

# SHERWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL 2007/08 ANNUAL REPORT

June 4, 2008

## **Members of Council**

We wish to acknowledge the dedication of the members who serve on School Council and very generously donate their time throughout the year.

Parents: Robin Gagnon (chairperson/secretary), Blair Gerrish, Sue Shuttleworth, Don Wilson

Teacher Representative: Mike Murkovich

Student Representatives: Alyssa George, Jessica Shore (Student Council Co-Presidents)

Principal: Randy Gallant

Vice-Principals: Jim Braun, Brent Wallace

Council met the first Tuesday of the month from September to May for a total of nine evening meetings. Additionally, 1-4 guests were present at seven of those meetings. Council meeting dates are published on the calendar in the student agenda.

## **Goals**

School Council is an advisory organization whose purpose is to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. This is primarily achieved by making recommendations to the Principal. Sherwood School Council had a very rewarding year.

All parents from our school community are welcome and encouraged to attend our Council meetings which are held in the school Library. Each meeting this year included reports from our Principal, Vice-Principals, Teacher Staff Representative, Student Council Representatives and Chairperson resulting in a very informative outcome.

The Sherwood website is managed by our dedicated webmaster Mr. David George and features a School Council page that outlines the dates of our meetings, meeting minutes, Annual Report and newsletters. Thank you to the webmaster team who constantly strive to provide the most up-to-date material.

Council continues its drive to effectively communicate with parents and the community. Parents who provide an e-mail address to School Council Executive receive Council information electronically. A summer newsletter was distributed by mail from the school and two other newsletter handouts were circulated at each of the Parents' Nights providing valuable information. School communication was further enhanced with the introduction of electronic newsletters on the Sherwood website.

The Grade 8 Parent Information Night in January was expanded to include an Open House for incoming and existing Sherwood families to visit classrooms or meet with Department Heads. It was a grand opportunity to tour the school and glean information from Guidance/Teaching Staff prior to option sheet distribution.

Parents who visit the school may review posted information on the School Council bulletin board in the main hallway and a School Council binder provides all the historical information of record.

Council also expanded our partnership with Student Council by having a School Council representative (R. Gagnon) attend Student Council meetings monthly. Both Councils share a commitment for student success. It is anticipated this liaison shall continue.

## **Activities & Accomplishments**

Each meeting had a very full agenda. Council had the pleasure of listening to a number of informative presentations from five Department Heads plus Administrators. The programme information on Physical Education, Visual Arts, Mathematics, Business and Music will help parents and their children make informed decisions with regard to course selections at Sherwood. In addition, Council participated in a practice demonstration of the latest innovative technology for the classroom—the Class Performance System (CPS) Wands. Sessions on Differentiated Instruction, Character Education and School Improvement/Student Success rounded out the presentations.

The Province introduced progressive discipline and school safety legislation which came into effect in February 2008. Council reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of Bill 212 and provided feedback in a report to Superintendent Pam Reinholdt.

Our Principal, Safe Schools Committee and School Council are always looking for ways to improve the facility to benefit students and keep them safe so “Plant and Safety” are standing items on our agenda. The list of completed improvements is extensive some of which includes the Gymnasium (bleachers, murals, wall repair/crash mats); Dust Collector System in Woodworking Room; two permanent display cases; step-locks on classroom doors; painted lines on the parking lot; and improved exterior lighting. There is a plan in place for a washroom project, science fume-hoods repair, and completion of the exterior school sign along with other entrance improvements.

Principal Gallant visited a number of School Council meetings at our feeder schools to provide a link between the two. It is anticipated this outreach will inspire School Council members to continue their involvement at the secondary level.

Sherwood School Council was represented at School Council 101 and SC Chair Networking Sessions organized by the Parent Involvement Committee of the HWDSB along with evening parent events at Westmount (Cyber-Bullying) and Hill Park (Parent Information Night) by Chair R. Gagnon.

Council provided Ken Bain, Superintendent of Education—Operations, with a Principal Placement Profile Survey currently on record with the HWDS Board.

Ward 6 School Trustee Laura Peddle attended our final meeting in May and was able to provide a report regarding a facility issue; insight into current events facing the Board of Trustees with regard to budget, student trustees, challenges of safe school legislation; and future decisions surrounding a new education centre and a review of high school boundaries. We look forward to continued communication with our Trustee.

#### **Financial Statement**

Sherwood School Council did not participate in fundraising but received \$500 from the Ministry of Education for Mobilization and Parental Outreach. This money was allocated for a school magnet to provide a communication aid for parents. It is anticipated this magnet will be distributed during registration for 2008/09.

#### **Goals for Next Year**

- Parent Information Nights
- Continue Staff Presentations

#### **Summary**

Please consider volunteering for School Council where you have an opportunity to meet other parents, teaching staff and demonstrate support to your children. Your voice is important. You will benefit abundantly from School Council participation (only 8 meetings/year); gain suggestions and advice from fellow parents; examine new ideas and policies; influence decisions that affect your children’s education.

A nomination form will be part of a School Council newsletter distributed by mail during the summer. Please return it to the school, principal or School Council chairperson if you wish to become a member. Council reconvenes September 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. For further information, you may contact the School Council via e-mail with this address [Sherwood.SC@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:Sherwood.SC@hwdsb.on.ca) or visit Sherwood’s website [www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood).

Sherwood School Council is devoted to improving education for our students and we do it in partnership with Student Council and Sherwood Staff. We appreciate the year-long work from our Principal Randy Gallant exhibiting continual leadership and dedication to Council and students. Congratulations to our Sherwood Alumni who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2007. We wish the **Graduating Class of 2008** continued success in all future endeavours. Go Saints!

With kindest regards,

***Robin Gagnon***

Chairperson 2007/08

Sherwood Secondary School Council

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada