



## October 10, 2023 SWSW Advisory Council Gathering Minutes



*As learning partners of Mission Public School District, we humbly work and learn on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unsurrendered, and Shared territories of Stó:lō people, of Leq'á:mel, Semá:th, Máthxwi, Sq'ewlets and Qwó:Itl'e'l First Nations, stewards of this land since time immemorial.*

*Present:*

*Priscilla Wells, Bill Wells, Nicholas Louie, Tracy Loffler, Randy Cairns, Vivian Searwar*

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Words – Priscilla/Nicholas
2. Land Acknowledgment - Vivian
3. Apologies/Regrets – Priscilla/Nicholas
  - a. Marcy Buell
  - b. Joelle Reynolds
4. Éy kwesé e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions – Priscilla/Nicholas
5. Review of previous minutes of September 12, 2023 – Priscilla/Nicholas
  - a. Moved by Priscilla & seconded by Nicholas
6. Presentation:
  - a. Jas Gill (HMS) – HMS Name Change
    - i. Reaching out to community and partners regarding re-branding
    - ii. Mascot has been known as Crusaders
    - iii. Want to get as many voices as possible (HMS families, district)
    - iv. Want to connect with this table and other Indigenous community members
    - v. Vivian will share out the link for suggestions with SWSW group. Everyone is encouraged to share widely. Will need survey responses by Oct 22.
    - vi. Staff to arrive at five (approx.) finalists for names and then will share out with larger community for vote
    - vii. Would like to present at November public board meeting which is being held at HMS November 21
    - viii. HMS will also commission an artist for the symbol and/or student submissions
    - ix. Hope to unveil everything in January 2024
  - b. HMS Art Memorial Project (see attached)
    - i. Teachers asked Vivian to present on their behalf
    - ii. Planning group also includes entire Indigenous Team at HMS
    - iii. To honour children who are missing and have been found at St Mary's Residential School
    - iv. Vivian provided district perspective and will bring to SWSW table
    - v. Land-based, community-assembled, large-scale dreamcatcher
    - vi. Memorialize residential school victims, and also hope to celebrate freedom, culture, and hope
    - vii. Looking for feedback and possible participation from SWSW Council
    - viii. Priscilla reminded that ground-penetrating work is far from over at Heritage Park and asks that be considered; will take an additional 2-3 years until completion
    - ix. Will follow-up again at November SWSW meeting
    - x. Could forward questions to Remy/Elizabeth Benoit of Stò:lō Research
      1. Priscilla will share her contact info with Vivian

7. Financial Statements Review - Vivian
  - a. SWSW Financial Statements
    - i. Most schools have budget of \$400, some have \$100 (these are advances on grants to provide for urgent requirements)
    - ii. Grant selection is October 18, please let Marcy know if you would like to participate
    - iii. Had 2 ILWs leave the district; still working on replacements
    - iv. Johnny Williams will be returning.
  - b. Student Affordability & Food Security Fund Statement 2023 2024
    - i. Requests have been less than last year
    - ii. Specifically supporting students directly, not rent, utilities, etc
8. Information, Updates & Reminders:
  - a. Equity PATH/Equity in Action Plans & Updates for 2023 2024 - Vivian
    - i. Teacher Equity Leads – October 20
      1. Gap is still in the work that happens everyday in classrooms, hoping Equity Leads will bridge that gap
    - ii. Student (Grades 7-10) Equity PATH – October 25
      1. If SWSW members would like to attend, please advise Marcy
    - iii. Survey
      1. Hoping Equity Leads can assist with creating an Equity Survey for MTU and CUPE members
    - iv. In Community
      1. This will be the last year that provide Equity Paths will be offered to Nations
      2. Would like to do an Equity PATH at LFN, KFN and at FVMA
    - v. FINAL PATH:
      1. Will create one large district-wide Equity Path in May/June 2024
  - b. National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Event Follow Up - Priscilla
    - i. General Thoughts
      1. Priscilla: it went really well, but not sure of the total count of folks who came. Had people from Kamloops, Sechelt, the Island. Was an opportunity for Survivors to re-connect after many years. Ensured that RCMP security did not wear uniforms. Same request was made of religious leaders. IRSSS, FNHA, Stolonation Health offered a lot of wellness support. Many speakers were children of Survivors. Received a lot of positive feedback. Follow-up meeting to finalize final report. Parks Canada will build a place at Fraser River Heritage Park to store and display the Canoe. In the meantime, it will be stored at Abbotsford School District.
      2. Nicholas: Attended Sunday with his father, but also was there on behalf of his mother. Thought of his grandmother, who attended Kamloops Residential School. The Bear Dancing and cleansing was well received and so necessary for healing and help.
    - ii. Field Trips (unguided) to St. Mary's
      1. After announcement on September 21, teachers were reaching out to Vivian wanting to take classes on field trips to St Mary's.
      2. Unguided field trips are not permitted at St Mary's until further notice. Vivian monitoring the situation.
  - c. FNEsc Virtual Sessions - Vivian
    - i. <https://www.fnesc.ca/regionalsessions/>
    - ii. Let Vivian know if you would like to attend

- d. Terms of Reference – Nicholas Louie
    - i. Hard copy of TOR provided at the table. Please direct feedback to Nicholas.
  - e. Siya Ye Yoyes Student Leadership Conference Dates:
    - i. Monday, November 20, Tuesday, November 21, Wednesday, November 22, 2023
      - 1. Day 1 Future Leaders; Day 2 Future Leaders & Siyam; Day 3 Siyam only
      - 2. Will be very thoughtful about which students are chosen, specifically those demonstrating leadership skills.
9. Discussion & Considerations
- a. District Name
    - i. Powell River School District – See news article in email.
      - 1. Huge step for reconciliation. The name “Mission” is very colonial, tied to St Mary’s, tied to the cemetery. Moving forward do we consider where we are geographically. Will revisit this in November. Need to be thoughtful and allow time. St Mary’s is in the centre of the community, unlike other residential schools throughout BC. It wasn’t always in the centre, but as the community has grown, it is now central.
10. Closing

***Policy Meeting: October 16, 2023 (10am on Teams)***  
***Grant Proposal Review: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 (10am in Room 104)***  
***Next Advisory Gathering: November 14, 2023, 11:30am, Room 104 In-Person only***