



Sherwood Secondary School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday March 10, 2011 6:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by A. Koklis at 6:32 p.m. Chair Koklis welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions took place. Special Guest - School Trustee Laura Peddle

In Attendance

Principal R. Gallant, Chair A. Koklis, R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, B. Della Maestra, D. Della Maestra, T. Bender, B. Gerrish, K. Green, J. Koklis, D. Ertsinian, M. Harrington, Trustee L. Peddle

Regrets: Staff Representative S. Valeri, V.P. Wilkie, Student Council President L. Fletcher, C. Anderson, A. Vernon

1. Trustee Peddle's Presentation

- Life has been very busy for Trustee Peddle. Update at the Board – she wrote her speech for February 28th.
- 2 new School Trustees at the Board- Trustee Todd White (he supports the 4 in favour) and Trustee Alex Johnstone. On December 1st, 2010 a decision was made to choose Chair or Co-Chair for the next term of office. Past Chair was Jessica Brennan. The current Chair is Judith Bishop. Trustee Karen Turkstra has started a new program.
- Trustee Peddle has changed roles at the Board and is now on the Policy Committee. She is enjoying this new position. Policy meetings are all public, all open as well as transparent. A week ago they spoke about the Transportation Policy, Trustee Peddle argued about the system for elementary schools (J.K. to grade 5) and various classes. This dictated the walking distance. Cooperation between the two School Boards (Public and Catholic) wasn't working well. They looked at the transportation policy differences between the two different boards. The walking distances will now be the same distance.
- Over the next couple of years we may lose approx 1,000 students to the Catholic Board in the elementary system. Trustee Peddle has 6 out of 11 votes, enough for it to pass. She believes that bussing will be the biggest policy change for next year.
- She is also working on school expulsions – only trustees can expel students.
- Don asked about the senior staff recommendation being a "done deal". Principal Gallant and Trustee Peddle explained that this is not a "done deal". Hopefully not everyone's perspective of the Board's recommendation is "that it's a done deal" so people will still send their kids to Sherwood. Hopefully this stand will make a decision with the Trustees.
- Mark Harrington (Council Chair at Highview School) asked if it was ok if he asked Highview parents to send in questions to the ARC Committee. Angela will see if there is an email address. Since the committee is suspended at this time, and will have to wait until they resume.
- Don had another question regarding the school enrolment numbers being dated 2008 on the SIPs. Why don't they have current information? Chair Koklis and Principal Gallant explained that the Board started these ARC processes about 2 years ago. The information that is in the SIP that the committee members received was current at the time it was compiled. It was not an error.
- Trustee Peddle was just as shocked as the rest of the public and ARC members to hear that both Sherwood and Barton were recommended for closure. She expected that maybe one would close, but certainly not both Ward 6 high schools. If plans go ahead as they sit now, there will be no public high school from the lakefront right up to Rymal Rd, through the whole centre of Hamilton.
- The questions that were asked at the public meeting have made a difference. Chair Koklis confirmed for everyone at Council that Trustee Peddle, nor anyone else outside of the voting ARC members had any idea we were putting the motion forward as a group. She wanted to ensure that people knew it was not initiated by her. It was initiated by two ARC members.
- On March 28th, it will be the last time for another vote with the Trustees. This is the South ARC's last chance for the terms of reference to be revisited and amended. If the terms are not amended, the Ministry of Education may be asked to get involved for an investigation.
- Comment also made that 82% of the kids that currently attend Westmount, are from the other South ARC schools Sherwood, Barton, Hillpark and MacNab.
- Mark Harrington asked about the supposed December 2009 in camera meeting where ARC terms of reference and a real estate deal were to have happened against policy....the attitude from Trustees make him concerned. He asked if the ARC committee has spoke in private and just thought of asking the province to get involved? Angela said that they have not asked the province to join the committee and clarified that at no time throughout any of our ARC meetings, have the voting members been allowed to go off and have private discussions. The entire process is public and there are always onlookers in the gallery seating listening, including reporters. Last Tuesday's motion was initiated and put into place by silent votes among the voting members. A paper was passed around the table discreetly from one member to another asking if they were in favour of putting the motion forward. Everyone on the South ARC is working very well together; it is a really good group of concerned parents and school representatives.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Reports

1 Principal's Report—R. Gallant

- Option assembly has been done. The students enter their option choices on-line. Our 2nd year doing it this way.
- Preliminary enrolment numbers for next year are not known yet.
- In April, parents will get their students options sheets to check if any changes are in order. Within the first 3 weeks of the first semester, students will be able to change their courses if needed. Students need to make an appointment at Guidance to make these changes.
- Preliminary progress reports were sent home last week. They would like feedback from the parents as to the new form and if it was liked etc. Parents can give their feedback on the school website.
- Sr. Girls Volleyball O.F.S.S.A. went to Niagara Falls...they did very well.
- O.S.S.L.T. is coming March 31st, students will be writing it then. Approx. 50 students were in need of help to prepare for their literacy test. They were helped by staff.
- Parent's night....the library was great, much better set up and more functional than the last Open House. The cafeteria was still loud and confusing as to where each teacher's line ups started and ended. Corridors and main hall worked very well. A few adjustments will be taken into consideration for the fall open house next year.
- At 10:45 a.m. tomorrow is the talent show "Sherwood Idol". The money collected by Student Council will go to Covenant Home Orphanage and School in Kisumu, Kenya. Tickets are \$1.00 each and available at the door. All students and parents are welcome to attend.
- Alex Miculan is working with our Environment Club on a play for March 23 at 6:30.

2 Vice-Principals' Report— None

3 Staff Report— None

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

- Talent show (as previously mentioned)
- April 8th the men's choir will be there. A bake sale will take place during intermission.
- The "homeless awareness outdoor sleep" will be held at the Board of Education this year, instead of Sherwood school grounds, on May 18. This year they are planning to also hold a spring clothing drive at the same event.

4. Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—R. Gallant

None

2. ARC Committee – Trustee Laura Peddle – see above

5. New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. New Business - Update from Open House (see above)

2. Correspondence—

- Profiling Excellence in Volunteering nominees. You can nominate any volunteer for this award.
- Digi-flyers – new process emailed to everyone
- Our Council newsletter. Chair Koklis is always looking for some story ideas or interesting Sherwood Trivia to add to newsletters. Idea was brought forward that we could put a survey on one newsletter to get feedback and see if parents/family are enjoying the newsletter and find it informative. Principal Gallant suggested that maybe it could be done on the school website, rather than hard copy handouts 3 times a year. It would not only be more eco-friendly but could be done on a continual basis throughout the year. In the past, Robin said newsletters were used to get people more interested in coming out to our meetings and important information for parents they may not otherwise know. Some parents have approached Chair Koklis and expressed that they want to be able to get information emailed to them directly instead of them coming home with their students.

3. Announcements - Supt. Manny Figueiredo will be an invited guest at our May council meeting. This is the last meeting before summer.

6. Next School Council Meeting

April 5th and May 3rd 2011, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.