for the Indigenous space (Access for Indigenous Elders)
- q. Need to be able to move comfortably
- r. Control the temperature of the space
- s. Will need more conversations around this
- t. Have an outdoor area with an Indigenous Garden
- u. Build a Carving Shed

6) Review of Previous Minutes from May 9, 2023

- a) Accept – Nicholas Louie
- b) Second – Agnes Giesbrecht
- c) Motion Carried

7) Financial Statement Review

- a) SWSW Financial Statement
 - i) Will keep all our staff running into next year
 - ii) Will extend Su Chang's temporary position
 - (1) How is Su Chang's position helping the students?
 - (a) Vivian is collecting data
 - (b) Lots of anecdotal stories
- b) Student Affordability Fund
 - i) Can some of the extra SAFA funds be used for families over the summer?
 - (1) We will be having our 3rd Gift Card Blitz on Monday to give families a gift card
 - ii) Angus Wilson gave our department \$5,000.00 (additional funding) for SAFA
 - (1) This is extra funds from the School District
 - (2) The last remaining funds will be saved for incidentals
 - iii) Have you heard from families?

- (1) Is this helpful?
- (2) The ILW's have said yes
- iv) Vivian will email the Education Coordinators at the Nations to get their input

8) Updates

- a) Equity in Action Update
 - i) Document will be sent to Joe Heslip at the end of June
 - ii) Working on plans for next year:
 - (1) Parent PATH – BBQ on September 21, 2023
 - (2) Student Forum – October 19, 2023
 - (3) Teacher Leads for Equity – October 23, 2023
 - (4) Student Leader PATH Facilitation Workshop – November 23, 2023
 - (5) In Community – LFN and KFN – Fall 2023
 - (6) Surveys for the following in Fall 2023:
 - (a) Metis Nation
 - (b) Matsqui
 - (c) Sumas
 - (d) MTU executive & membership
 - (e) CUPE executive & membership
 - (f) Welcome Project & Blanket Exercise for non-Teaching/non-Support Staff–
September 2023 & February 2024
 - iii) Final cumulative Equity PATH May/June 2024
- b) Policy Updates
 - i) Board has considered the Draft Policies for “Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy” & “Halq’emeylem Language Policy” last Wednesday
- c) BAA Course Presentation (JCAM)
 - i) Started the process in May 2022 with Johnny Williams, Camielle Laslo, Dawn Styrant
 - ii) This went to the Committee of the Whole
 - iii) Given to the Ministry who sent it back for minor adjustments
 - iv) Resubmitted it back to the Ministry and it was approved
 - v) Mission is the first and only District to have a course approved and ready for September
 - vi) Vivian and Nicholas attended JCAM (Jointly Convened Annual Meeting) to present the BAA Course
 - vii) Mission outnumbered all Districts and received a huge ovation from everyone
 - viii) Huge gratitude
 - ix) Thank you, Vivian, and group,

9) Discussion

- a) Land Acknowledgement Plaques
 - i) Camielle Laslo and Vivian met and created a new DRAFT
 - ii) Water doesn't know any political boundaries
 - iii) Appreciate the acknowledgement of the Halq’emeylem piece

- iv) Indigenous Communities wanted to make it more general, to include everyone
 - v) Incredibly diverse
 - vi) Unsurrendered has more meaning than Unceded
 - vii) Camielle consulted with their Education Committee and felt it could be triggering to some
 - viii) We learn so much from our youth
 - (1) We need to learn about the beauty of the land, not the atrocities
 - ix) Add First Nation, Metis & Inuit
 - x) Want to make sure it's right to make sure we acknowledge correctly
 - (1) Want it to be able to be shared for many years
 - xi) Advisory Council approves the DRAFT
 - xii) Vivian will send it to the remaining Nations for one last look, then send to Rain Pierre who will be engraving the inscription on the wood.
- b) Co-Chair Elections
 - i) Priscilla nominated Jeanette
 - (1) Jeanette accepted
 - ii) Agnes nominated Nicholas
 - (1) Nicholas accepted
 - iii) Bill nominated Priscilla
 - (1) Priscilla accepted
 - iv) Nicholas received the most votes and there was a tie between Jeanette & Priscilla
 - v) Revoted for Jeanette or Priscilla and it was another tie
 - vi) Jeanette then stepped down
 - vii) Nicholas Louie and Priscilla Wells are the new co-chairs

10) New Information Items

- a) September 30th "National Day for Truth & Reconciliation"
- b) Siwal Si'wes won't be organizing this anymore
 - i) Stó:lō Nation will be taking over
 - ii) It's not a school day
- c) It will now be a 3-day event, September 29th, 30th & October 1st
 - i) 1st Day – Masked Dancers
 - ii) 2nd Day – Variety of groups doing different presentations
 - iii) 3rd Day – Different ways of healing
 - iv) Make sure everyone leaves and travels in a good way
- d) Francine Douglas will be the event coordinator

**Next Meeting:
September 12, 2023
11:30 a.m. in person only
Room 104**