



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. The presentation by Ms. D. Sawford is re-scheduled for a date in autumn.

In Attendance

B. Gerrish, R. Gagnon, Vice Principal E. Wilkie, Principal R. Gallant, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), D. Wilson, D. Della Maestra, Trustee L. Peddle
Regrets from S. Shuttleworth, S. Valeri, M. Heublein, E. Shore, Supt. Stephanian

Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved with no changes or deletions.

Reports

1. Principal's Report

Mr. Gallant opened the meeting with a *Mountain News* video that showed coverage of some of the 75 students who participated in the 30-hour charity famine at Sherwood. These participants under the leadership of O. Strohschein and Ms. K. Morris raised over \$3,200 for World Vision. The students also received corporate support from *Pizza Pizza* who generously donated pizza for the students to mark the end of the 30 hours. There was additional media coverage of this event on *CHML* radio.

Mr. Gallant's second demonstration gave Council a sneak preview of the Sherwood website currently under construction. The website design team is diligently proceeding with a launch date of the improved school website in the next two months.

Plans are underway for the homeless awareness campout in May. Mid-semester reports will be released the week of April 20th. The Rob Ellis "My Safe Work" assembly takes place tomorrow morning. The topic will focus on student workplace safety and accident prevention. There is an earth week assembly planned for "go green" spirit day April 17th.

Sherwood students participated in the Sears Drama Festival receiving 5 awards for two student-directed plays (*The Drinking Delusion* and *The Guidance Office*). Sherwood teacher, Ms. V. Pankerichan was honoured by receiving the Career Life Skills Resources Award of Excellence in Cooperative Education OCEA 2009. Two Sherwood teachers, Ms. L. Vamos (Director of Player Development for the City of Brantford 2008-09) a consultant for Sherwood soccer and Mr. A. Herrington (Coach, Under 19 National Floorball team, Finland May 2009), were awarded Profiling Excellence recognition from the HWDSB along with 3 Sherwood students.

The student success visit took place in March where there was a review of numeracy data which showed increases in most scores and first semester credit accumulation for Sherwood.

2. Vice-Principals' Report

There will be a student diversity audit to survey the school community. Grade 10-11 students will be able to comment on school environment issues, bullying, cultural awareness, religion and sexual orientation, etc. The February LCD discussed Equity and information on racism/classism (using the same vocabulary, facilitate privacy concerns) in preparation for this May audit.

There was extensive school preparation for the Grade 10 Literacy test. A mock test was held with a follow-up evaluation assembly. Refreshments were provided on April 2/09 for the 320 students who wrote the OSSLT. Results are expected the second week of June and VP Wilkie will investigate how these results will be transmitted to parents. R. Gagnon commented that the "Literacy Matters" handout for Grade 10 parents was quite informative and suggested it would be great reference material to post on the school website.

Mr. Brady is implementing an after-school program for numeracy. The Assessment-Evaluation-Reporting (AER) group is working to develop a school-wide consistent policy re language and late assignments for this new ministry document.

There was a flurry of urgent matters to attend to as a result of the recent earthquake in Italy and its affect on the Grade 12 Europe trip scheduled to depart on Thursday. Following consultation with Superintendent Stephanian, Associate Director Bain, EF Tours, and Administration, an emergency meeting has been set to share the latest information with parents. Safety is paramount and with some re-routing around the affected Italian district, it is expected that the trip will proceed as planned.

Congratulations to the boys' hockey team and coaches that ended their successful season as SOSSA champions and travelled to North Bay for OFSAA where they finished in the top five provincially. The girls' hockey team lost the city championships in double overtime! In badminton, S. Tonogai has advanced.

D. Wilson inquired about a recent media report that stated secondary students are less prepared for post-secondary education. There has been no information received at the school level from the Board re this report.

3. Staff Report—absent, see Vice-Principal's report.

4. Student Council Report—absent, no report

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety

Auditorium carpet replacement took place during the March Break and the seats will be repaired as soon as possible. The artistic paint project in the 3rd floor boys' bathroom is completed. Exterior stucco project on the north-facing school wall has received budget approval with improvements scheduled to take place during the summer 2009. Gym ceiling vents cleaning and weight room improvements are pending.

2. March Parents' Night

March Parents' Night was completed successfully with cafeteria congestion eliminated due to the relocation of Physical Education teachers to Gym C for parent interviews. A handout was distributed by school ambassadors and R. Gagnon issued appreciation on behalf of Council.

3. Parental Outreach Funding

The order has been placed with the vendor to provide 500 Sherwood school magnets for incoming Grade 9 students and new registrants. It was agreed after a short discussion that the balance of the remaining monies will be redirected for use at the October Parents' Night.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcement

1. Trustee Laura Peddle attended our meeting at Council's invitation and brought with her a number of announcements.

- Director Spence will become the Director of Education in Toronto after leaving the HWDSB at the end of June. Parents have an opportunity and are encouraged to provide advice to the school board in choosing the right person for new Director by visiting the Board website at www.hwdsb.on.ca/aboutus/feedback/director. A decision will be made by early June.
- The new downtown headquarters is a 3-way partnership between the City of Hamilton-McMaster University-Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. Funding for the new building will be financed through land.
- The school board has formally approved a secondary school accommodation review to start in the fall 2009 with closures expected June 30, 2010. The mandate of the secondary review is to reduce seats by 2,600 and review boundaries to effectively use space. A new secondary school is slated to be built on the south mountain with the potential to close two existing mountain secondary schools. The Secondary Schools of the Future Project is also examining school boundaries and facilities.
- Trustee Peddle encouraged Sherwood representation on the Board of Trustees through the Student Trustees. It is a huge opportunity for professional development for the students with some remuneration as well.
- There is a health and safety initiative as a result of the caretakers' WSIB claim numbers which are double the province-wide numbers.
- Trustee Peddle is working to develop a system-wide/provincial health-and-safety award to recognize and reward students for health and safety prevention.
- The new chair of the HWDSB is Jessica Brennan and it has been decided that the vice-chair position will rotate between the eleven trustees. Trustee Peddle's rotation to vice-chair is scheduled for September.
- The Director's report to the community will provide HWDSB results along with the provincial standards.
- Trustee Peddle continues to be a member of the Governance Committee.
- Trustee Peddle encourages involvement of parents through the Parental Involvement Committee at the Board.
- May 1st is the deadline to set the 2009/10 school year calendar.

2. Principal Gallant circulated copies of the approved Personal Electronic Devices Policy to Council. There will be additional information printed in the student agendas with a student review planned for September.

3. All Sherwood Council members are encouraged to attend the Dr. Betty Boulton and HWDSB event at Barton Secondary School on April 15th starting at 5:30 pm. Dr. Boulton is the author of "176 Ways to Involve Parents". Parents can register online at www.hwdsb.on.ca/parents/bettyboulton. Administrators register on Information Place, In-Service ID #190524. There are two chances to win resources for our school through participation.
4. The Parental Involvement Committee is hosting the 3rd Annual Profiling Excellence Volunteer Recognition on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Applications were due by April 3rd honouring volunteers in three categories.
5. Westdale School & School Council and Westdale Home & School Association invite all interested parties to an evening information presentation on "Facebook 101" on April 30th at 7 p.m. in the Westdale auditorium.
6. The Sherwood principal placement profile survey (PPPS) was revised last November and submitted to our superintendent at that time. This PPPS will remain as our survey of record.
7. The final School Council meeting for the 2008/09 school year will be held at an off-site location. B. Gerrish has offered to investigate a venue and contact members by email with the details.
8. A youth outreach worker with the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program has offered information regarding the program and is willing to make a presentation to Council. Since we have only one remaining meeting this year, it was determined that there will be no further action taken at this time.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
