



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 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. Sherwood School Council welcomes our new Vice-Principal Wendy Yarr.

In Attendance

R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, VP W. Yarr, VP E. Wilkie, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), B. Gerrish, Staff Representative S. Valeri, parents C. Anderson, A. Vernon, T. Bender, Brock students M. Sullivan, D. Renton
Regrets: Principal R. Gallant, Student Council President L. Fletcher, D. Della Maestra

Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were previously approved electronically with no additions or deletions reported. Approved minutes were forwarded to Superintendent Stephanian and Trustee Peddle.

Reports

1. Principal's Report—given by VP Wilkie

Current school enrolment sits at 1300 students and continues to climb. Current school staff includes 75 Teachers, 9 Educational Assistants, 5 Secretaries, 6 Caretakers, 4 Cafeteria workers. School picture day is September 16, 2010. Motivational, international speaker Mr. Andy Thibideau will be addressing Grade 9 & 10 students and student leaders at an assembly on Sept. 21/10, a segment of Grade 9 Welcome BBQ/Spirit Day.

Provincial literacy test results from April 9, 2010 were handed out to the Grade 10 students in June. A voice mail message from the school notified our Sherwood community at that time. Sherwood's results were equal to or slightly above Board-level. Successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) or course is one of 32 requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

The Terry Fox Walk/Run day is planned for the morning of September 22, 2010. The Awards Assembly is Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 1 p.m. in the Auditorium same date as Take-Your-Kids-to-Work.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—E. Wilkie

Learning Community Days this year are "full" days. The first one on Nov. 19/10 is a combined PA/LCD. The other LCDs are Mar. 4/11 and Apr. 1/11. Implementation of the Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting (AER) "Growing Success" Ministry document begins this year. 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. (To see the new report go to: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/card/reportCard.html)

The Personal Electronic Devices policy was updated on page 13 of the student agenda. An information sheet for parents regarding this policy was included in the package mailed to the Sherwood Community in July.

Vice-Principals' Report—W. Yarr

VP Yarr is responsible for the Safe Schools and Healthy Schools Portfolio. All HWDSB staff need to know how to handle and safely use chemicals and materials as outlined on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Monthly tours and bi-annual inspections take place as part of this process.

Anti-Bullying is a huge component of school safety and character-building.

A new HWDSB school food and beverage policy approved in May is now in effect. In-services in June informed staff. Foods with higher levels of nutrients and lower amounts of fat/sugar/sodium must make up at least 80 per cent of all food that is for sale. Foods with slightly higher amounts of fat/sugar/sodium cannot make up more than 20 per cent of all food available for sale. Foods that contain few or no essential nutrients or contain high amounts of fat/sugar/sodium cannot be sold in school. Information can be found at www.ontario.ca/healthyschools.

3. Staff Report—S. Valeri

Fall sports are underway (Girls Basketball, Boys Volleyball). The Athletic Councils begin the sale of Sherwood Spirit Wear at the end of September and will organize a clothing display for October Parents' Night. Funds raised will be applied to help offset athletic fees. Grade 9 Library Orientation begins this month followed by Grade 10, 11, 12. Students will receive instruction on proper citations especially required for post-secondary usage. Students have access to 80 e-books.

4. Student Council Report—no report.

5. Chair's Report—R. Gagnon

School Council activity since the May 4/10 meeting—Annual report prepared and submitted electronically to the school website, online with the HWDSB and emailed to Superintendent Stephanian and Trustee Peddle. The hardcopy was circulated to Sherwood families at registration in August.

Two expenditure reports were prepared. The Parent Involvement Funding report was filed with the school on May 28/10 for submission to our Superintendent at the HWDSB. The Parents Reaching Out Grant report was submitted online to the Ontario Ministry of Education in April with hardcopy/original receipts delivered on May 28/10 to the school for our Superintendent at the HWDSB. Principal Gallant received his copy at the May meeting.

The summer newsletter was prepared and submitted to the school and school website in June. Hardcopies were circulated at registration to the Sherwood community. (Principal Gallant is aware that our School Council webpage is not up-to-date. Our website teacher-volunteer and student team were overwhelmed with activity last term.)

R. Gagnon submitted a greeting to the 2010 graduation class on behalf of School Council which was printed in the graduation programme.

Application deadline for the 2010/11 PRO Grant was June 11, 2010. Sherwood did not apply.

R. Gagnon was invited to speak at the Principals Training Class on Saturday, June 12/10 to give a secondary school perspective of School Councils.

The School Council binder was presented to the Principal in June.

A number of communications were forwarded to School Council members on the Nutrition Policy, Draft Medical/Health Supports Policy, the New Directions Focus Board Budget, HWDSB media release of OSSLT results and wrap up reminders for Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) applications and PRO Grant application deadline.

Newly-elected Student Trustees Micaela Corcoran (Westdale) and Susan Tian (Sir John A. Macdonald) began their term August 1, 2010. As of August 16, 2010, two new Superintendents of Education joined the HWDSB Executive Council, Mag Gardner and Manny Figueiredo. Please note Mr. Figueiredo is Sherwood's Superintendent.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—E. Wilkie

Summer improvements included new concrete and painted railings at the Princeton Drive entrance, carpet replacement and circulation desk installation in the Technology Information Centre (Library) and fire alarm checked. Ken Joslin is Sherwood's new head caretaker.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. October Parents' Night—Thursday, October 14, 2010 from 6-8 p.m. Student Council participation and student displays are invited. SAC will display spirit wear. The Girl's Field Hockey Team will act as Ambassadors for parents during the evening and operate a fundraiser offering Tupperware for sale. A display table was requested for School Council information. Signage and name badges also recommended. V.P. Yarr will examine if Parent Assistant enrolment is viable for this evening.

2. School Council Operational Items—Ballots for Council membership this year were on page 2 of the summer newsletter. Ballots will be accepted until October 5, 2010. Council membership will be established with election of new chair at the next meeting. In preparation, R. Gagnon reviewed School Council (SC) resources available on the HWDSB website that provides information on the role of SC, FirstClass SC Communication, Elections, Positions, Term, Regulations, Documents, Ontario Ministry Guide for SC and other links.

R. Gagnon outlined the school fundraising process. All groups within the school are to report to the Student Council (Music, Athletics, Social Justice, etc.). NO SPLINTER GROUPS. There needs to be a School Council member on any fundraising subcommittee and that is attained through representation by the Student Council President. Student Council brainstorms at the beginning of the school year to decide which charities to support and map out when those fundraisers are to be held. All reporting to the community is through Student Council to School Council via the President or delegate. Each fundraiser attains a zero-balanced budget. Financial reporting to our Sherwood community is published in the meeting minutes.

3. Municipal Election—Monday, October 25, 2010. There are 3 candidates for School Trustee in Ward 6. Please exercise your right to vote. The incoming Board of Trustees (11) will complete the decision-making process for the Secondary School Accommodation Review among other important issues.

4. Other Business—B. Gerrish inquired about the consultation process for the senior student trip to Europe. There is a short window of opportunity in the spring for parents to decide if their student is to be involved. S. Valeri offered information explaining some of the timelines for trip planning by both the tour company as well as the school to meet all criteria for HWDSB approval. There is recognition that a longer time limit is preferred for discussion by students and parents.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library. Staff presentation by Ms. L. Dupuis, Head of Library Services.

Meeting Adjourned at 8 p.m.
