

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 16, 2024

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Nicholas Louie Priscilla Wells Cheryl Gabriel Randy Cairns
Vivian Searwar
Stefany Tunshell – Feeding Futures
Monica Thimer, Melissa Crapo, Mary-Anna Ennis – ICY Team

1) Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Words - Vivian

2) Territory Acknowledgement - Vivian

- a) Mission Public School District is located on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unsurrendered, and Shared territories of Stó:lō people, of Leq'á:mel, Semá:th, Máthxwi, Sq'éwlets and Qwó:lt'el First Nations, stewards of this land since time immemorial.
Halq'eméylem is the language of this land and of Stó:lō ancestors. The place from where Halq'eméylem (Upriver dialect) originates is Leq'á:mel. The language comes from the land, and it has been this way since time immemorial.

3) Apologies/Regrets – Priscilla/Nicholas

- a) Tracy Loffler
- b) Bill Wells
- c) Marcy Buell

4) Ey kwese e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions - Priscilla/Nicholas

5) Review of Previous Minutes from November 14, 2023 - Priscilla/Nicholas

6) Presentations

- a) **ICY Team: Integrated Child and Youth Mental Health Team** in Mission – work 12 months per year
 - 1) Mary-Anna Ennis: Program Lead (Fraser Health)
 - 2) Monica Thimer: Family Peer Support Worker (Family SMART)
 1. With Family SMART for 5 years;
 2. Help families find resources; navigation of systems; mentorship (help with preparing for meetings with school and doctors); focus is on now – what are the needs now
 3. Monthly “In the Know” information sessions; and connection with other families
 4. At end of this month, will be an info session in-person
 5. Potential outreach to Silverdale/Dewdney/Deroche areas
 - 3) Melissa Crapo & Nicole Allen: Clinical Counselors (SD75)
 1. Meet with different schools
 2. Focus mental health strategies – mild to moderate

3. Coffee Talk at a few elementary schools; ICY Team meets with parents through coffee and snack; informal conversations; shared knowledge and education and also brainstorming ideas; is a casual conversation
4. In middle schools, creation of a social group with Peer Support Workers (HMS and HPMS); Peer Support Workers have lived experience; also working with Grade 6 – transition to middle schools (individual basis)
5. At high school individual clinical counseling – one-on-one; intervention and prevention; those experiencing detachment from school
6. Connecting with School Admin; what are the needs; sharing information at a staff meeting for all staff; specific focus
- 4) Two Peer Support Workers (SD75); Cash Mang – one more TBD
- 5) Chelsea Hogness – Youth Concurrent Disorder Therapist (Fraser Health)
- 6) Looking to co-developing Indigenous-specific positions with Advisory and Nations
- 7) Official September 2023 start
- 8) Provincial Initiative – Round Two of Pilot program through the province
- 9) More needs for supports for mental health and substance use
- 10) What is already available in community; where are gaps; how to work together
- 11) Idea to provide seamless barrier free mental health supports to children and youth
- 12) ICY Luncheon – ICY Staff and Indigenous Community Members – Mission Library January 22, 2024, at noon; if you would like to attend, reach out to Vivian
- 13) Priscilla: It is important to pay attention and acknowledgement (small talk) and it seems as though you have ‘nailed that’

b) **Feeding Futures**

- 1) Stefany Tunshell – Manager of Feeding Futures
- 2) Initially funding aimed at lowest 20% of families
 1. How to do without stigma
 2. How to identify
 3. Difference between nutrition insufficient and food insufficient
- 3) So, implement breakfast and lunch program
- 4) Ensure culturally relevant food;
- 5) Food sustainability
- 6) Building a healthy relationship with food and food growing and process
- 7) With children involved in process and building of community; focus is coming together as a community not just lining up handing out food;
- 8) Traditional smokehouse – funding may not be used for capital projects such as this
- 9) Commercial smokehouse in community to be used; looking for Indigenous peoples to help to teach feeding a large
- 10) Food literacy
- 11) Partnering with farmers (5 month growing season; 2 months out of school; so reduces to 3 months);
- 12) Feeding Futures Committee - FFC (21 individuals) – once a month meetings
 1. To come: World Café – discuss ideas from FFC and share ideas

2. Stefany will send information to Vivian who will share with SWSW Advisory
- 13) Cheryl:
1. Feasting together
 2. Go away from western view of bell ringing; eating quickly before the bell rings again
 3. Slow down, be grateful for food; enjoy the act of eating thoughtfully
 4. Develop a love of food and respect for it
 5. Cultural protocols within a feast gathering
 6. Growing food
 7. Processing and canning of food
 8. Food programs with meaning:
 - (a) Welcome
 - (b) Protocols & Work
 - (c) Feasting/Drumming/Storytelling
 - (d) Giveaway
 9. Could embed Halq'emeylem
 10. Could invite an Indigenous person who has a specific gift (smoking salmon etc.); will honour them and to teach others
 11. Develop a list of specific Nation folks who may be able to do this
 12. Plant literacy; foraging; traditional plants for eating; for medicines
 13. A sense of belonging to community, to land etc.
 14. Respect for food
- 14) Randy:
1. Canning
- 15) Vivian:
1. SAFA – Cooking Program; food planning and prep; sharing a meal; clean up; kitchen safety;

7) Financial Statements Review – Vivian

- a) SWSW Financial Statements & Overall Budget
- b) SAFA

8) Information & Updates

- a) Equity PATH/Equity in Action Plans & Updates for 2023 – 2024 – Vivian
 - 1) Educator Equity Leads; meet once every two months; anchor text is Jo Chrona's book; trying to start to fill the gap between the foundational work done with equity and equity in schools, in classrooms, in interactions between staff and students and families
 1. Will be creating a survey for:
 - (a) Teacher
 - (b) Support Staff
 - (c) Indigenous Learners
 - (d) Indigenous Parents/Caregivers
 - (e) Administrators

- 2) Non-Teaching Staff:
 1. Peggy Janicki will present the Blanket Exercise on Feb 16 to select staff
 2. Vivian is in progress of creating a PowerPoint to be shared with all staff (perhaps through the HR venue, Administrative Procedures); based on the past relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Canada
- 3) FINAL PATH – Projected Fall/Winter 2024
 1. Vivian is in talks with Ovila Mailhot for the creation of a final PATH
- b) Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Metis-Based Child Care
 - 1) Vivian:
 1. Was beautiful
 - 2) Nicholas:
 1. Interesting to see the various folks speaking
 2. Good to have children in the audience
 3. Hearing words of appreciation and future for children
 - 3) Following this meeting we will begin preliminary talks about the naming of the centre (with MNBC & FVMA folks)
 - 1.
- c) Staffing:
 - 1) VP – Angela Magon – Feb 1st, 2024
 - 2) ILW – Jaclyn Barrett – HZE & HMS

9) Follow Up Discussion & Considerations

- a) SBO House Post
 - 1) Idea – SBO is leader; canoe in foyer; thought was to have House Post at SBO to represent truth, history, reconciliation, education for future
 - 2) Vivian reached out to Nations some time ago;
 - 3) Shelley Carter has expressed that her company may be able to donate a log
 - 4) Board looking for guidance, protocol to make it meaningful
 - 5) Vivian will reach out to Nations again
- b) School District Name Change
 - 1) Randy:
 1. Reference to the changing of the name of Powell River School District
 2. How to go about this in a good way
- c) HMS Memorial Project
 - 1) No update
- d) Terms of Reference
 - 1) We will wait for more news from IEC

Secondary Meeting Naming of the Metis-Based Child Care:

Attendees, those above and the following:

- MNBC: Lyn Joshi (Child Care Project Lead); Danielle Sayers-Jimenez (Director of Early Years Team); Chantelle Colthorp (ELCC Training & Development Manager)
- Pixie Wells (FVMA)
- Members of the Board: Jash Bains, Linda Hamel, Shelley Carter
- Karen Greaux, District Principal of Early Learning

Ideas:

1. Thinking of not just resilience, but resurgence, regrowth, rebirth
2. What is already there? The WHE Thunderbird
3. Can we honour what is already there?
4. Thunderbird is connected to the Creation story; coming from the Earth; importance of the journey;
5. We are here; we speak for Indigenous blood, and bone and voice
6. History within families; coming forward; seven generations
7. We remember, its about belonging; carrying the baton onwards
8. Should include all three languages:
 - (a) Michif
 - (b) Halq'emeylem
 - (c) English
9. What is the story behind the Thunderbird
 - (a) Vivian will find out – Johnny Williams designed the Thunderbird
10. Engagement Event:
 - (a) Will include Metis Elders
 - (b) Tentative Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 @530pm; Location: Potentially Room 104; share a meal and invite conversation

**Next Meeting:
February 13, 2024
11:30 a.m. in person only
Room 104, SWSW**