

**SIWAL SI'WES – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**February 11, 2019**

**Present:**

Randy Cairns	Rene Inkster	Peter Lindley	Donna Giroux
Agnes Giesbrecht	Jacqelyn Turner	Rick McKamey	Priscilla Wells
William Wells	Tracy Loffler	Vivian Searwar	Marcy Buell
Camielle Laslo			

**1. Call to Order and Welcome – Agnes/Jacqelyn**

**2. Apologies/Regrets – Agnes/Jacqelyn**

- Wendy Matthews

**3. Territory Acknowledgment - Viv**

- Mission Public School District 75 is located on the traditional, ancestral, Unceded and shared lands of the Stó:lō people, Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sq'ewlets Nations

**4. Review of Previous Minutes from November 12/19 – Agnes**

- January meeting cancelled due to snow
- December was our Christmas luncheon
- Motion Forward:
  - Fix the spelling of Priscilla on the last page
  - Accept – Sharon Syrette
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Priscilla Wells
  - Motion Carried

**5. Financial Statement Review - Vivian**

- Agenda items #5 & 6 will be discussed together
- Action Needed: Look at Office Supplies overage
- Marcy will do this and report back in April 2020

**6. Budget - Vivian**

- In terms of Budget, we are sitting comfortably, as we have been cautious
- Vivian talked with Derek Welsh (Assistant to Secretary Treasurer):
  - Staff were reduced to 30 hours per/week in January 2019
  - All Indigenous Liaison Workers hours have been increased to 35 hours per/week until the end of June
- Going to propose this again for next year as it is needed
- We do have a couple staff who are on a leave
- Filling gaps (of leaves) are challenging,
- Posted a Casual position and Marne Ferris was the successful candidate as of April 1, 2020
- Posted two additional temporary 35 hour/week positions until June 30, 2020
- We have moved some staff to fill in the gaps (for staff on leave) so all students are receiving service
- How we can enhance programs for students?
  - Increase Scholarships; mid-year bursary application; MSS Team has been keeping track of possible scholarship and bursary applicants; Don Cosens has been working hard with students (Priscilla)
  - Vivian visited schools and some Indigenous rooms need some TLC, so we have offered to the liaisons to submit a “wish list”

- Ensure Indigenous, Metis and Inuit are represented equally
- Ask students what they need
- Indigenous Picture Books/resources
- Books are curriculum and would need to stay in the Indigenous room (not the school library)
- Games, need a brain break
- Book “Invisible Generations” – Living Between Indigenous and White in the Fraser Valley by Jean Barman
- How about letting students paint a mural?
- Little House Posts at each school? Vivian and Camielle to chat
- District Principal’s salary used to come out of Targeted Funding, now it comes out of CORE funding
- SWSW has a surplus of funds due to:
  - No Vice Principal position this year
  - Some staff who were hired for September, started later
  - Funds per/student was increased
  - Some Staff leaves are unpaid
- Because of the surplus with SWSW, was approached by Senior staff if the District Principal salary could go back to be taken out of Targeted Funding to be repaid to SWSW at a future date (as a possibly option):
  - No other SD75 Principal’s salary comes out of this
  - It was a three-year process to have the District Principal’s salary come out of CORE
  - The Board supported the decision that this salary would continue to come out of CORE (Randy)
  - Goes with what we believe in
  - We have a strong Board that recognizes the needs of Indigenous students
  - Don’t expect this deficit to be long term
  - Different projections for next year
  - The Board did not ask for the \$45,000.00 that the Indigenous Department went over Budget last year (Tracy)

**7. Terms of Reference – Lolehawk & Sharon**

- UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- Truth and Reconciliation
- LEA (Local Education Agreement) and services
- Annual reporting
- Regular meetings
  - Working groups should be on separate days
- Agenda sent out early
- Staff reports sent out early
- Decision making
- Should have people from PAC (Parent Advisory Council) attend
- No initials
- Gender neutral
- Working Group
- Conflict resolution spills over into LEA
- This will come out during the Equity Scan
- Is there an appetite here for a working group to discuss Conflict Resolution?
- Vivian talked to Mel Jack regarding questions about the name Siwal Si’wes:
  - Many years ago, Mel Jack and Heather Hansson (District Vice- Principal of our department), hired Gwen and Steven Point to give our department a name
  - They gifted the name Siwal Si’wes
  - The name and the meaning of the name is a gift

- If you receive a name in a way of a gift, it is there forever, and it can't be changed
- This should be written into the history in the Terms of Reference (Viv will do this)

#### **8. Discussion of Terms: Aboriginal & Indigenous – Viv**

- We would like to move from the term Aboriginal to Indigenous
- Some find Indigenous to be open ended, not specific enough
- If we are changing to Indigenous, we need a clear definition of what Indigenous means
- Indigenous – “natural to the land”
- It is a difficult topic
- Indigenous is now recognized through Canada and B.C.
- One of the strongest arguments for Aboriginal, is that in Latin, it means, “not original” (Rick)
- We need definitions everyone
- Terms may continue to change over time, but we have to use one that is respectful at present
- Motion Forward (ballot vote -Rene)
  - Cheryl seconded
  - Ballots were handed out to eligible voters at the table
  - Voted in favour of moving to Indigenous
    - 6 for Indigenous, 1 for Aboriginal and 1 no count vote

#### **9. Draft Indigenous Language Education Policy - Viv**

- Angus
  - Randy requested that we should have an Indigenous Language Policy (Halq'eméylem)
  - There is no Policy in BC, Saskatchewan or anywhere
  - In this version, the first paragraph is about here, identifies where we are
  - The second paragraph explains the commitment to support Halq'eméylem in Mission Schools
  - Also, trying to recognize permissions
  - Is a DRAFT 1.14
  - Presented to the Board Committee of the Whole last week
  - Importance of consultation with the language piece
  - One true Halq'eméylem teacher is Elizabeth Phillips (Siyamiyateliyot)
  - Recognize that this needs to be done in the right way
  - Acknowledge where the language comes from
  - Honour each other's' language
  - Treated with the utmost respect
- Randy
  - Part of rationale
  - Shout out to Seabird for sharing their IRP (Independent Reading Project)
  - Shared responsibility in Public Schools
  - Bring this to staff to develop
  - Policy strengthens the direction you're going
  - Want the community to be satisfied that we are doing this in the right way
  - Board is supportive, but we need your input
  - Important journey
  - Wording is important
- Lolehawk
  - My hands are lifted up
  - Proud that this school District is moving forward and innovative
  - Need to have our language in this draft/policy

- As a representative of the system, want to say be wary of the system
- Would anyone with thoughts or ideas, let us know?
- Pipte (Peter Lindley):
  - Language isn't about who owns it, it belongs to everyone
  - Sandra Victor needs to be recognized for her early work
- Cheryl:
  - Is a need to consult with Bands

#### **10. LEA (Leq'á:mel) – Vivian/Rick**

- Very encouraging and positive
- Still in the draft mode
- Council is on side
- Start date is important and end date is equally important
- Drive of LEA is that the needs of the students are being met
- Treaty has a lot of moving components
- All brand-new turf
- Learned a lot from Nisga'a - Very clear in helping and guiding us

#### **11. Curriculum Update & The Secret Pocket – Kilaksten (Peggy)**

- 60's Scoop Presentations
- May 8<sup>th</sup> is "Bring a Bear" day
  - This is on a Sunday, so would like this on May 6<sup>th</sup> at schools
- Confirmed for the month of May to bring the Giant Indigenous Map to HMS Library
  - It's 11 meters X 8 meters (36 feet X 26 feet)
- Blanket Lesson
- Weaving with 200 classes
- "Secret Pocket"
  - Teaching history lessons for 18 years
  - Part of the lesson is about a story of her mother and the secret pocket
  - Her mother was in a Residential School and she would sew secret pockets in the girl's petticoats to hide food
  - UFV congratulated Peggy and Siyamiateliyot for sharing this story
  - Siyamiateliyot put a Halq'eméylem word on the pocket
  - This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that all grads @ UFV will receive a stole with a pocket in it
  - Would like to do this for all grads in Mission
  - The grads would then gift it
  - Peggy was invited to present this initiative at the Committee of the Whole
  - For every single grad in Mission, not just the Indigenous grads
  - MTU offered funding for this

#### **12. Enhancement Agreement & Equity Scan Update - Vivian**

- Many attended the last Equity Scan meeting
- Instead of jumping into the pool, thought we would wade in and shared who we are
- Very fruitful
- Discussed norms and practices; kept the main headings, but shared discussion on the definition of each norm

- Next meeting is on March 5, 2020 @ HPMS from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- If you would like to join us, let Vivian know
- Still collecting data from Enhancement Agreement meetings
- Many Districts are moving away from EA's
- Some Districts are doing one or the other; Some are combining both into one
- We will most likely be doing a hybrid EA/Equity

**13. Information: SD75 Responses to TRC - Vivian**

- Vivian created a document for you as a handout with a list of the items SD75 has done in response to the TRC
- Annual Report
- Kaleb Child who works with Joe Heslip, had positive things to say about it
- Thank you all for your help with this

**14. Rides to Advisory - Vivian**

- If you ever need a ride to our meetings, let Vivian know in advance

**15. Additional Items**

- Priscilla
  - Butterflies in Spirit Walk @ HMS
  - February 13, 2020 starting at 9:00 am
  - Will be walking around the track

**INVITATIONS:**

- Viewing of the Witness Blanket documentary – April 6, 2020, starting at 3:00pm @ HPMS cafeteria
- Recognition Dinners (starting at 4:30pm)
  - MSS - April 29, 2020
  - HMS – May 20, 2020
  - HPMS – May 27, 2020

**Next Meeting  
April 14, 2020  
11:30 a.m.**