



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday November 2, 2010

The meeting 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, Head of Languages R. Purdy, Chair A. Koklis, C. Anderson (Recording Secretary), R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, B. Della Maestra, T. Bender, B. Gerrish, A. Vernon
Regrets: Staff Representative S. Valeri, Student Council President L. Fletcher,

Staff Presentation

- Chair Koklis welcomed Ms. Purdy, Head of Languages, to School Council. Ms. Purdy is very pleased that Sherwood is able to offer continuing programs in German, Italian and Spanish starting in grade 10. Sherwood offers French starting in grade 9, offers Grade 10 and 12 Spanish, Grade 10 Italian, Grade 10 and 11 split classes for German. Two years ago there were three introductory classes for Italian, this year the school has split language classes due to an insufficient number of students signing up.

- Ms. Oliver is currently piloting a new program to the Applied Grade 9 French classes. As the new curriculum is more communication and task based (less grammar based) this new program appeals to the students through its current and interesting themes. The program "VIF" closely mirrors the Academic Grade 9 program used as its themes are as follows:

Ca bouge: Teens and their favourite pastimes and activities

Allez Roulez: Different Modes of transportation around the world, cars and research of various careers.

Aventure Animée: Mystery, asking questions and talking about the past.

Esprit d'equipe: Talking about hockey, Canadian Olympic medalists' teams, and sports in general.

- Ms. Prudy also discussed the Interest of Students on Exchange program (ISE). Sherwood has a couple students per year who participate in the exchange. For more information visit www.iseontario.on.ca

Approval of Minutes

The October 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

- Every year Sherwood holds an Awards Assembly to honour grade 9, 10 and 11 students from the previous school year. This year's assembly will be held on Wednesday November 3rd. Sherwood is presenting approximately 400 students with honours, proficiency, subject and special awards. Students and parents of award winners were contacted by mail prior to the assembly.

- On the same day as the Awards Assembly, is the annual Take Your Kids to Work Day for all Grade 9 students. This year approximately 274 students out of 340 will be participating. A big thanks to Mrs. Trikoupis for organizing this event for our students.

- There has been a date change made to the Grade 8 student visit to Sherwood. At Sherwood the visits were always in the early part of the New Year. Many of the other schools hold their visits in the fall, so we have changed to coincide with them. Notices will be sent out in Grade 8 report cards through our feeder schools. Sherwood will be holding the Grade 8 Parents Information Night on November 24, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

- Remembrance Day Assembly will be during period 2 on the 11th of November. There will be two assemblies, one at 10:00 am for juniors, and the other at 11:00 am for seniors. The assemblies will run for 35 minutes and parents are welcome to attend.

- There will be 3 fire drills scheduled per semester. Two fire drills have already occurred and the 3rd for this semester will be unannounced. The tentative date for the Lockdown is December 7th.

- A group of 40 students in the Environmental Club and Senior Geography class chatted with environmental filmmaker Mark Terry (via speaker phone) in the school library. The students got to see some photos of the Arctic Ocean, including some images of the icebergs via email from Terry. The students were surprised to find out that

46 per cent of the ice in the Arctic has melted since 2000. Ms. Colleen Kaus (from Geography) who organized the session said that the climate change is part of the school's curriculum.

- The "Saints' Moustaches" are participating in Movember to raise money for prostate cancer. Visit Movement Canada to make a donation online ca.movember.com towards with the group "Saints Moustaches" or to sponsor an individual participant.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—W. Yarr

- Ms. Yarr is new to Sherwood this school year and says she's having a blast! Sherwood is a very busy school. She splits the workload with Mrs. Wilkie the other VP. Sherwood staff and teachers are busy preparing the new Report Cards. These new report cards are more detailed and personalized. The staff at Sherwood asks all parents for extra patience during this transitional period. Reports will be sent home with each student on November 16, 2010. To read information about the new provincial report card, go to:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/card/reportCard.html

- Social Networking is becoming a big concern and a problem among high school students; especially with the younger teens in grade 9 and 10. Parents need to monitor their child's social networking, i.e. Facebook, MSN, Formspring and Twitter. At Sherwood there have been four discipline issues so far, just since September, which have all been dealt with accordingly. Ms. Yarr wanted to stress the fact that the school takes these issues very seriously and will act upon each case individually. Some of the issues involved were bullying and relational aggression (fighting between friends). Ms. Yarr suggests and hopes that parents monitor their child's electronic networking and for parents to realize that they are ultimately accountable for their child's actions.

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

- The most successful team at Sherwood over the past 6 years is the girls Field Hockey team. November 4-6, 2010 the girls Field Hockey team is going to OFSAA in Ingersoll, Ontario. Our Basketball, Volleyball and Football teams are all off to the semi-finals.

- The Acoustic Coffee House is November 4th from 6:30-10:00 pm being presented by the music department, in the school cafeteria. The second semester performance, the kids will be able to perform with electric guitars and drums.

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

- This year was the first year for the "haunted hallway" which went amazingly well. Students loved it and it was really popular.

- The Spirit Committee ran Halloween Spirit Day which was also a great success. This included the cosmetology dept doing Halloween manicures for students in the spirit of Halloween.

- On November 6th the Enviro Club is holding a RakeFest. They will be raking leaves in and around our school property/neighbourhood. The Enviro Club is also holding a Clean Room contest.

- The Girls Field Hockey team is going to OFSAA from November 4-6th. Student Council supported the field hockey team by helping out with their costs.

- Kayla Francover from our student council is the Police Representative on the Police Student Advisory Council. Their next meeting will be February 2, 2011. The committee will discuss lockdown and fire drills, smoking and drug usage and graffiti around high schools.

5. SNAC—B. Della Maestra

- No updates to report this month for the School Nutrition Action Committee. The committee communicates regularly through emails.

6. Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—R. Gallant

- The Gymnasium floor was fixed and is now usable.

- The Board is taking inventory of all science room chemicals, removing the chemicals that are no longer needed or have expired, and replenishing needed stock. Sherwood is the pilot school for this project. There is a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSD sheet), which is located in a binder in all areas required (i.e. Science, Tech and Family Studies rooms). The main office also carries a main copy from each area.

- The lighting at the back school entrance has been changed, so that the stairs are more visible and lit up in the dark.

2. October Parents' Night Assessment—W. Yarr

- There was a very good turnout of parents at our Parents' Night on October 14, 2010. Some positive comments were that the signage, the teacher nametags and school maps were very helpful for the parents to find their way around. Parents had the opportunity to enrol in Parent Assistant while they

were there. A few concerns such as privacy issues while talking with teachers (in the library and cafeteria) due to the set up, will be taken into consideration and rectified for the next parents' night. Thank you to our Sherwood Ambassador for their assistance handing out maps and greeting our parents this evening.

3. Anti-bullying Week—R. Gallant

- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is November 15-19, 2010. On November 16th there will be a 55 minute assembly each for the seniors and the juniors, on bullying with special guest Johnnie Williams. Pamphlets on Bullying are available at the Guidance Office.
- There is a free parent forum for anyone wishing to attend, being offered through HWDSB on November 18, 2010 at Sir Winston Churchill, in the auditorium from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

7. New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. \$500 Parent Engagement Funds—The Board has already granted the funds to School Council. Funds must be used to promote communication between the school and the parents. The Council discussed what we would purchase with the funds. R. Gagnon went over what the Council used the funds for in the past. Some suggestions could be the Sherwood magnet again (hasn't been done in a couple years), as the grade 9s and 10s would not have received them before. The Council will continue the discussion at our December meeting and bring forward additional ideas for consideration.

2. Correspondence—Children's Aid Society Family Sponsorship Program is asking for the community's support to help families during the holiday season. CAS is asking for food vouchers or gifts to help out the less fortunate families. If anyone is interested please call 905-522-1121 ext. 6152.

- On Saturday November 13 and Sunday November 14, 2010 there will be a People for Education Conference held at York University. This is a chance for parents, staff and trustees from across Ontario to participate in workshops and panel discussions. Visit the website for more information www.peopleforeducation.com Parents may also call 905-546-2489 to register. There is a cost involved.

- Sherwood was mentioned twice on the recent edition of HWDSB "Virtual Blackboard Newsletter". The newsletter discussed the Music Grant and the upgrades to the fitness room for The Fitness and Wellness Program.

- The Cordelia Anderson Seminar was held on October 25, 2010 at the Children's Aid Society. C. Anderson spoke to parents on raising kids in a toxic environment. A few topics were child abuse, chat rooms, facebook, web cams, and internet pornography. For further information visit www.childabusecouncil.on.ca

3. Girls Field Hockey Championships—See Staff Report

4. Acoustic Coffee House—See Staff Report

5. School Board Trustee Election Results—Ward 6 Trustee Laura Peddle was re-elected and remains the Trustee for Sherwood School. School Council has extended an invitation to Ms. Peddle to attend one of our council meetings in the future.

6. Santa Claus Parade—Sherwood's Repertoire Ensemble, Cheerleaders, Student Council, Athletes and some "real" Saints (St. Bernard dogs) as our mascots, will be participating in the Hamilton Santa Claus Parade on Saturday November 13, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

7. Music Program Band Aid Grant— Sherwood was granted \$10,000 to purchase new musical instruments from Musiccounts (Canadian Charity). Head of Music Mr. R. Baker mentioned that Sherwood will be able to purchase 17 instruments, which include a marching bass drum, a tuba, four tenor and three alto saxophones, three trumpets, four clarinets and one flute.

8. Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday December 7, 2010, 6:30 pm in the school library.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.