



# Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday December 6, 2011

The December meeting of 2011 was called to order by A. Koklis at 6:38 p.m. Chair Koklis welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions took place.

## In Attendance

Principal R. Gallant, Vice Principal E. Wilkie, Chair A. Koklis, E. Trikoupis, L. Hicks, T. Bender, K. Kennedy-Brown, G. Deveau, B. Nicholls, B. Della Maestra, D. Della Maestra, J. Brown, C. Kaus

## Regrets

M. Taylor, Secretary C. Anderson

## Reports

### 1. Vice-Principals' Report – Ms. E. Wilkie

There is information that is needed to be communicated to all the staff, students and Sherwood families. It involves the A.E.R. Policy (Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting). After extensive meetings and feedback, the Board has introduced an interim policy. The schools are mandated to follow these policies set out in the Growing Success document. There are changes in this interim policy that include access and reporting progress of students who are falling below the 50% mark in a course. Ms. Wilkie explained the lower limits on reports cards, the various code/mark scale and percentages assigned to the codes. The changes under the AER Policy will take effect on the January 2012 report cards. It's all online for parents to view on the HWDSB site under the "policies and directives" page in the "parent" section. The idea and purpose of this interim policy is to assist kids and keep them engaged and focused on school. It will send hopeful, positive messages to the students who may be struggling and keep them on the right path. This interim policy will be re-evaluated once data and feedback has been received.

For literacy, we just finished literacy month and the 2 week school reading blitz.

The grade 10 literacy test was administered for a second time to students so the school could assess the problem areas. When they reviewed the data from the 2<sup>nd</sup> test they found kids improved in the graphic portion of the test compared to the first time they were tested. Information also showed that girls tested poorer in some areas compared to the boys. Some feedback may indicate that the problem does not lie with the kids not having the knowledge, it could be more likely that they are running out of time completing it.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

The November Minutes were approved with no additions or deletions reported. Approved minutes will be forwarded to Superintendent Figueiredo and Trustee Peddle.

### 3. Open Issues

#### 1. ARC – J. Brown and G. Deveau

Ms. Brown and Mr. Deveau attended our meeting at our request. Several council members have expressed interest in speaking to them and having some questions answered about the ARC process. Also, parents felt they needed to hear how much the Sherwood community appreciates their hard work and efforts. Both Ms. Brown and Mr. Deveau are teachers at Sherwood who both have Sherwood students. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ARC member from our school is Mr. K. Durkacz. He also is a teacher who has a student at Sherwood. Mr. Durkacz and Ms. Brown are voting members, Mr. Deveau serves as a non-voting parent rep. They showed us a power point presentation that indicated the 3 concepts that the South ARC have developed at this point. One concept has already been slated as a formal recommendation that will be given to the School Trustees. The concepts shown were complete with coloured maps (showing how the South ARC district would be divided based on each concept), bar graphs and charts providing projected enrolments and utilizations for each concept. They advised the South ARC has to have their proposals finalized and to the trustees by January 19<sup>th</sup>. All hard copies of the powerpoint presentation shown will be available in the binder along with the school council minutes. The Trustees, who will ultimately make the final decisions, then have a 60 day period to review and decide. Their final decisions about the ARC's is to be made in the spring time. There is an ARC meeting tomorrow evening at the Board from 6-9pm. They advised everyone should attend, that it is expected to be an informative night. The City of Hamilton is scheduled to attend to discuss properties available for site of a new school.

## **2. Plant & Safety—R. Gallant**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **4. Staff Presentation – Ms. E. Trikoupis (Learning Resource Teacher)**

Evy explained that the LRT's (Learning Resource) are part of Student Services. They have approximately 150 students on IEP Programs (Individual Education Plans) which account for less than 10% of the whole school population. They are also proud to say they can support about 30-40% of the regular student body due to their high focus on technologies, including IEP, kids with physical or emotional needs and gifted students as well. Students who need extra help are identified ahead of time and plans are put into place so they can achieve success in their learning. The LRT's draft up the IEP forms that are given to the teachers of those students. The teachers are advised on what is needed for that student and ways to better support them. The LRT room is also open as a drop in basis so students can attend on breaks, before or after school to work on homework or assignments. They also are involved in the grade 8 transitions from feeder schools, meeting with the elementary teachers before they even arrive at Sherwood for grade 9. They work with students coming in from outside or composite schools to ensure their transitions are as smooth as possible and that any plans that are needed are put into place. They work with the student and help them maintain their success during all grades 9 through 12.

## **5. Reports continued...**

### **1. Principal's Report—R. Gallant**

The ten staff members that participated in "Movember" raised more than expected for prostate cancer. They raised over \$3,000, the highest amount to date. He thanks all participants and those who donated.

Music & Art night is this coming Thursday night.

Mr. Baker has over 80 grade 7, 8 and 9 students in his enrichment band. They meet every Monday night. He is hopeful that a larger portion of these talented kids will be attending Sherwood for their music program.

The grade 9/10 enrollment numbers are down from the projection by 36 pupil places. Stats show that about half of this number are students who decided to attend the Catholic Board instead.

They are down 1 teacher position. He believes that will be the trend over the next few years if numbers continue to drop slowly under the circumstances with ARC.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, (Sherwood PD day), they will be hosting "Amazing 8's to Saints". They will bring in the students from the feeder schools for an informative and fun day.

The Indigo/Chapters fundraising night went very well. They raised \$729.98

Airband competition is on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00. All parents are welcome to attend.

Mr. Gallant explained the 3 Safe School Categories:

1) Lock Down – all kids and staff locked in, windows covered etc..

2) Hold and Secure – doors are locked, teachers man every door for entry and exit of persons, they take directions from the Hamilton Police until the Hold and Secure is over

3) Shelter in Place – an environmental hazard

He advised the practice run for a Hold and Secure no longer has to be down now that last week there was a real one that occurred. There is still some grey areas on these policies. They are having their questions and concerns addressed.

### **2. Staff Report— Ms. C. Kaus**

Athletics- 4 Sherwood teams have made it to the city finals: Jr Girls Touch Football, Jr. Boys Volleyball, Gr 9 Boys Soccer, Girls Fieldhockey with an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish at OFFSA. On Dec 9<sup>th</sup> Sherwood is hosting a girls' volleyball tournament with 16 city schools attending. Dec 16<sup>th</sup> we host an elementary Floorball tournament.

Parade- Sherwood Secondary was a big hit in the parade this year. If you watched it on tv, you would have noticed we were the only public high school in attendance. We are going to try for a spot closer to the front of the parade route next year.

Library Fundraiser- Indigo/Chapter's fundraising night held on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> was a huge success as well. Many thanks go out to all the staff, family and friends of Sherwood who supported this effort to raise funds for new library material. Overall we raised \$729.88 for Sherwood.

Grade 8 Information Night- This night on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> was well attended by not only our feeder schools but by out of catchment families as well. Thanks to everyone who made the night run smoothly.

Toy Drive- the toy drive at school is running from Dec 1<sup>st</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>

Year Book Sales- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

SEF PD- SEF team presented on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> and have established a staff focus surrounding strategies for literacy and student engagement.

Movie Night- Will be held on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9pm. Monies will go towards the toy drive. Anyone is welcome to attend, cost is \$2 per person.

Music and Art Night- Will be held on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

**3. Student Council Report**— per Ms. Kaus  
See above Staff Report.

**6. New Business/Correspondence/Announcements**

**1. New Business**—No New Business

**2. Correspondence**— Chair Koklis confirmed with Mr. Gallant that the email request to add the December School Council Newsletter was received, and will be uploaded to the Council website by Ms. Trikoupis.

**3. Announcements**—A. Koklis

A reminder that we do not have a January meeting. We will reconvene on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Chair Koklis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

**7. Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.**

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