

Leigh Glancie

From: Jason Reid
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:06 PM
To: Leigh Glancie
Subject: Fwd: Reconsideration of Turgoose Public School Site History

For Board Correspondence

From: Peter Turgoose <gooseworks@telus.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:42:26 PM
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Subject: Reconsideration of Turgoose Public School Site History

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Thank you to Mr Reid for allowing me to Zoom into the committee meeting last week, and sending me your latest background info to the Turgoose School site on Whyte road. I only had a day to get this request to you due to Mr Reid wanting it in the weekend packages the Trustees get, so I have emailed you in case it missed getting out to you. I have copied some of the descendants of William Turgoose.

As a past 3 term School Trustee and Board Chairman for Delta , a community rich in farming and very involved with the peoples of the Tsawwassen Indian Band , I have experienced many Board decisions on dealing with new school expansions and new schools site needs and naming.

Unfortunately I was not contacted by District Vice Principal Maire Walker to give constructive input on the important history of the 2 acre site. But did give inputs years back to staff regarding the site's usage.

I along with my cousins, have spent decades protecting the land "*for Public school purposes*" , so you have it today . It was not sold, for example in 1984 your school district wanted to build a Maintenance Centre on the school site, and we kept it saved for Public school purposes only.

William Turgoose was a significant Pioneer to the Saanichton Area , not only donating the 2 acres that was conveyed April 7 , 1873 "*Upon trust to hold and use the same for **Public school purposes** in the said school district*". William was one of the original " Ten Men" who formed the North and South Agricultural Society that became the Saanichton Fair, had the local Post Office - "Turgoose PO" , and even had the first telephone in the area installed of his farm that others could use. The

first meeting of the North and South Saanich Pioneer Society was held at the Turgoose Farm house, again a good start for our History. His son Fred Turgoose served as a trustee and secretary for 12 years on the East Saanich School Board. The Turgoose farm was right beside lands of the Tsartlip First Nation, and they lived in Harmony for 3 generations together. This is why he put "Public" in the conveyance because he wanted the school for every child.

Please take a step back and reconsider the real "pre-contact history" vs **erasing the actual history** of how your school district was conveyed the 2 acre site.

The Naming Committee's Post-Contract History is concerned of telling the true history with photographs of William and Edna Turgoose and notes to confirm they donated the land for this New School is not recommended to you by staff "*Because of the risk of perceived imbalance conveying each of the pre-contact and post-contact history.*"By not including a good representation you are diminishing your history to your students. The School Board has the two acres because of William Turgoose. It was not an Indigenous Ceremonial site , Burial site , or a Midden. It was 2 acres given to the School District by William Turgoose.

Why is **telling the truth** to anyone asking about the photos and text at the Child Care Centre about the Turgoose Family and the donation a *perceived imbalance* ?

Please reconsider your staff's recommendation and include the full true history for your new day care centre. We would be happy to help the committee where ever we can on getting the true history clear. I have a photo of the school in 1888 with all the students, and their names out front (lots of Pioneering Families) should you not have that.Again , great History.

Congratulations on getting Childcare Centre built. I look forward to attending the opening.

Yours Truly,

Peter B. Turgoose

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