



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance

R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, Principal R. Gallant, Vice Principal E. Wilkie, B. Della Maestra, D. Della Maestra
Regrets: N. Neu, S. Valeri, S. Shuttleworth, B. Gerrish

Staff Presentation—Council members re-located to Classroom 337 for the presentation by Ms. D. Sawford of Special Education. Here we listened to the complex challenges and many rewards of the Special Education Program at Sherwood for all students and staff. There are two developmentally-delayed classes and an abilities class to accommodate teenagers with intellectual and physical disabilities. The Special Ed. Program assists students to provide life skills to meet their social, physical, emotional and educational needs through activities such as making meals, trips to the library or pool, grocery shopping, etc. In addition, Special Ed. Students participate in school activities in the cafeteria, auditorium, attend pep rallies and welcome visitors to their classroom. Ms. Sawford would like to start a Best Buddies program at Sherwood.

Approval of Minutes

The December minutes were approved with no additions or deletions. Approved minutes will be forwarded to our Superintendent and Trustee.

Reports

1. Principal's Report—Principal Gallant announced the retirement of Mr. J.P. Morrison at the end of semester one and the new Librarian, Ms. L. Dupuis. Sherwood also welcomes eleven new teachers to semester two including Ms. Christine Petruszkiewicz, Family Studies Department Head.

Semester one report cards will be sent home the week of February 8th and the second electronic newsletter will be posted on the Sherwood website at the same time. Preliminary reports for semester two will be released March 8th prior to the new date for March Parents' Night to be held on Wednesday, March 10/10 from 6-8 p.m. The Awards Assembly rescheduled from last fall is set to take place on March 9th at 1 p.m.

The Social Justice Club collected \$400 for Haiti earthquake relief donated through the Canadian Red Cross. A number of Sherwood Co-op and OYAP students have obtained employment through their semester one placements, including Brittany McAloney who has been hired by Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation from the Sherwood Healthcare Program. Sarah-Paige Deveau won a local History award of \$200 and Rachel Lupkoski won an essay contest award from the East Hamilton Optimist Club.

Mr. John Mallory visited Sherwood on January 8th and met with the Administrative Team as part of his orientation in his new role as Director of the HWDSB. Approximately 77 people attended the OYAP Symposium held January 19th in the school Library.

Sherwood students will be given an opportunity to take part in a research study by Hamilton Public Health and the University of Waterloo. The SHAPES Survey (youth attitudes/actions specific to certain health risk behaviours) will be administered on February 24/10 and will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. Permission/information letter will be sent home to parents this week.

Over 200 middle school students including 24 students from St. Daniel's School (HWCDSD) have an opportunity to attend the Mohawk 4 Ice Centre to learn about the hockey program and participate in hockey skills training on February 24/10. Hockey teachers from the HWDSB will be providing on-ice training.

A review of Howard Gardner's, Multiple-Intelligences model outlining the original seven intelligences was part of the Learning Community Day session on Differentiated Instruction (where it's about getting to know your learners and guiding your instruction). More information on the MI Model and Multiple Intelligences Test is available at businessballs.com.

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), businesses and organizations that provide goods and services to people in Ontario have to meet certain accessibility standards. The first accessibility standard (Customer Service Standard) came into effect on January 1, 2008. The Ontario Educational Services Corporation (OESC) along with Ontario school board representatives developed exemplars for boards to assist in the development of policies and procedures and training modules. The Sherwood staff completed these training sessions on accessibility, respect and sensitivity. All HWDSB employees must view the

training modules for Customer Service by February 15, 2010 and Principals must share with their School Councils. The policy and the policy directives will be available on the HWDSB website under draft policies. Please take the time to view the training modules available on this website www.oesc.apandrose.com that can be applied to any setting.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—Ms. Wilkie announced that Kinzi Trout received a \$600 bursary from The Women's Canadian Club of Hamilton which nearly covers her expenses to attend a leadership camp in Ottawa (Encounters with Canada Historica) for Canada's best and brightest students. Kinzi is one of three HWDSB students to receive the award and be given this fantastic opportunity to attend the Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre this month to meet fellow students, visit Parliament and pursue thematic outings. Teens (14-17 years) learn about their country, explore career options, develop civic leadership and live a bilingual experience.

Sherwood student Rebecca Wong will be competing in Europe with her synchronized skating team, Nexxice, from Burlington.

The school continues its vigilance to update the list of anaphylactic students requiring an EpiPen along with the medical alerts list for those students not requiring an EpiPen. A reminder letter to parents will be issued asking these parents to provide a spare EpiPen (epinephrine auto-injector) for emergency treatment at school.

A trial partnership has been established between Sherwood and the Child & Youth Worker Program of Mohawk College. Three students will be completing field placements for 3 days/week until the end of April (Wed-Thurs-Fri at Sherwood) in a number of roles. They will assist with counselling support, anger management sessions (Mean Girls program), after-school homework club and portable classroom assistance.

A five-year, Restorative-Justice-Practices partnership through the HWDSB, Trillium Foundation and the John Howard Society has been established to build and sustain a positive school climate. A team of five from Sherwood have received 3 days of training. Six hours of in-service will be delivered to staff. Additionally, the HWDSB has established the Gateway Program for students who are on suspension for 6-20 days or who have been expelled. Students are able to continue their education through homework completion, independent study along with help from teaching/support staff to develop positive attitudes and behaviours to achieve long-term success and avoid repeating mistakes.

The Assessment-Evaluation-Reporting (AER) process continues with an expected implementation date of September 2011 for the new AER document. In order to establish a consistent process to address repeated late student work, a "request for extension" form has been developed at Sherwood. The student must complete and return the signed extension form to the teacher. Students agree to submit the assignment by the agreed upon extended due date or receive a mark of zero.

3. Staff Report—report given by Ms. Wilkie. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for Grade 10 students is scheduled for April 8th from 8:30-11:15 a.m. Preparation has begun. Students will attend an assembly February 17th and the week of February 22 will see the distribution of "get ready" guides and practice booklets. Parents will receive a Literacy Test Newsletter with the March preliminary reports.

A pep rally has been scheduled for March 5th to replace the cancelled November event. To complement the Vancouver Olympics, Olympic-themed events are planned in February.

4. Student Council Report—report given by R. Gagnon. Wacky Olympics are set for Feb. 16 & 18. Students and/or teachers will sign up in teams of four and compete in "wacky sports" during the single lunches. Teams will be awarded points based on their performance. The team with most accumulated points wins.

Sherwood Idol returns on March 26th where students enter a singing competition judged by Sherwood teachers. Half of the entrance fees will be donated to SOCKS outreach. The remaining proceeds will go to Student Council/Music Department.

"Flower Gram" sales are set to begin the second week of semester two (small candy, optional note) by the Spirit Committee in anticipation of Valentine's Day.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety

There has been no response yet to the quotes previously submitted to the Board to replace carpet in the Library and concrete in the back walkway. Power washing removed graffiti. The annual gymnasium inspection took place. The doors in the gym have had windows installed. The Physical Education Department received \$35,000 with regard to the specialty funding for SHSM Fitness and Wellness program offered at Sherwood. Twenty stationary bikes and resistance equipment have been purchased to be delivered in the next month.

2. PRO Grant Event

Although we have not received approval for the grant funding, marketing plans must continue for the February event. A deposit in the amount of \$335 paid by the school December 17/09 was sent to Mr. Chris Vollum with the balance of \$340 due on February 23/10. Mr. Gallant will contact Mr. Grant and Dave Kingsley regarding the technical requirements for the daytime and evening presentations for the unblocked internet connection. Ms. Wilkie will obtain the Board permit through Teri-Lynn and ensure Stage Crew is notified through Mr. Grant. An advertisement was published in the Mountain News on January 8/10.

Parents/Visitors in attendance for Music Night in December and Grade 9 Information Night in January were invited. An event flyer will be circulated by School Council members to: Sherwood School, Sherwood Staff, Sherwood Website & eNewsletter, Sherwood first semester report, HWDSB website, HWDSB schools, outside businesses/recreation centres/library, other workplaces, other media (Cable 14, CHCH-TV, Hamilton Spectator, Stoney Creek/Mountain News) and First Class Email for School Councils. Ms. Wilkie will be responsible for refreshments and notifying the Sherwood Ambassadors through Ms. McKague. Mr. Gallant will welcome visitors to the Sherwood Auditorium at the event; R. Gagnon will introduce the guest speaker; B. Della Maestra will offer appreciation to Mr. Vollum at the end of the evening and present him with a gift, and remind attendees to return the evaluation form. There is a short questionnaire for visitors to complete and return to any Sherwood School Council member or the drop box in the main lobby. R. Gagnon will circulate an event checklist to School Council members for assignments. B. Della Maestra and/or Mr. Gallant will confirm daytime assembly times with Mr. Vollum.

3. Technology at Sherwood

There is a web design course starting in second semester. It is anticipated these students may be able to assist with the school website design and maintenance.

A suggestion was made by R. Gagnon to have *Parent Assistant* enrolment available for March Parent's Night. Mr. Gallant will investigate.

4. Grade 9 Information Night and Open House

School Council was represented at the January Open House by R. Gagnon and D. Wilson. R. Gagnon gave a parent perspective to the Grade 7 & 8 parents in the Auditorium and prepared a brochure and newsletter. Mr. Wilson prepared a display board and "manned" the booth in the school lobby. Appreciation is extended to Don for his efforts before and during the "Sher-Wood Like to be a Saint" Open House. On behalf of School Council and all parents, R. Gagnon issued appreciation to Principal Gallant and Sherwood Staff. There was good attendance perhaps partly due to the advertisement in the *Mountain News*. Repertoire and Cheerleaders performed. There was a discussion to consider opening the cafeteria for next year and post a sample menu.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. The Ontario Ministry of Education encourages a healthier learning environment through the Healthy Schools Recognition Program. For a range of healthy activities and tips, tools and ideas, you can visit the website www.ontario.ca/healthyschools. Sherwood's H.E.A.T. program is not active at present. This message was circulated to SC members Jan. 14/10.

2. **Parent Involvement Funding**—deferred

3. Correspondence/Announcements

Profiling Excellence nominations are due March 31, 2010 for volunteers. Recognition will be given for Years of Service, Individual Contribution and Programs or Initiatives that impact student success. Completed application packages are to be returned to Mr. R. Blunsdon, Special Assignment Teacher, Ancaster Memorial Building or email Robert.blunsdon@hwdsb.on.ca. This message was circulated to SC members Jan. 28/10.

Ontario's new Minister of Education is Ms. Leona Dombrowsky a former school board trustee and chair.

Ontario's new Safe Schools Policies took effect February 1, 2010. All school staff are required to *report* serious student incidents including bullying to the principal. Bus drivers, custodial and administrative staff must also follow the reporting procedure. Principals are required to contact the parents of victims of these types of incidents. All staff directly working with students must *respond* to incidents that will have a negative impact on the school climate, e.g. racist, sexual, sexist or homophobic comments, slurs and jokes or graffiti in addition to the behaviours that can lead to suspension or expulsion. There is more information available at www.Ontario.ca/safeschools or the HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Special Guest: Trustee Laura Peddle

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
