

## SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 9, 2021

### Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

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

### Present on Zoom:

Rick McKamey	Randy Cairns	Tracy Loffler	Cheryl Gabriel
Dawn Styran	Joelle Reynolds	Peggy Janicki	

### 1) Call to order & Welcome – Agnes, Priscilla & Viv

- a) Acknowledge the tragedy at Sq'ewlets last week, with the death of a recent former Deroche student and share our prayers and thoughts to the community, family and children and to ask the Creator to surround the community with love
- b) MPSD deployed their Critical Response Team (Flight Team)
- c) Viv spent most of last week at Sq'ewlets
- d) We are waiting to discuss next steps
- e) Proud and grateful to have Carolynn Schmor as the head of the Flight Team, as well as, Jody Shaw and Linda Dickenson who provided support to Deroche students

### 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'á:mel, Matsqui and Sq'ewlets Territories

### 3) Apologies/Regrets –Marcy

- a) Zelda Williams

### 4) Review of Previous Minutes – Agnes & Priscilla

- a) January February 16, 2021
  - (1) Accept – Jeanette Phillips
  - (2) Second – William Wells
  - (3) Motion Carried

### 5) Financial Statement Review – Vivian

- a) Transferred some funds to telephone, must transfer some to office supplies
- b) Viv met with Derek last week
- c) Will be working with a surplus again due to COVID
- d) Regular year end activities have been revised
- e) Staff shortages (for ILW postings, Halq'emeylem Teacher and for the current temporary K-6 Indigenous Student Success Coach)
  - i) Viv is in discussions with HR regarding a Letter of Permission for Halq'emeylem Teacher
  - ii) Randy: Could we get a fluent Halq'emeylem speaking Elder to come in to teach? Could there be a co-teaching dynamic? - The Board would support this.
  - iii) Current model: Indigenous Liaison Worker who has Level 4 in Halq'emeylem Language Instruction, is in a classroom with a teacher, teaching Grade 7 & 8 Halq'emeylem
  - iv) Exploring the option of creating a new course with Halq'emeylem imbedded with Stó:lō History
  - v) Will report back on this at our next meeting

**6) Staffing Update - Vivian**

- a) This year has been challenging
- b) A former ILW's has accepted a temporary position as Youth Care Worker (Student Services); We have posted this position as temporary until June 30, 2021
- c) Viv is in constant conversation with HR to interview suitable candidates
- d) COVID has added a whole different dimension to staffing
- e) Viv currently discussing (with Finance) staffing possibilities for next year:
  - i) K – 6 Success Advocate (and to support transitions of Kindergarten students coming into school and grade 6 students going to Middle School
  - ii) Nation Outreach Teacher Liaison (part-time position)
  - iii) Continue with 22 ILW's
- f) Increase the Teacher/Librarian position to .4 total FTE

**7) Nation Education Coordinator/School Team Meeting Updates - Vivian**

- a) Meetings with Nation (Band) Education Coordinators to discuss student successes and challenges to increase communication and possible supports for Band students
- b) Have had meetings with Leqamel, with Deroche Elementary and Hatzic Middle
- c) This week, will have meetings with Band Outreach and Mission Secondary
- d) Comments from Advisory Council Members:
  - i) Transition from Elementary to high school can be stressful
  - ii) Both socially and emotionally
  - iii) Struggling to find their identity
  - iv) COVID has had an impact on all of them
  - v) Need supports like lending a hand or giving an ear
  - vi) Having a sense of isolation
  - vii) May not be willing to open up to their family but maybe someone at school
  - viii) They need encouragement and to know we are proud of them
  - ix) It's not enough for us leaders to just watch, they need to know we are walking with them
- e) Thank you for your work Dawn

**8) Curriculum Update – Kilaksten (Peggy)**

- a) Often receive questions from ILW's and teachers asking different cultural questions
  - i) Some questions turn into new curriculum
- b) The Good Medicine Stories Newsletter is beautiful, I appreciate Vivian for doing this
- c) May in Lieu opportunities:
  - i) Indigenous Book Reading Challenge initiated by Jenn Lane
  - ii) Stó:lō Sitel Program with Jo-Ann Archibald
  - iii) Salish Weave Project
- d) Trying to find authentic text for high school students
- e) Littlebits:
  - i) Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies – curriculum)
  - ii) Micro pieces that you put together; coding
  - iii) Using the book “Th'ōwxeya Story”
  - iv) Students will recreate the story with Littlebits

**9) Year End Celebrations & Graduation Ceremonies – Vivian**

- i) Will recognize students on a smaller scale
- ii) Staff will most likely honour students at their own schools, within learning cohorts
- iii) Things may be different at each school
- iv) To be discussed at the next Siwal Si'wes Staff meeting for ideas

- b) No graduation information at this time (info to follow)
  - i) Graduates will receive their pendant, blanket/sash, and drum
  - ii) Could resemble last year's celebrations
  - iii) Mission Teacher's Union has passed a motion that they will support the Secret Pocket again this year; Peggy, please extend our thank you to the MTU
- c) Unofficial good news
  - i) Peggy's story on her mom's Secret Pocket story will be published
  - ii) Funds will be returning to her mom's home community
  - iii) Congratulations Peggy

**10) National Indigenous People's Day: Drum Across Kanata - Vivian**

- a) Beginning conversations with Devita Marsden
- b) Last year there was Drum Across BC; this year it will be Drum Across Canada
- c) 2 days, June 21<sup>st</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> on ZOOM
- d) Hoping to have a small group in Fraserview Learning Centres' gym
- e) One day for Eastern Canada and one day for Western Canada
- f) Please stay tuned and save the dates

**11) Other**

- a) Priscilla:
  - i) MMIWG Red Dress Awareness Poster (see attached)

**Next Meetings:**

**Scholarship Selection Meeting  
March 30, 2021  
11:30 a.m. at Siwal Si'wes (Room 104)**

**April 13, 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)**

# MMIWG

## Red Dress Awareness

### 60 x 60 Training



Train for 60 days and share your weekly progress on our Facebook Page:

*Tsow Tun Le Lum RHSW Support*

During your 60 days of training we are encouraging you to hold MMIWG and their families in your heart and mind.



**Join us on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**in our online 5km or 10km**  
**Run, Walk, Cycle, Paddle**  
**in memory of MMIWG and**  
**their families**

Participants receive a T-Shirt & Facemask and will be entered in the draw for prizes!

Register by Facebook Messenger with your name, address, email & phone #



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