



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday February 7, 2011

The first meeting of 2011 was called to order by A. Koklis at 6:30 p.m. Chair Koklis welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions took place.

In Attendance

Principal R. Gallant, VP W. Yarr, ARC Staff Representative G. Deveau, Chair A. Koklis, C. Anderson (Recording Secretary), B. Della Maestra, D. Della Maestra, R. Gagnon, B. Gerrish, A. Vernon, D. Wilson, and Brock Student A. Gillespie

Regrets: Staff Representative S. Valeri, Student Council President L. Fletcher, T. Bender

Approval of Minutes

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

Reports

1. Principal's Report—R. Gallant

The Semester 1 report cards have been delayed because the HWDSB system has been down. Sherwood is hoping to have reports sent home to parents by 11th of February. If they can't be completed by then, a synovoice message will be done for all parents.

The Preliminary reports for Semester 2 will be sent home on March 7th, 2011. Parent's night will be held on Wednesday March 9, 2011 from 6-8 pm.

The enrolment for second semester was 1240. Sherwood welcomes new hires Mr. Green (Alt. Ed.), Ms. Maric (Math), Ms. Laidlaw (Special Education and English), Ms. Gibson (English) and Ms. Behiel (New Teacher Librarian).

The following staff will be missed by Sherwood staff and students Ms. Dupuis (Teacher Librarian), Ms. Bullock, Mr. Patry and Mr. Arnold.

Congratulations to the Environmental Club for receiving a \$700.00 Poet Youth Focus grant (Protecting Our Environment Together), to expand the garden areas in the front and back of our school. Congratulations to both Valeri Hober (Math Contest) and Alaine Spiwak (Hamilton Youth United Way volunteer nominee).

On January 31, 2011 Sherwood held a grade 8 option visit to explore our tech, business and family studies classes. We received extremely positive feedback. Thank you to all of our 75 student and staff volunteers.

Sherwood is planning on holding a Valentine's Day Dance on February 10th from 7pm-10pm. Students must have a signed contract to attend the dance. The dance is opened to Sherwood students only. If the minimum number of tickets are not sold, the dance will be called off.

A new "Single Lunch Pilot" starting in Semester 2. This means the entire student body will all be on lunch at the same time for 1 hour. The students are excited about being able to share lunch with friends and join in school activities that will be offered. This will happen on every Tuesdays and Thursday for the entire semester. Single lunch days will also give time for students to get extra help from teachers or make up missed tests and quizzes. Prior to starting this pilot the staff at Sherwood monitored the cafeteria attendance for one month and observed that a large number of students opt to leave the building on their lunch and approximately 200 students stay to eat at school. The Cafeteria can hold up to 580 students. There will be more teachers on duty during this single lunch, and the front hall has been opened up to the students as the only eating area outside of the cafeteria. If there are no issues or conflicts, Sherwood will consider keeping the single lunch days as a permanent option going forward.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—W. Yarr

The Vice Principals are currently interviewing candidates for re-admission to Sherwood. They are interviewing approximately 10-15 students per day. The VP's and the Guidance Office are supporting and encouraging the students.

There has been a lot of anticipation for Single Lunch for many reasons including lunch activities, and meeting up with friends.

3. Staff Report—R. Gallant for S. Valeri

Nothing to report.

4. Student Council Report—R. Gallant for L. Fletcher

Flower Grams are on sale for Valentine's Day from the Student Council.

The Student Council will be holding a Valentines dance on February 10, 2011. Students must sign a contract prior to purchasing tickets. As of this date, there has been ZERO tickets sold.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—R. Gallant

No updates to report

2. ARC Committee—G. Deveau, R. Gallant and Chair Koklis

On January 25, 2011 Sherwood was one of the schools recommended to close in June 2013 by senior management of the Board. Some of the important issues and points discussed were:

1) Why are the only two public high schools in Ward 6 being considered for closure? (Sherwood- June 2013 and Barton- June 2014), this will mean that Ward 6 students will have the potential of attending 3 High Schools in 4 years, before graduating. Many voiced their concerns on this.

2) The Board has not done the major facility/building updates to Sherwood that have been needed in the past years, which committee and Sherwood community members feel is not a fair comparison. Other schools such as Barton has had a reported \$1M+ in updates. *The Board states that Sherwood has critical renovations.*

3) What is the value of the property that Sherwood resides on? Many committee and Sherwood members feel this is a key factor in closing the school, because of the very high real estate value to our property. The staff are passionate about Sherwood. Mr. Deveau who is the staff representative on the ARC, has been teaching at Sherwood since 1996. Sherwood has an enrolment of 1240 students (the highest of all schools being considered in the South ARC), offers unique, great Programs of Choice, Sports programs and extracurricular activities. Trustee Laura Peddle and Alderman Tom Jackson addressed the Board Chairman and other senior management, directly and spoke very highly, passionately of Sherwood at the last ARC meeting. Mr. Jackson asked the Board "Why did you let Sherwood deteriorate to the point you deem it critical?"

On February 15, 2011 there will be a Public ARC Meeting held at Hillpark Secondary School from 6-9. All are welcomed and encouraged to come out, support your school and speak out addressing your concerns.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. New Business-School Website—A. Koklis

Chair Koklis would like to see the school website updated. Many areas of the website hold outdated school as well as council information. Principal Gallant advises that this has already been addressed and currently in the works of being done. The website should be update by March Break. Each department will now have the opportunity to post their own up to date information. There has been a request to include a listing of all staff extensions. The Main Office will be responsible for the School Council webpages and its updates.

Chair Koklis requested that any council members who have School Council newsletter story ideas, to please email them to her within the next week or so as the March newsletter is currently in the works. The last newsletter will be a summer mail out.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday March 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.