



# Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009

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 E. Wilkie, Principal R. Gallant, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), D. Wilson, Student Council Reps. M. Heublein & E. Shore  
D. Della Maestra, C. Weston, along with Brock University Students J. Agnew, C. Arnold, N. Marshall, J. Rimnyak, C. Ault, M. Harth, G. Dundee, A. Amodeo, S. Beauregard, C. DuFresne, D. Lottridge, D. Macdonald  
Regrets from S. Shuttleworth, Teacher Representative S. Valeri

## Staff Presentation

Prior to the start of the business meeting Council learned about the Science Programme from Department Head, Mr. C. Weston. Sherwood offers Biology, Chemistry and Physics in addition to the Grade 9 & 10 science courses. New courses in the Science Department include a Grade 11 University/College (3M) medical course with a focus on senior care, etc. and an environmental course will be offered next year. Students require 2 science credits to graduate. A few course changes in both junior and senior classes are expected and textbooks for Grade 10 classes are needed. Sherwood sits in about the middle of the list for HWDSB science-labs retrofitting, however, the science fume hoods are working. It would be beneficial to have larger sinks in the front of the classroom. Additionally, the Science Department has initiated a cleanup of chemical storage and old equipment.

NB Mr. Weston coaches the Sherwood Curling teams and is the teacher-advisor for the Yearbook class.

## Approval of Minutes

The December minutes were approved with no changes or deletions.

## Reports

### 1. Principal's Report

Mr. Gallant welcomed everyone visiting from Brock University and explained our series of department-head presentations for School Council. Mr. Ermacora who is Assistant Head of History will present "Eco-Challenge" in March followed by Ms. Sawford of Special Education.

The Children's Aid Society sent a thank-you letter to Sherwood's Social Committee who fundraised to sponsor a family and provide gift certificates for Crown Wards this past holiday season. Sherwood Environmental Club received a \$700 grant for beautification.

Option assemblies are scheduled February 18-19 for all students. There is a new option-sheet process this year for secondary schools. Students will visit computer labs during the first week of March and input their course choices directly into the computer. The hard-copy print-outs will go home with students for parents to sign and return to the school by March 10.

This year's focus is numeracy as per the upcoming visit with Superintendent of Program & Assessment, Krys Croxall, and Angela Ferguson of Student Success. Overall, Sherwood's EQAO scores have improved 4 years in-a-row. First semester report cards will be released the week of February 9<sup>th</sup> and the February newsletter will be posted on the school website shortly. Ms. D. French and a group of 8 computer students are revising the school website and will be responsible for its maintenance.

Grade 8 students from our 6 feeder schools visited Sherwood in January. The snowstorm in December forced a rescheduling of the Airband performances to March 13 prior to the start of Spring Break. And former Sherwood teacher, Mr. Doug Massey, returns to present *Riversong* (a "street-gang" production) on March 4<sup>th</sup> at a 10 a.m. assembly for our school.

### 2. Vice-Principals' Report

In preparation for the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) on April 2, Ms. Wilkie announced the after-school literacy program running for 5 weeks for extra student support. There will be 10 after-school sessions held February 17-March 26. In addition, two literacy assemblies will be held. The "kick-off" assembly is February 19 followed by a "mock" literacy test at the end of March. Results from the mock test will be released to the students and a final literacy assembly will be held March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The February 27<sup>th</sup> Learning Community Day session will outline the Board's current position on Equity and the afternoon in-service will also include information on racism/classism prior to the diversity audit scheduled for May.

You heard it first at Sherwood—The Ministry has been working on an Assessment-Evaluation-Reporting (AER) provincial document that introduces new reporting for Kindergarten to Grade 12 scores that has just been released. Proposed changes in this draft include using "levels" from 1-4 for grade 9 and 10 assessments and evaluations. Grade 11 and 12 would use "percentage" grades. Additionally, the Learning Skills section would change. New designations "I" for incomplete, "R" for remedial work required to attain Level 1, etc. are proposed along with an area indicating late and missed assignments. This would replace the E (excellent), G (good), S (satisfactory) and N (needs improvement) ratings. A new spot on the report card for *self-regulation and awareness* is to be added.

### **3. Staff Report**—absent, no report

### **4. Student Council Report**

E. Shore reported that the Students Together Against Tobacco (STAT) group sold *smoothies* during exam week in January. As a result of this successful healthy-snack initiative, arrangements are made for *smoothies* to be sold in the cafeteria on a regular basis.

M. Heublein reported that Student Council has planned a fundraising bake sale and candy-o-grams. Flower-grams will be on sale Thursday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> for delivery on Friday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> celebrating red-white-pink spirit day. Plans for Sherwood Idol talent show and an upcoming pep rally will be discussed at the next Student Council meeting along with end-of-year carnival planning. Valentine Formal ticket-sales are going well. The event takes place on February 13<sup>th</sup> at an off-site location. A proposal was made for future consideration to group Grade 9/10 students together for one lunch period and group Grade 11/12 students together for the other lunch period. Sherwood Administration will investigate further.

R. Gagnon continues to liaise with our very active Student Council.

### **Open Issues**

#### **1. Plant & Safety**

A light fixture wall-mounted outside the Princeton Street entrance has improved the exterior lighting on the stairs and property. Auditorium improvements include a newly painted stage floor and carpet replacement is scheduled during March Break. Championship banners have been installed in the main gymnasium. M. Heublein reported the gym ceiling vents require cleaning and Mr. Gallant will follow-up this request. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor boys' washroom is nearing completion with regard to the paint/art project. The school display cases this month feature the Geography Department.

#### **2. School Council Training**

The *Legal Stuff* training session scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the snowstorm, however, R. Gagnon did share the material electronically (Role of School Councils & School Council Guide) with parent members and Mr. Gallant. A hardcopy of the School Council Guide is also available. Please contact R. Gagnon if you require any of this information. Members are encouraged to register for upcoming training sessions *Conflict Resolution* or *How Do We Raise Money and What Do We Do With It*. Please go to [www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/councils/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/councils/) for further details or telephone the HWDSB at 905-527-5092, ex. 2219.

#### **3. Grade 8 Parent Information Night/January Open House**

We had abundant student representation in the way of Ambassadors, Repertoire Ensemble, Cheerleaders, Student Council Co-President M. Heublein, Stage Crew and a showing of a student-produced DVD by a graduate student. Ambassadors were able to mingle with our visitors to answer questions, provide assistance and promote Sherwood. Future Sherwood families attended the presentation in the Auditorium, toured the facility and were provided with an agenda, School Council News handout, refreshments along with an opportunity to speak individually with Heads of Departments. Speakers included Mr. Gallant, Ms. Lea, Ms. Gagnon, and M. Heublein. Splendid work by Guidance Department, Department Heads, Caretaking Staff, Office Staff, and Administration.

### **New Business/Correspondence/Announcements**

1. Sherwood Student Services has organized a **Job & Volunteer Fair** to be held at the school on April 28, 2009 from 11-3 p.m. Students may attend the displays during their lunch or after school. Additionally, the *Career Cruiser* will be parked on the property during that week to provide assistance with resume and cover-letter writing, interview skills and employer contacts.

2. Parents are invited to attend **March Parents' Night** on March 11<sup>th</sup> to meet with teachers following the release of second semester preliminary reports. There is a need to eliminate congestion in the cafeteria and accurately identify line-ups to ensure parents are waiting for the correct teacher as previously reported to School Council.

Mr. Gallant will consult with V.P. Braun and Cabinet. A School Council News handout has been drafted in preparation for this evening. Please submit your ideas to R. Gagnon for future handouts.

3. The HWDSB through the office of Superintendent S. Stephanian provided a list of outreach projects within the region from last year's **Parent Involvement Funding**. R. Gagnon highlighted the secondary school projects and forwarded the list for parents on Council to review (including the expenditure reporting form) prior to tonight's meeting. After a short discussion, a decision regarding this year's initiative has been deferred to the March meeting.

4. Liz Murray and her "Homeless to Harvard" journey is the subject of the next HWDSB 2009 Speaker Series starting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School. RSVP Director of Education HWDSB 905-527-5092, ex. 2291 or [info@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:info@hwdsb.on.ca) (An initiative of Hamilton's Youth Homelessness Awareness Week February 2-6, 2009.)

5. There is a new policy directive regarding school fees. A draft of the **Student Fees Policy and Policy Directive** can be found on the HWDSB website [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca). The Directive defines required & optional fees; required & optional school experience fees; compulsory, optional, elective courses and Programs of Choice fees; and other school fees such as Yearbook, Planner, Basic Athletic/Tryout/Team fees. This is an opportunity for the school community to be involved in the process and provide responses online before February 27, 2009. At the present time, Sherwood's required student fee is \$15 (planner \$6, library card \$2, student activity card \$7).

#### **Next School Council Meeting**

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

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.** Following the conclusion of the business meeting, Mr. Gallant offered a school tour for the visiting university students to view the bathroom projects and gymnasium. Also, Mr. Weston extended an invitation to provide a sneak preview of the yearbook. Interested parents returned to the Library for an explanation of the yearbook process and a quick peek at the submissions.

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