

SIWAL SI'WES (SWSW) – ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 12, 2023

Present in-person at Siwal Si'wes:

Nicholas Louie	Peggy Duden	Priscilla Wells	Sonya Williams
Jeanette Phillips	Ronald Peters	Randy Cairns	Vivian Searwar
Marcy Buell			

1) Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Words

- a) Thank you for coming to our first meeting of 2023 – 2024
- b) Reminders to keep our Indigenous Learners at the forefront of our thoughts
 - i) Nicholas:
 - (1) Grateful to be part of the Advisory Council
 - ii) Priscilla:
 - (1) It has been a really busy time
 - (2) Bill is doing much better
 - (3) Looking forward to this year
- c) Thank you, Nicholas and Priscilla for your words
- d) Happy to be here in person

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:ltl'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

- a) Tracy Loffler
- b) Sharon Syrette
- c) Joelle Reynolds
- d) Bill Wells

4) Ey kwese e'mi: Welcome Everyone & Introductions

5) Review of Previous Minutes from June 13, 2023

- a) We should take less time during our meeting to review the Minutes
 - i) Marcy sends them out early for us to look at ahead of time
- b) Accept – Ronald Peters
- c) Second – Jeanette Phillips
- d) Motion Carried

6) Financial Statement Review

a) SWSW Financial Statement

- (1) We have been running a bit of a surplus since COVID
- (2) The projected budget for this year is less than expected (69,000\$ less)
- (3) At the end of September, once we get our final numbers, it will be adjusted
- (4) Won't affect staffing
- (5) School-Based Funds:
 - (a) Every school has either \$100.00 or \$400.00 advance already in their budget, small schools (\$100), medium and large schools (\$400)
- (6) Library Funds have increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500
 - (a) This is for the work that Jen and Peggy are doing to purchase authentic resources
- (7) Success Advocates Have a shared budget of \$2,000 to take kids out for a snack or lunch while they are meeting with them

b) Student Affordability Fund

- i) Last year we had been given a lump sum from the Ministry
 - (1) We were given \$69,000 and we used it all
 - (2) Vivian asked if we could get more, and then we received another \$5,000 from the Board and we used all of that as well
- ii) Last year these funds went to a multitude of things (including rent, hydro bills etc)
 - (1) This year we have two sums:
 - (a) Feeding Futures Fund – waiting on allotment and info
 - (b) SAFA - \$25,000 for everything else – this year we will not be providing funds for cell phone bills, rent, hydro bills etc – the funds are specific to the needs of students
- iii) For the past few years, we have had a great relationship with Ravi from the “Steps Together Foundation”
 - (1) We just received 25 laptops in cases donated by them
 - (2) We do have to pay a \$20.00 fee for each of them
 - (3) This \$500.00 will come out of SAFA

7) Information & Updates

a) Sacred Teaching – **the'itqel** (honesty) & **Sásq'ets**

- i) New image from Ovilla Mailhot
 - (1) Sásq'ets & Smímeyáth (Sasquatch & Butterfly) - the'itqel (Honesty)
 - (2) Ovi wanted to show the gentle nature of the Sasquatch
 - (3) Feel like what you chose as this year's teaching in June, was meant to be
- ii) Native Northwest has filed a lawsuit against Sasquatch Gifts and Souvenirs for allegedly copying, using, and selling t-shirts featuring a design strikingly close to the work of Coast Salish artist Francis Horne, Sr.
- iii) We have a new Cultural Day presentation for Sásq'ets & Smímeyáth (Sasquatch & Butterfly) - the'itqel (Honesty)
 - (1) A wooden disc with a Sásq'ets waterless tattoo on it
 - (2) It will also have a piece of lacing so that students can wear it
 - (3) For K's, grade 1 & 2
 - (4) Will also include the teaching

- b) Land Acknowledgment Plaques
 - i) Rain has these almost finished
 - ii) They will be distributed to each school site and department
- c) Equity PATH/Equity in Action Plans for 2023 - 2024
 - i) This is the report that Vivian sends to the Ministry at the end of each school year
 - ii) Read it at your leisure
 - iii) Equity Plans for this year include:
 - (1) Equity Parent Fall BBQ
 - (a) September 21, 2023, starting at 4:30 p.m. @ Fraserview Learning Centre
 - (b) If you would like to attend, let Marcy know
 - (c) We will be sharing a meal, catered by Valley Caterers on site
 - (d) Then we will come together in the gym for a short Equity presentation and then will ask families what their hopes & dreams are for their students
 - (2) Last April, we brought together students for a Student Equity PATH at Xá:ytem
 - (3) We will be doing this again on October 19th for Grades 7 – 10
 - (4) Comments shared last year by students were significant
 - (5) We are looking to have one teacher as an Equity Lead from each school to attend monthly meetings
 - (6) In February, will have presentations for non-teaching staff, it's still in the works
 - (7) Thank you, Sonya, for hosting the Equity PATH @ Sq'ewlets
 - (8) Want to do this with Leq'á:mel & Qwó:lt'l'el
 - (9) Hoping to be finished this year, but really, it's just the beginning of the Equity work
- d) Policy & Procedure Engagement Meetings
 - i) Reminder that we have meetings on TEAMS every month
 - ii) It would be great to have representatives from this table
 - iii) If you can make it, let Vivian know
 - iv) Board has also updated its Procedure Policy to include Indigenous Representation
 - v) Board recognizes the importance of Siwal Si'wes
 - vi) Vivian will send out Calendar Invites for all meetings
- e) Staffing
 - i) Staffing 2023 – 2024
 - (1) We started out the School Year with the same number of staff as last year
 - (2) Since the start of September, two ILWs have indicated that they will not be returning to SD75 (resigned)
 - (3) Two term postings will be posted ASAP
 - (4) Have reached out to the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner so that we may include the Special Programs Exemption language that we already have for some positions
 - ii) Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education Posting
 - (1) Thank you to CORE Funding and the Board
 - (2) Only have had one applicant so far (external)
 - (3) This could take some time due to staffing shortages

- f) National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Event
 - (1) On Thursday, September 21st, there will be a report given on the groundwork at St. Mary's
 - (2) This will start at 9:00 a.m. and last until the afternoon
 - (3) Will be setting up a tent on the Soccer Field for the event
 - (4) Will be a 3-day event on September 29th, 30th and October 1st
 - (5) Called "Taking Care of Our Children"
 - (6) The agenda is posted on Facebook; Click [HERE](#) for the website
 - (7) Cyril Pierre work with students in Abbotsford to make a dugout canoe with 7 images of the Teachings
 - (8) This is not a public event, it's by invitation only
 - (9) All Advisory & SWSW staff are invited
 - (10) There will be a Shuttle service provided between the new St. Mary's and the old St. Mary's
- g) "Bones of Crows"
 - i) A film called "Bones of Crows: will be available for viewing on CBC GEM on September 20th for free
 - (1) It's on Cineplex for \$5.99
 - ii)

8) Discussion

- a) Terms of Reference
 - i) Our Terms of Reference are out of date
 - ii) Should be reviewed every two years
 - iii) Hasn't been done since 2020
 - iv) We can revisit this in October
 - v) If you are interested in being in a T of R Working Group, email Marcy
- b) Raffle
 - i) We haven't had the Raffle at our meetings since COVID
 - ii) Should we bring this back?
 - iii) Everyone agreed and we will be starting this again at our next meeting in October

**Next Meeting:
September 12, 2023
11:30 a.m. in person only
Room 104**