

Sherwood Secondary School Council 2008/09 Annual Report

June 10, 2009

Members of Council

Parents: Robin Gagnon (chairperson), Don Wilson (vice-chair), Brenda Della Maestra (recording secretary), Blair Gerrish, Sue Shuttleworth

Teacher Representative: Sandra Valeri

Student Representatives: Marc Heublein, Emily Shore (Student Council Co-Presidents)

Principal: Randy Gallant

Vice-Principals: Jim Braun, Evelyn Wilkie

We wish to acknowledge the dedication of the members who serve on School Council and very generously donate their time throughout the year. Council met the first Tuesday of the month (four each semester) for a total of eight evening meetings. Additionally, 2-12 guests were present at four 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 features a School Council page that outlines the dates of our meetings, meeting minutes, Annual Report and newsletters. The site is currently under construction by a keen group of students under the direction of Ms. Daphne French so please check back soon as the newly re-vamped site will be launched shortly. Thank you to our former webmaster, the very dedicated Mr. David George, for his expertise managing this site.

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. In addition, School Council issued a news handout for parents who attended the Grade 8 Parent Information Night in January. School communication was further enhanced with the posting of three electronic newsletters on the Sherwood website.

The Grade 8 Parent Information Night included 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 throughout the year. Both Councils share a commitment for student success. It is expected that this liaison shall continue.

Activities & Accomplishments

Each meeting had a very full agenda and Council had the pleasure of listening to a number of informative presentations including the proposed school Eco-Challenge. The programme information on Geography and Science will help parents and their children make informed decisions with regard to course selections at Sherwood. The October Parents' Night was enhanced by the addition of outside agencies providing an abundance of reference information at storefront displays.

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 (secured flooring, championship banners, curtain repair, door & window system installation); Science room fume-hoods repair; third-floor art/washroom projects; completion of exterior school signage; cafeteria door replacement; Auditorium carpet replacement; repair of second-floor ceiling tiles and improved exterior lighting for Princeton Street stairs. There is a plan in place for completion of the Auditorium (painting of stage floor & ceiling) and exterior North Wall improvements as part of the School Improvement Plan.

Sherwood School Council was represented at the SC Chair Networking Sessions and SC training sessions (Fundraising) organized by the Parent Involvement Committee of the HWDSB along with the open discussion for the Secondary Schools of the Future Project and the Dr. Betty Boulton event by Chair R. Gagnon. Information from Legal Stuff & Conflict Resolution was shared with members electronically.

Council provided John C. Forbeck, Superintendent of Education—Operations, with a Principal Placement Profile Survey currently on record with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board.

Ward 6 School Trustee Laura Peddle attended our Council meeting in April and was able to provide insight into events facing the Board of Trustees with regard to school year calendar, health and safety initiatives, the new director recruitment, a new education centre partnership; and the secondary school accommodation review of spaces and boundaries. Jessica Brennan is the Chair of the Board of Trustees while the Vice-Chair position will rotate between trustees. In addition, Trustee Peddle encouraged involvement of parents through the Parental Involvement Committee and student representation on the Board of Trustees through Student Trustees. 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. The majority of this funding was allocated for a school magnet to provide a communication aid for parents. It is anticipated this magnet will be distributed to new registrants for the 2009/10 school year. The balance of this funding is targeted for stationery supplies for the School Council binder and Parent Information Nights.

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. Over the past year, there was an opportunity for parents to contribute comments through online surveys on Parent Satisfaction, Parent Engagement, Secondary Schools of the Future and Student Fees Policy & Directive.

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 15, 2009 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 or visit Sherwood's website 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, Vice Principals Jim Braun and Evelyn Wilkie exhibiting continual leadership and dedication to Council and students. We wish the **Graduating Class of 2009** continued success in all future endeavours. Go Saints!

With kindest regards,

Robin Gagnon

Chair, 2008/09 Sherwood Secondary School Council
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada