

George Jay meeting minutes – April 26, 2023

Present: Rob, Sarah, Shelly, Deb, Bob, Erin and Deanna

A.1 Chair Paynter acknowledged the Traditional Territories

A.2 Approval of agenda – by consent

A.3 Approval of minutes – unanimous

B. No presentations

C. New Business

Dr. Niemi provided a recap and an update. The committee has engaged in several meetings, learning sessions and presentations throughout the last few years.

The committee reached out the Chief and Council of the Esquimalt Nations and Songhees Nations in 2022 to see if they were interested in the renaming of the school and if so, how they would like to be involved. The District worked closely with community on the Media Release which was finalized and sent earlier in March 2023.

Next steps involve working with Songhees Council members Councillor Dick- Tunkara and Councillor Sam and Esquimalt Elder Dr. Elmer George, the Linguist and Education Director Dyer to find a time that works for them to meet. This meeting will look at co-developing with the Nations a shared timeline and considerations regarding protocols when renaming the school. Kelly Gorman (Executive Assistant) will be the lead contact from SD61 with the identified community members from Songhees and Esquimalt Nation.

Director Niemi and Superintendent Whitten will reach out to Qwul'sih'yah'maht Robina Thomas, Vice President, Indigenous, University of Victoria to see if it is possible to meet and discuss the recent naming of new buildings at UVic.

It is important that the committee not rush this process and that it is done in a good way with reciprocity.

Sarah and Deanna shared that the staff feels positive about this process and outcome and looks forward to working with community and the students to learn more about the land, history and culture of this area.

Erin shared that the parents are supportive of the change and noted that the process has been kind to self, others and place and aligns with the George Jay values.

The committee will continue to be aware of how we are in relation with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the generosity both Nations have shown in working with us to rename a school particularly when it isn't a school that their students typically attend (Craigflower, Shoreline or Esquimalt).

The committee discussed how the committee and the school can be a good host and the importance of establishing relationships through this process.

D. No correspondence

E. No General Announcements

F. Adjournment 5:32pm