



# Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2008

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

## In Attendance

B. Gerrish, R. Gagnon, Vice Principal J. Braun, Teacher Representative S. Valeri, Principal R. Gallant  
Regrets from S. Shuttleworth, B. Della Maestra, D. Wilson

Minutes compiled by R. Gagnon

## Staff Presentation

Mr. Weston's presentation was deferred until February 2009.

## Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were approved with no changes or deletions.

## Reports

### 1. Principal's Report

January Open House (Jan. 14/09) was advertised in *The Mountain News* along with the December Sports Night (Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>). Participants in the "Movember" fundraiser for prostate cancer raised \$1500. There was 94% participation in the Grade 9 "Take Your Kids to Work" Day. The November Learning Community Day topics were Smart Goals, Literacy and Sherwood's Specialist High Skills Major—Health & Wellness. The "learning teams" are working on the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Feeder school Principals and Grade 8 teachers attended meetings at Sherwood on November 25<sup>th</sup> to examine transition processes.

### 2. Vice-Principals' Report

Mr. Braun explained the events surrounding the alleged school bomb threat received Monday. Following consultation with Police Services and Superintendent Stephanian and with the intent to inform, Sherwood Administration issued written notification to parents/guardians. Additionally, a synervice announcement was released, a staff meeting was held and a school announcement was made. The school was searched. Bomb threat protocol was followed. Student attendance Tuesday was very low. It was noted that not all parents received the synervice announcement. Alternate communication using the website and updating the school voice mail was discussed. Further investigation will continue.

Staffing process has concluded with no losses or gains to permanent staff at Sherwood. The school lowered the flag in November out of respect for the loss of Grade 11 student B. Bound from cancer. The transition team will be going out to visit Sherwood's feeder schools.

### 3. Staff Report

S. Valeri reported on the activities of the leadership portfolio course available for students this year along with the Girls alternate-fitness programme "Feel the Power Try It Day" on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Twenty minute sessions of badminton, yoga and kickboxing are planned. Public Health is supporting this new initiative. The Sherwood Athletic Council did a great job planning a successful Pep Rally on November 27<sup>th</sup> showcasing the accomplishments of Fall Athletic Teams. Lots of winter sports are underway with Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Soccer, Swim Team, Water polo & Curling.

Grade 8 transition activities continue with feeder school student visits here on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> signalled the end of Literacy Month. There will be a focus on numeracy in second semester. SAC accepted orders for 650 pieces of athletic wear and this spirit wear is to be delivered before Christmas. The school is holding food, clothing and toy drives in December. Music night is December 4<sup>th</sup> and the Music semi-formal will be held on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Other December activities include a dance on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, staff-versus-student hockey game on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at Lawfield Arena and Air Band on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. A sports night showcasing hockey, soccer, basketball and volleyball will be held in the auditorium Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> highlighting these focus courses available at Sherwood.

The gymnasium curtain has been repaired. There will be an elementary-level floor ball tournament at Sherwood December 10<sup>th</sup> and a girls' junior volleyball tournament on December 12<sup>th</sup>. A November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day assembly was held. Drama class presented small skits illustrating the stories of the 3 soldiers.

#### 4. Student Council Report—absent, no report

#### 5. Chair's Report

R. Gagnon attended the Chair Networking Session at the Education Centre November 13<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the report circulated previously by email. Agenda highlights—confirmation received for parental outreach funding this year; ESIS software trial presently running at 3 secondary schools in the District; provincial reporting SIP template changing; elementary level School Council fundraising; FirstClass email communication link for School Councils; school council meeting duration.

R. Gagnon attended the November 26<sup>th</sup> Student Council meeting to continue the partnership established last year between Councils and to acknowledge support and promotion of student activities. School Council appreciates the support of Student Council at parent events each semester passing out information handouts, greeting guests and making visitors feel comfortable at Sherwood.

Although an inquiry was posted on the School Council discussion board on FirstClass, there were no responses to the question seeking a vendor for a secondary school book fair. It was noted that the Christmas tree display in the main corridor is stunning. *The Spectator* is seeking nominees for the Jeff Dickins Memorial Award given annually to a local high school student who has demonstrated a commitment to athletic participation while maintaining a high academic standard and community involvement. It is hoped that Sherwood will submit a nominee by the December 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. The award is presented in February at the B'nai Brith banquet at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Issue 1 of the *Sherwood News* is on the school website.

#### Open Issues

##### 1. Plant & Safety

The school cafeteria door was replaced. A new door and window system was installed in the north gymnasium entrance. Exterior improvements continue. A Ministry of Labour inspection revealed ceiling tile inadequacies. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ceiling tiles are fixed and repaired. The HWDSB is appealing the compliance order regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. This issue affects the computer upgrade/wireless network project.

##### 2. School Council Training

School Council training sessions continue in the New Year and members are encouraged to attend. To register for *Legal Stuff*, *Conflict Resolution* or *How Do We Raise Money and What Do We Do With It*, please call 905-527-5092, ex.2219 or go to [www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/councils/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/councils/)

#### New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. The HWDSB is hosting a **Mental Health Speaker Series**. Three sessions are scheduled at various locations on these dates—November 18/08, March 4/09 and May 6/09. The information flyer was circulated previously by e-mail. Contact Mary Grosvenor at 905-527-5092, ex. 2297 for registration information or email [mary.grosvenor@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mary.grosvenor@hwdsb.on.ca)

2. A handout from School Council has been prepared for distribution at the **Grade 8 Parent Information Night and Open House** in January. R. Gagnon circulated the electronic version to Council members for review and will forward the file to the school for printing purposes.

3. **The Principal Placement Profile Survey** was submitted to Superintendent Stephanian before the Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> deadline. Minor changes were made.

4. The HWDSB created a survey for parents to comment online about opportunities to get involved in school life. The **parent engagement survey** is available until December 14/08 through the Board website [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca) Written notice regarding the survey was sent out to Sherwood parents with the mid-term reports in November.

5. VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT! The HWDSB wants ideas about the future of education. At present you can participate on a blog on the Board website. The **Secondary-School-Education-of-the-Future Task Force** will examine secondary school programs, modes of delivery, school organization and facility design over the next year. Input provided to the Task Force will be compiled into a report that will be presented to the Board of Trustees in November 2009. Please be aware of future focus groups and town hall sessions to offer your thoughts and feedback.

6. **The Sherwood Awards Presentation** was held November 5<sup>th</sup> at a new time. It was generally determined that holding the ceremony in the afternoon provided easier access for parents to attend. Additionally, parents and students were able to leave for home together after the reception as opposed to students returning to classes when the ceremony was held in the morning. Suggestions were made to fast-track the presentations if possible when it was observed that attendees were leaving the ceremony after an hour. The expansion to

include more departmental awards added to the length of the ceremony. It was fabulous that Sherwood students earned so many awards!

**7. People for Education** is an independent parents' group working to support public education in Ontario schools. There is a wealth of information on their website [www.peopleforeducation.com](http://www.peopleforeducation.com)

**8.** The Ministry of Education forwarded material to School Councils promoting the **Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence** to recognize outstanding Ontario educators and support staff. There are 6 award categories and the nomination deadline is January 31, 2009.

**Next School Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8 p.m.**

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