



## Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday February 6, 2013

A. Koklis called the February meeting of 2013 to order at 6:35 p.m. Chair Koklis welcomed everyone in attendance.

### In Attendance

Principal R. Gallant, Vice Principal B. Monkley, Chair A. Koklis, W. Burley, L. Hicks, B. Della Maestra, D. Della Maestra, N. Lewis, D. Coles, J. Clarke, P. Perry, Student Council Representatives F. Susic, K. Kennedy-Brown

### Regrets

Staff Representative C. Kaus, C. Anderson, G. Winger

### Approval of Minutes

The December 2012 Minutes were approved with no corrections required. Approved minutes will be sent out to the group as well as being forwarded to Superintendent Figueiredo and Trustee Peddle.

### Reports

#### 1. Principal's Report—R. Gallant

This Friday report cards will come home with students. March 4 will be Preliminary Reports.

March 7 is Parents Night from 6-8pm. Chair Koklis advised she will not be able to attend as their family is away on vacation. She asked a parent to volunteer to coordinate the School Council booth and volunteers that night. N. Lewis volunteered. It was noted all parents need to help out for a 20-30 minute time slot so everyone has a chance to get around and meet teachers. Nancy will coordinate a schedule and email it out.

Semester 2 enrollment we have 1,092 students, just down by 2 – no change in staff line allocation.

Staffing changes: Ms. Fraser and Mr. Barrett retired at the end of semester 1. LTO's leaving are Ms. Karambelas, Mr. Wilkin, Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Pankerichan. Mr. Green has been re-hired (BTT, Phys-Ed, Alt. Ed) along with Ms. Brettle (Art) and Ms. Wilson (for Family Studies). LTO's to be Ms. Bentham, Ms. Dougherty and Mr. Arnold.

We have done our Grade 8 assemblies to our 6 feeder schools. We have 270 students already committed to attending for September 2013. Mr. Gallant feels that the out of catchment numbers could put us as high as 300 in total, out of catchment requests are on the rise.

M.A.D.D. Assembly will be held Friday February 8 during period 1. The whole school will be attending at once, it will be held in the gymnasium.

The P.D. day before semester 2 started was very effective. Ms. Erin Freeburn from the Board came to the school to discuss with staff mental health issues in the classroom, including resources, how to be proactive etc. Principals in the Board have had some dialogue regarding the recent suicides from both Churchill and Saltfleet high schools. Over 25 Principals/Vice Principals volunteered to work on a committee to draft a protocol for staff to follow in these times of crisis. The committee will consist of 4 Principals and 4 Vice Principals.

Lynn Hicks asked Mr. Gallant if it was possible for someone from the Board of Ed to respond to the recent article published in the Hamilton Spectator regarding the condition of Sherwood. Mr. Gallant responded that the school is completely safe for our students. Mr. Gallant expects to be updated on the future upgrades Sherwood will be receiving and advising the Sherwood community accordingly.

#### 2. Vice-Principals' Report—B. Monkley

A new protocol has been put in place to further ensure the safety of staff and students during the school day. This has come about from recent news stories regarding incidents that have taken place in schools (i.e. Newton, Conn.) The doors are now locked once students are in the building and first period starts. They are unlocked at the end of the school day. The school has permission to leave one set at the front foyer doors unlocked, as well as one set at the back foyer doors off the parking lot unlocked. This does not cause any safety or fire hazards. The side entrances are checked throughout the day to ensure they aren't being left propped open. When Phys-Ed classes can return to going outside, one door down at the gyms will be left unlocked for them to use.

Sherwood has been promoting a positive school climate.

Sherwood is looking for hopefully 2 parents to volunteer to be on a Safe and Excepting Schools Committee for the school. The committee must have at least 1 parent minimum. It won't be starting for about a month so if anyone would like to volunteer, please let the office know as soon as possible. Two parents could also volunteer to do it dually, each taking turns attending meetings.

### **3. Staff Report—R. Gallant for C. Kaus**

Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Westdale Secondary School and Dalewood Elementary School's Mental Health Action Team will be hosting an evening with renowned International speaker Dr. Jean Clinton. He will be sharing his expertise and speaking on the challenges of overcoming the many difficulties teens face today in regards to stress, depression, and relationships. Please email [westdale@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westdale@hwdsb.on.ca) if you would like to attend. Registrations due by Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6:30, refreshments will be served.

### **4. Student Council Report— F. Susic**

F. Susic asked for an update on teacher sanctions/restrictions and if it will continue to affect Student Council projects the remainder of the year. He advised he has been getting questions and concerns brought forward from students regarding it. Mr. Gallant responded that the teachers are not in a striking position and they are not classed as sanctions. At this point no extra activities are occurring at Sherwood. It was made clear that each teacher/coach have been given the option to come forward and take on extracurricular if they want to. But they are strongly encouraged not to from their union's side. The only teacher to come forth and coach is the girls' hockey team. Council can not continue to meet or work on projects as it is mandatory they have at least one teacher advisor present. As it stands now, Student Council will have to be patient and see what happens in March.

### **Open Issues**

#### **1. Plant & Safety—R. Gallant**

Not much to report this time but good news for Sherwood, the tiles in the spin room have now been replaced. The money has come as part of the \$15,000 granted for the SHSM Health & Wellness program. It is being used for new fitness equipment, resources, etc.

### **New Business/Correspondence/Announcements**

#### **1. New Business—No New Business**

Lynn, Angela and Nancy asked if they could work along side the Student Council (in place of teachers) so they can reinstate their original plans to hold a bake sale. This was to raise money for teachers Janine and Carolyn who have passed away. Mr. Gallant asked if we could delay the bake sale for about another month to see where things are going to be sitting with teacher restrictions.

A couple discussion around winter sports a/o S.O.S.S.A. They announced a deadline for schools to advise what teams, if any, in the winter sports will be taking place. All teachers were asked at Sherwood and only one winter sport will be played- Girls Hockey. This is each teacher's personal decision, and no pressure from administration. Entirely voluntary. It was also noted that parents are asking what will happen with the winter sport registrations that they have already been paid. Mr. Gallant said they will definitely be reviewing all the sports that have been missed, the monies already paid and reimbursing parents accordingly. More to come in the next few weeks or so, he has to consult with the coaching teams.

There was talk that there are rumors of some students thinking about leaving the HWDSB to go to the Catholic Board so they can continue to participate in extracurricular activities and sports again. Kids are really missing them. Mr. Gallant explained the transfer process and how there is a waiting period (for up to 1 school year) when switching schools. Just because kids switch, doesn't mean they will be allowed to play sports.

Questions and concerns were brought forward from both parents and students about Grade 12 graduation and the grade 12 Prom. Mr. Gallant confirmed there will definitely be both. They will not allow a graduating class to miss out on those important events. He does confirm however those events are huge undertakings and take lots of manpower. The staff still have to figure out who and what is being done going forward. He also confirmed that Ms. Aceti has booked the Marquis Gardens Banquet Centre on Sandhill Drive in Ancaster for the Prom. There must be staff in attendance at any school function, so Mr. Gallant along with Ms. Wilkie and Mr. Monkley will be there to supervise for sure. If union issues for teachers are still going on, having Sherwood parents help and chaperone may be the other option. That will all be discussed at a later date. This year the graduation will be held off site to accommodate the large number of graduating students and their families. The staff didn't feel it was fair to only be able to allow 2 guests per graduating student, which is all our school facility would hold. It will be held at the Grand Olympia at the corner of Barton and Fruitland Rd in Stoney Creek. This way students who have more family members attending are free to invite them.

Mr. Gallant said the Europe trip is still happening for sure on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff and chaperone issues are being discussed and planned out.

The March newsletter is due for the March 7<sup>th</sup> Parent's Night. Angela asked for any suggestions on news stories. These were some ideas brought forward- talk about the book drive, a response to the recent Spectator article, inform the community about the video that was taped with Sherwood students, Mental health issues in the classroom (the support that is available by staff if they are made aware of any situations), the Child Minding/Babysitting service now available for Council Meetings (for parents with young children). Angela told everyone if they thought of anything else, please email her with the suggestions in the next couple weeks.

## **2. Correspondence—A. Koklis**

The Parent Engagement Funds were re-tabled from the December meeting. After a discussion of ways to most effectively spend the \$500 grant, the following was agreed upon unanimously: Setting aside enough of the funds to reimburse the school account for what has been paid out to date for babysitting services, and what is anticipated to be paid out for the remaining 3 Council meetings this year. With the balance of funds, we will be ordering more school magnets for the grade 9 and 10 students for September. Angela formally brought the motion forward, Brenda Della Maestra seconded it, all Council Members voted and the proposal was unanimous and passed.

Lynn Hicks spoke about an upcoming board initiative from the Communication Services Dept (Children & Youth Book Drive). They hope to deliver books to all the high needs HWDSB school kids aged JK-Grade 12 as well as low-income Early Years and Day Cares, women's shelters and food banks. Lynn is a Board Speech Pathologist and is helping run this event. She explained that studies show a major problem for most children struggling with literacy, is not the fact they don't have access to books, it's they don't have their own books. For these kids, having a book(s) to call their own brings pride and sense of worth and helps encourage them to read and write. This May is "Speech, Language and Hearing Month". All gently used books are welcome and can be brought to the next Council Meeting in March. Books will be accepted until the end of April with the first distribution being done May 15<sup>th</sup>. For more info please email either [lynn.hicks@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:lynn.hicks@hwdsb.on.ca) or [joan.murray-wood@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:joan.murray-wood@hwdsb.on.ca).

## **3. Announcements—**

Chair Koklis announced that next month at our March meeting, our cluster's Superintendent Manny Figueiredo will be our special guest. She advised he usually always come prepared to stay for the whole meeting and is usually always prepared to answer any questions or concerns brought forward by parents.

### **Next School Council Meetings**

March 6, April 3, May 1 and Sept 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

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