

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 14, 2023

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Priscilla Wells	Bill Wells	Linda Hamel	Jash Bains
Sonya Williams	Randy Cairns	Tracy Loffler	Nicholas Louie
Peggy Melton-Duden	Angus Wilson	Vivian Searwar	Marcy Buell
Marcy Buell			

- 1) **Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Words - Vivian**
- 2) **Territory Acknowledgement - Vivian**
 - a) Thinking about families who are struggling with rising costs
 - b) Asking the Creator to provide for families
- 3) **Apologies/Regrets – Priscilla/Nicholas**
 - a) Shelley Carter
 - b) Jeanette Phillips
 - c) Ronald Peters
- 4) **Ey kwese e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions - Priscilla/Nicholas**
- 5) **Review of Previous Minutes from October 10, 2023 - Priscilla/Nicholas**
 - a) Accept – Peggy Melton-Duden
 - b) Second – Priscilla Wells
 - c) Motion Carried
- 6) **Presentation – Angus Wilson**
 - a) Amendments to the School Act
 - i) #1 – First Nations School of Choice Policy
 - ii) #2 – Model of LEA “Local Education Agreement”
 - iii) #3 – Indigenous Education Council Policy
 - (1) This is a Provincial Mandate
 - (2) Some communities don't have an Advisory Council
 - (3) All School Districts must have an Indigenous Education Council
 - (4) The Indigenous Education Council must reflect the local First Nations
 - (5) Don't have a Terms of Reference
 - (6) Local First Nations would have voting rights
 - (7) Local First Nations can choose who attends meetings
 - (8) There are still some limitations
 - (9) Will take effect immediately, and it will have an impact on the 2024 – 2025 school year
 - (10) This has a profound impact on all Education Councils
 - (11) Our group does well with what they require
 - (12) Excited to see the official outcome
 - (13) We all have a say

- (14) There are a lot more in our School Districts besides local Bands
- (15) Hope that the School District could provide guidance but not tell Indigenous people what to do
- (16) <https://www.codifylaws.com/canada-bill-details/bill-40-school-amendment-act-2023-british-columbia-bill/r/recwBkWhfqOge457D>

7) Financial Statements Review – Vivian

- a) SWSW Financial Statements & Overall Budget
 - i) At the end of last year, we had a projected \$156,000 surplus
 - ii) When the dust settled in Sept/Oct., it was substantially less
 - (1) It was around \$80,000
 - iii) 2 ILW's resigned on short notice and their positions won't be re-filled
 - iv) We were given \$25,000 SAFA funds:
 - (1) We won't be paying phone or hydro bills
 - (2) We have also received refurbished laptops that were given to families in need
 - v) Each school has 2 funds, Enhancement Equity Grant & School Based Funds
 - vi) We have put \$20,400 from SAFA into School Based Funds to offset the budget
 - (1) School Based Funds go towards the needs of students, food, clothing, etc so it is essentially (and has been) a SAFA
 - vii) The remaining of SAFA funds will be used sparingly
 - viii) Derek & Vivian will monitor Budget

8) Information & Updates

- a) Equity PATH/Equity in Action Plans & Updates for 2023 – 2024 – Vivian
 - i) Educator Equity Leads
 - (1) We have a group of about 20 educators that meet once per/month
 - (2) Mostly teachers but will have one Admin. & one EA join in
 - ii) Surveys to:
 - (1) Students
 - (2) Indigenous Parents
 - (3) Nation Community Members
 - (4) Members of MTU & CUPE
 - iii) Final PATH in Spring/Fall of 2024
- b) ILW Applicant Special Program Language (BC's Office of Human Rights Commissioner)
 - i) Hiring preference for Indigenous persons with Indigenous Ancestry has now been extended to ILW
 - ii) Will now be included in each posting
 - iii) The questions for an ILW interview have been revised to reflect the needs of SWSW
- c) EdPlanInsight
 - i) Moved away from AIMS
 - ii) All information in AIMS has been archived
 - iii) EdPlanInsight has been money well invested
 - iv) It is linked to MyEd BC
- d) Mission Local Immigration Partnership Council (see attached)

- e) Strategic Plan Feedback Reminder
 - i) If you want to provide information, please do
- f) Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Metis-Based Child Care
 - i) This Child Care will be at West Heights Community School
 - ii) Ceremony is on January 9, 2024, time TBD
 - iii) Let Marcy know if you would like to attend or if you need a ride

9) Follow Up Discussion & Considerations

- a) District Name Change
 - i) Doesn't need to be decided today
 - ii) Needs to go through several steps
 - iii) Invite Angus Wilson back to our next meeting
- b) HMS Memorial Project
 - i) Back in September, HMS had an idea to create a Memorial Project for the loss at St. Mary's
 - ii) Vivian will check in with progress and report back
- c) Terms of Reference – Nicholas
 - i) Table this until the New Year
 - ii) As per changes to School Act (above), will affect our Terms of Reference
 - iii) We must be open minded and include the whole community
 - iv) We work well here together
 - v) It's all about our children
 - vi) We all need to work together and be on the same page

10) New Discussion & Considerations

- a) Policy Meetings – Potential Revision of Format
 - i) We have been having Policy Meetings for over the last year & a half
 - ii) Policies wouldn't be where they are today without you
 - iii) The past few meetings we didn't have any Nation representation
 - iv) The Policy for Indigenous Learners is very outdated
 - v) Is it better to meet on Teams or in person?
 - vi) Ours is an interactive process
 - vii) We need Indigenous input
 - viii) There is no timeline on policy
 - ix) Indigenous input is invaluable
 - x) The next Policy meeting is on December 11 @ 10:00 a.m.
 - xi) Vivian is happy to meet in person if you prefer
- b) Protection of Indigenous Intellectual Knowledge – Revisions to Policy 4.4 *Sto:lo History and the Halq'emeylem Language, Story, and Culture* (see attached)
 - i) Great example of how you start something & you give it time & space; you produce something like this
 - ii) Over the summer, Vivian read Jo Chrona's book (see attached for reference)
 - iii) This would protect Indigenous Knowledge & Knowledge Keepers
 - iv) Things we pass down verbally to family
 - v) It's like re-learning the whole process

- vi) Residential School survivors struggle a lot over what they learned in those schools
- vii) We have come a long way in the school system
- viii) If you want to give this to your Nations and give input, please let Vivian know
- ix) Everyone is in favour of this

Next Meetings:

Policy Meeting

December 11, 2023

10:00am

Room 104/Teams

Advisory Winter Luncheon

December 12, 2023

12:00 p.m.

Fraserview Learning Centre Gym

Regular Meeting

January 16, 2024

11:30 a.m. in person only

Room 104