

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 22, 2020

Present at Siwal Si'wes:

Priscilla Wells	William Wells	Agnes Giesbrecht	Jeanette Phillips
Vivian Searwar	Peggy Janicki	Marcy Buell	

Present on Zoom:

Sharon Syrette	Randy Cairns	Tracy Loffler	Shelley Carter
Cheryl Gabriel			

1) Call to order, Welcome & Opening Words– Agnes/Viv

- a) Thank you for your patience today as we are entering new territory with the hybrid meeting (In person and via Zoom)

2) Territory Acknowledgment - Viv

- 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 –Marcy

- a) Laura Buker
- b) Marilyn Collins
- c) Pauline Peters
- d) Jacquelyn Turner

4) Review of Previous Minutes from May 12, 2020 and June 9, 2020 – Agnes

- a) Last meeting, we were still trying to navigate COVID 19; unanimous agreement to postpone the approval of the minutes until September 2020 meeting (today).

Minutes from May 12/20:

- Accept – Priscilla
- 2nd – Sharon
- Motion Carried

Minutes from June 9/20:

- Accept – Agnes
- 2nd – Jeanette
- Motion Carried

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

- a) Indigenous Liaison Workers (ILW) are working really hard on 1701 obligations (i.e. consults with parents/caregivers)
- b) New ILW, Warren Point at MSS, Mondays-Fridays
 - i) Keeping up to date on all the documents for COVID 19 protocols:
 - (1) District Plan
 - (2) School Site Plans
 - (3) Siwal Si'wes Site Plan
- c) Band Outreach Program
 - i) Several families residing on the reserves have opted out of face-to-face instruction
 - ii) SD75 response to this is to create an educational program on reserve, shared equally between Leq'á:mel and Sq'ewlets (Sq'ewlets: M/Th; Leq'á:mel T/F; W at SWSW
 - iii) In the process of hiring a teacher to do this work
 - iv) One ILW will be working at each site, alongside the Band Outreach Teacher
 - v) We will loan one laptop per student

- vi) Currently working on an Agreement with the District, to be presented to the Bands
- vii) Projected start date is October
- viii) Currently:
 - (1) 14 students from Leq'á:mel
 - (2) 5 students from Sq'ewlets
- ix) Peggy will support the new teacher for the first week or so
- x) Have also put a request out to the schools for resources that we can use
- xi) SD75 will provide lockable filing cabinets per/site (teacher and student supplies)
- xii) Will also purchase some sports equipment and games
- xiii) These students will still be connected to their schools but will be working OFFSITE, and will receive educational services from SD75, so they will count towards 1701 count.
- xiv) This is different from Home Schooling, where the students are no longer receiving educational services from SD75, and are no longer connected to SD75 (these students will not be included in the 1701 count)
- xv) This is also different from Summit Distributed Learning Centre, which is part of SD75 (“distance learning”); the numbers for Summit have increased significantly this year; if an Indigenous student opts for learning through Summit, they are included in the 1701 count because they are receiving educational services from SD75
- xvi) The students in Band Outreach, can return to their schools because their spots will be “held”; for elementary students, they would return on the first of the month following the decision to return to face-to-face instruction, and for middle and high school students, it is at the start the quarter following the decision to return to face-to-face instruction
- xvii) Randy wants to extend his thanks to everyone for making the start up to the new school year go smoothly; thanks to those who worked so hard the Agreement
- xviii) Randy would like Vivian to present the Band Outreach Program at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting
- xix) Funding for the Band Outreach Teacher will come out of government monies we received for COVID 19 (and not targeted funds); SWSW will provide laptops some learning resources

6) Returning During COVID-19 - Viv

- a) See 5 a & b

7) Year of Sa:sq'ets, Sabe & the;itqel, Honesty - Viv

- i) The image for our new logo was created by Coast Salish artist, Ovila Mailhot
- ii) Ovila is originally from Leq'á:mel but now lives in Indiana, USA

8) Financial Statement Review - Viv

- i) Funds that were unused last year, were rolled forward to 2020 2021 school year.
- ii) Most districts found themselves in the same position, with a surplus as many year-end activities were cancelled, or replaced with less expensive options
- iii) ILW's made drums for the grads who requested one to be made
- iv) ILW's delivered drums, blankets/sashes, grad gifts and congratulatory letters to the grads
- v) ILW hours will remain at 35 hours per/week
- vi) Jennifer Lane has been hired as a .2 Teacher Librarian for SWSW (Tuesdays)

9) Terms of Reference - Viv

- i) See the Proposed Terms of Reference in your package
- ii) See the current Terms of Reference for comparison purposes (Marcy will share digitally)
- iii) Currently, there is not section on Voting in the proposed ToR

- iv) Vivian will check the initial document that was shared to ensure that no information was lost in the transfer
- v) Vivian acknowledges all the hard work that the working group has done
- vi) To be revisited next month
- vii) Cheryl Gabriel: Could we include COVID 19 Terms in the Terms of Reference (i.e. make a general statement about meetings in person or on Zoom, depending on the circumstances)
- viii) Vivian will make some revisions for the next meeting and consider that exceptions will need to be made as we are in extenuating circumstances with the impact of COVID-19 on attendance, when determining voting eligibility
- ix) Suggestion from Peggy: Maybe include “and Directions of the Ministry of Education”, Indigenous Branch after the word “Equity Scan”
- x) In June, we were supposed to be voting for a new co-chair; due to challenges with in-person and Zoom, we will do this October
- xi) Vivian to research how to set up voting option on Zoom for October 13, 2020 meeting
- xii) There is no minimum number for voting in the current ToR
- xiii) There is a voting option on Zoom, but you need to set it up before the meeting
- xiv) Regular meeting October 13, 2020; Grant Selectin Date TBD

10) Elders & Knowledge Keepers in the Classroom - Viv

- a) Please see DRAFT Elders & Knowledge Keepers form in your package
- b) Vivian requested thoughts and feedback
- c) Vivian contacted colleagues in other Districts, collated the information, modified and organized into a document/application for those wishing to embark on Elders & Knowledge Keepers in the Classroom project
- d) Big Idea: To consider the purpose of having Elders & Knowledge Keepers in the classroom; a framework for consideration
- e) Application to be completed by teacher and/or liaison, signed by site admin; collaborative approach
- f) Sharon: All rates should be consistent regardless of one’s title (i.e. dignitary versus non-dignitary); Vivian will revise this.
- g) Agnes: Should have a variety of Elders and not the same ones all the time; Noted.

11) Q’pethet Ye [Tel:exw](#) – Gathering to Understand: A Framework for Creating a Culture of Equity - Viv

- a) Backstory: Consulted with and received input from Indigenous Elders, students, families, community members, agencies, SD75 staff
- b) Collated the data and realized that the Equity Scan is closely related to the Enhancement Agreement; created a hybrid document, a working document
- c) Ovilla Mailhot created the artwork for this document; the art he created depicts the four themes which arose from the collated data (above)
- d) Vivian provided a Walk-Through of the document
- e) Agnes shared that there is more to the story of the beginning of Siwal Si’wes; Vivian will revise it to reflect this.
- f) If you would like to be part of the Equity Scan meetings, please advise Vivian
- g) If you have any suggestions or questions about the document, please reach out to Vivian

12) Indigenous Language Policy – Randy/Viv

- a) Still in Draft form; COVID-19 impacted the work as it was difficult to meet with Nations and Elders during lockdown
- b) Randy: Heartened to know that it is on the agenda and included on the Governance section of the Equity Scan; Thank you to Seabird Island for sharing their Halq’emeylem Curriculum with SD75

- c) Sharon: Book called “Shaped by Language – Honouring Our Elder’s Voices”
 - i) To be released in October 2020
 - ii) Has been working on this for five years, with a group of individuals at the Mission Genealogical Society
 - iii) Limited number will be free and then available to purchase

13) Project of Heart Canoe - Peggy

- a) Now a member of BCTF Executive
- b) Worked with Rick Joe (Chilliwack School District and Peggy’s husband)
- c) Project of Heart tiles have been attached to the outside of the canoe (6,000 tiles)
- d) Is from BCTF in Courtney
- e) Have taken the canoe to the Longhouse in Chilliwack
- f) Also, picked up a replica lightbox from Comox and delivered that to the Chilliwack Museum
- g) Steven Point brushed off the Canoe in early September 2020
- h) Hope is to create virtual learning opportunities for students

14) Salish Weave Project - Viv

- a) Salish weave print art donation from a private collection on the Island
- b) Over the last four years, other School Districts have prepared and shared lesson plans for the artwork;
- c) Jen Lane, Peggy and Vivian will create a Pilot Project and include interested teachers from SD75
- d) For more info, visit salishweave.org

15) Orange Shirt Day 2020 - Viv

- a) Annual Orange Shirt Day Commemorative March for Reconciliation is cancelled due to COVID 19
- b) In lieu of this we will hold a small gathering at Fraser River Heritage Park, under the covered area
- c) Individual schools have made site-based plans for Orange Shirt Day
- d) Some requested to combine Orange Shirt Day with the Terry Fox Run, to be respectful to both, they should stay separate

16) 2019 – 2020 Grant Evaluations - Viv

- a) You have copies, so please look them over
- b) If you have any questions, please let Viv know

17) Letters of Gratitude from Scholarship & Bursary Recipients - Viv

- a) We will save this for next time

18) Closing

- a) Thank you so much for coming today

Next Meeting:

October 13, 2020

11:30 a.m.

Siwal Si’wes (Room 104) and 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)