



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m. Chair Gagnon welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions took place.

In Attendance

R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, B. Della Maestra, D. Della Maestra, T. Bender, A. Koklis, R. Hill, C. Anderson, Principal R. Gallant, VP E. Wilkie, Student Council President L. Fletcher, Staff Representative S. Valeri, Teacher-Librarian L. Dupuis, Brock Students J. MacPherson, M. Santacroce, S. Gilani, E. James

Regrets: B. Gerrish, A. Vernon

Minutes compiled by R. Gagnon

Staff Presentation

R. Gagnon welcomed Ms. Dupuis, Head of Library Services, to School Council. Ms. Dupuis brought to our attention the many improvements during the re-organization of the Library since February 2010. The books were sorted and all old issues purged. New carpet and a centrally-located circulation desk were installed. The fiction section expanded to include manga/anime novels. There are over 30 subscriptions to magazines on the display racks. Over 78 e-books are accessible from home or school. Digital storage includes science, literary and auto articles. Students have access to computers and study areas.

The Library remains a classroom and teaching space—a hub where students develop faster, smarter, efficient research skills. Grade 9 Library orientations started this month followed by students in Grades 10-12. Students will receive instruction on academic honesty (plagiarism rules/regulations, avoiding plagiarism, instruction on proper bibliographies and citations needed for college and university). The Library is open from 8-4 p.m., closed during first lunch. Students have access during study periods and second lunch. Ms. Dupuis will be present on Parents' Night for further information.

Approval of Minutes

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

Council Membership

R. Gagnon reminded members where School Council resources are available on the HWDSB website and reviewed expectations of a School Council member. Council membership and election of Executive followed.

B. Della Maestra made a motion to approve the Council membership as follows—returning members to Council: R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, B. Della Maestra, B. Gerrish, Principal Gallant, Vice-Principal Wilkie, and Staff Representative Valeri. New members to Council: Vice-Principal Yarr, Student Council President L. Fletcher, A. Vernon, C. Anderson, T. Bender, A. Koklis. Members accepted their nominations, seconded by R. Gagnon. Carried.

D. Wilson nominated A. Koklis for Chair. A. Koklis accepted the nomination, motion seconded by B. Della Maestra. Carried.

B. Della Maestra nominated C. Anderson for Secretary. C. Anderson accepted the nomination, motion seconded by D. Wilson. Carried.

B. Della Maestra nominated D. Wilson for Vice-Chair. D. Wilson accepted the nomination, motion seconded by C. Anderson. Carried.

Non-teaching staff representative and Community representative positions remain vacant.

Reports

1. Principal's Report—R. Gallant

Contributions reached \$2000 for the Terry Fox Walk/Run which took place on the rain date Thursday, September 23/10. \$1500 was collected by a second fundraiser organized by Mr. P. Woods to support a former Sherwood student, B. Neu, involved in a diving accident earlier this year.

Current school enrolment sits at 1258 students with a projected enrolment of 1193 for October 31/10. Extra teachers will be hired for second semester should the enrolment remain high. Motivational, international speaker Mr. Andy Thibideau addressed student leaders at a leadership lunch and at an assembly for Grade 9/10 students, a segment of Grade 9 Welcome BBQ/Spirit Day on September 21/10.

Preliminary reports will be released to students on Oct. 12/10 prior to Parents' Night on Oct. 14/10 from 6-8 p.m. Social Justice is active at Sherwood. A Sherwood contingent of students attended the *We Day 2010* conference on September 30/10 at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. Fifteen students attended *Hana's Suitcase on Stage* at Hamilton Place. DVDs were supplied for the whole student body.

The Awards Assembly is Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 1 p.m. in the Auditorium same date as Take-Your-Kids-to-Work Day. The first fire drill of three for the first semester was held on September 18/10. One lockdown drill per semester is to be held. This will be communicated to parents ahead of time.

Today is World Teachers' Day to recognize the high impact teachers have on student achievement.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—E. Wilkie

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) data will be examined and feedback from staff will be collected. This information will provide the framework to determine what the school should continue or modify regarding literacy direction.

November is reading month. Sixteen minutes of uninterrupted reading time at the end of the school day is planned for personal reading. The "Get Caught Reading" promotion will be another literacy tool. Students will be rewarded with a chance to have their name entered in a draw. Book reviews are planned in display cases. Also, there will be a focus on writing paragraphs. After-school literacy classes will be held closer to the Literacy test date. After-school numeracy classes are held in the fall.

Continued in-servicing surrounding the implementation of the Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting (AER) "Growing Success" Ministry document is required. A system-wide policy from the HWDSB is underway. School-wide consistency of reporting is desired. Sherwood staff is committed to using a standard preliminary report. November and January reports will add a self-regulation component. Secondary school reports will look different with work habits and learning skills now situated prominently alongside the mark in each subject. The report will include options for parents to request parent-teacher interviews. There will be a new-report-card information session for Grade 9 parents at Parents' Night. (To see the new report go to:

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

3. Staff Report—S. Valeri

Ms. Valeri's teaching portfolio is split between Library and Girls' Physical Education. The Athletic Councils will organize a Sherwood Spirit Wear clothing display for October Parents' Night. Funds raised will be applied to help offset athletic fees. The Art trip to New York City is October 19-22, 2010 and the acoustic coffee house is November 4/10. Rain has affected the fall outdoor sports causing some cancellations. Girl's Field Hockey is raising funds through Tupperware sales. The automated external (AE) defibrillator is located outside Gym A.

4. Student Council Report—L. Fletcher

There is good attendance at Student Council meetings with lots of new members and good participation at events. A Grade 9 Spirit Day was held in September. Students liked the music for the Terry Fox Walk/Run event. Student Council is working towards new spirit days, the return of school dances and less garbage around the school. Andy Thibideau's guidebook provides motivational reference material and tips. The Grad committee is planning an *American Apparel* fundraiser for the Class of 2011. SAC clothing is currently on sale. Plans are underway for the Halloween spirit day and Air Band tryouts will take place soon for the December event.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—R. Gallant

The Gymnasium floor was glued down two summers ago. The floor buckled in a couple of places from unknown causes. As a result Gyms A & B were shut down due to safety concerns. The floor was assessed by the HWDSB Plant Department and the flooring company to determine the cause and rectify the situation. Athletes practiced offsite using the gyms at the Dofasco Recreation Park. The closing of the Sherwood gyms adversely affected the Girl's Basketball team. Thursday is expected to be the return-to-regular-use day for the Sherwood gyms.

Graffiti on the exterior of the building requires repainting of the stucco. Garbage in and around the school property continues. School staff, students and Environmental Club are working together to tackle the issue. Three garbage cans will be attached to the school wall at the back providing exterior disposal.

2. October Parents' Night

Student Council assistance is arranged along with provision for displays, signage, coffee, maps and name badges. Parents will have an opportunity to enrol in Parent Assistant.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. Terry Fox Walk/Run—see Principal's report.

2. Nutrition Policy—Sherwood’s School Nutrition Action Committee (SNAC) is looking for a parent member from School Council. Ms. C. Petruskiewicz along with a student and administrator will form the rest of the committee. Email Principal Gallant if you wish to join SNAC. The policy can be found on the HWDSB website.

It has been noted that since the implementation of the Nutrition Policy, cafeteria sales are down. More students are going offsite for lunch resulting in some students returning late to class.

3. Correspondence

Ontario has passed a resolution to officially recognize Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week from November 15-19, 2010. R. Gagnon previously circulated the memo to parent members on Council.

The Community Child Abuse Council of Canada presents a free evening for parents on Oct. 25/10. Cordelia Anderson is the keynote speaker at the Children’s Aid Society on Arrowsmith Road. R. Gagnon previously circulated the information flyer to parent members on Council.

School Council Insurance is offered through the HWDSB by the Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange for those Councils who wish to purchase it. R. Gagnon previously circulated the memo and fact sheets to parent members on Council. Sherwood School Council has no interest to purchase a policy at present.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library. Staff presentation by Ms. R. Purdy, Languages Department Head.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
