



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 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 J. Braun, Principal R. Gallant, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), Student Council Rep E. Shore, Teacher Rep S. Valeri
D. Della Maestra, M. Ermacora
Regrets from S. Shuttleworth, D. Wilson

Staff Presentation

Prior to the start of the business meeting, Mr. M. Ermacora of the History Department, presented information on "The Sherwood Eco School Challenge" an initiative to promote conservation. It is anticipated that Sherwood will begin to implement more environment-friendly practices over the next year and officially register for the 2009/10 school year with the goal to attain a gold medal in "EcoCertification". This program involves staff and students and may further develop our existing Environmental Club.

Additionally, Mr. Ermacora acknowledged parental participation on Council and extended appreciation for that involvement.

Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were approved with no changes or deletions.

Reports

1. Principal's Report

Mr. Gallant circulated the School Improvement Reports (SIP) to Council members electronically prior to tonight's meeting and reviewed the goals—strategies—timelines to be met this year. The Learning Community Day topic on February 27 was Equity. Principal Gallant will email the Equity Policy to Council members.

Mr. Gallant is involved with facilities assessment (1 of 9 subcommittees) on the Secondary Schools of the Future Project and will keep Council informed. Mr. Gallant reported that Mr. Daryl Sage gave a presentation on transportation.

The computer roll-out project continues and 165 new computers arrived at the school today. Software will be installed tomorrow in preparation for student use next week.

Workplace Safety Advocate, Rob Ellis, will present his "Live Safe! Work Smart!" message to Grade 10-11-12 students at assemblies on April 8th. Parents are invited. In February 1999, Mr. Ellis, a small business owner and father-of-four, lost his 18-year-old son David in a workplace accident. David died after becoming entangled in a dough mixer at a local bakery on his second day of a temporary job. To honour the memory of his son, Rob Ellis now speaks extensively to young people, parents, and businesses about the importance of workplace safety and accident prevention. Further information at www.livesafeworksmart.net

Students will visit computer labs during the first week of March for option entry and input their course choices from the "signed" option sheet. There are only 120 students who have not completed option sheets at the present time. The hard-copy confirmation of the option sheet will go home with students for parents' reference.

This year's Student Success visit will focus on numeracy. Superintendent of Program & Assessment, Krys Croxall, Angela Ferguson of Student Success along with VP Donna Hale will visit Sherwood on March 12th (rescheduled from February). Preliminary reports will be released to students March 10/09 prior to Parents' Night on March 11/09 from 6-8 p.m.

Former Sherwood teacher, Mr. Doug Massey, returns to present *River Song* (a musical drama) on March 4th. In addition, 100 Sherwood students will attend a community presentation on March 27th at the Scottish Rite. *River Song* provides an entertaining yet sober look at the growing threat of criminal street gangs, stalking and mental health issues using dance, poetry, comedy and music.

2. Vice-Principals' Report

Mr. Braun reminded everyone that March has been designated as Anti-Bullying Month. The Safe Schools Committee is promoting the anti-bullying message through posters in the school. One of the areas of focus within the SIP (Environmental) is a 10% reduction in bullying incidences among girls in Grades 9-10. School

assemblies for this group are planned and other strategies. In addition, the Ontario Ministry of Education is funding Safe@School, a multi-faceted bullying prevention project. Administration will examine resources for Sherwood teachers and students through this program. Mr. Braun will be attending another anti-bullying seminar on March 23/09.

Plans for Parents' Night are set. Refreshments will be set up outside the cafeteria. In order to minimize cafeteria congestion, Physical Education teachers will be available for parent interviews in Gymnasium C. There will be no changes to the remaining teacher-interview locations. Signage will be in place and Ambassadors will be on duty.

Mr. Braun displayed charts outlining the improvement in attaining credits in Semester 1 from 54.93% to 68.9%, part of the data tracking for School Improvement.

3. Staff Report

S. Valeri reported the upcoming Cops/Cats versus Sherwood Saints basketball game is planned for March 10/09. Parents are invited for the 12:05 p.m. fund-raiser game. Sherwood is one of the first schools to host this event. The Girls' Volleyball team suffered a loss in the quarter finals and the Girls' Hockey team is doing great. The Boys' Hockey team are city champs and will enter the SOSSA championship starting Wednesday and the Boys' Indoor Soccer team just missed the city championship that was decided after 9 penalty kicks! Many spring sports are starting. Sherwood received some publicity in the local newspaper. *The Hamilton Spectator* featured Floorball and recognized Mr. Herrington and the 12 Sherwood Saints on the National team competing for Canada at the U-19 World Championships in their February 11th Sports Section and again February 18/09 in "The High School Report".

Two literacy assemblies were held in preparation for the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT). A "mock" literacy test will be held March 25-26 and the results will be released to the students at a final assembly on March 31/09.

Today is "Square Root Day" (3-3-9) and Numeracy will be the focus in April. There is a plan to expand Health and Wellness, a Specialist High Skills Majors Programme at Sherwood for students interested in Kinesiology, Paramedics, etc.

Sherwood student reps of the anti-tobacco group Students Together Against Tobacco (STAT) and teacher-advisor Ms. McKague braved the cold temperatures on Jan. 21/09 at the corner of Upper Ottawa Street and Fennell Avenue East displaying signs that read "Honk if you don't smoke in your Car" in support of National Non-Smoking Week. New Ontario Legislation passed which bans smoking in vehicles when accompanied by passengers under the age of 16 years.

4. Student Council Report

E. Shore reported a successful Sherwood Idol talent show, Queen of Hearts dance and Spirit Day Bake sale were held in February. Girls' Basketball will be running a Silent Auction at Parents' Night. Airband performances have been rescheduled for March 13th. Planning for the Prom has started. Student Council surveyed to gather information for future event planning and will be meeting tomorrow morning to discuss the results, e.g. leadership event, charity dance, etc.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety

Auditorium carpet replacement is scheduled during March Break. An abandoned vehicle in the parking lot was towed away. The cafeteria operator (Chartwells School Dining) is examining the prospect of cafeteria renovations. The remainder of plant issues are up-to-date.

2. School Council Training

The *Conflict Resolution* training session scheduled for February 18th was cancelled due to low registration, however, R. Gagnon did share the material electronically with parent members and Mr. Gallant. Please contact R. Gagnon if you require this information. Members are encouraged to register for the upcoming training session *How Do We Raise Money and What Do We Do With It*. Please go to www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/councils/ for further details or telephone the HWDSB at 905-527-5092, ex. 2219.

3. March Parents' Night

A handout has been prepared from School Council for Parents' Night, March 11/09. Please submit any newsworthy items to R. Gagnon for this or future newsletters. See Vice-Principal's Report.

4. Parental Outreach Funding

The bulk of the outreach funding has been allocated for school magnets with the intent to distribute to incoming Grade 9 students for next year and any new registrants. R. Gagnon will pursue the order with the vendor. A small amount of the funding has been spent on stationery supplies for the School Council binder. There was a short discussion surrounding how the balance of the funding will be spent. A suggestion to put remaining monies toward the Pasta Night Fund-raiser was decided.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. Open discussions were held in February for the **Secondary School of the Future Project**. R. Gagnon attended the session at Saltfleet Secondary School where there was an opportunity to discuss aspects of future programs and modes of delivery with Lisa Neale and Nora Campbell of the HWDSB. There is an opportunity for everyone in the community to comment on the online forum. Go to the HWDSB website www.secschooledufuture.ca to join the blog.
2. The HWDSB has drafted a **school year calendar** for the upcoming academic year. The draft calendar proposes to begin the new academic year on September 1, 2009 (*BEFORE* Labour Day). This draft calendar will be available for input from all stakeholder groups until March 31/09 through the HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca or info@hwdsb.on.ca. Based on stakeholder feedback, the calendar will be finalized by Trustees and submitted for approval to the Ministry of Education.
3. Sherwood's **Students Together Against Tobacco (S.T.A.T.)** representatives were featured in the February issue of the HWDSB's Virtual Blackboard Newsletter because of their action promoting an anti-tobacco message. See Staff Report.
4. *The Hamilton Spectator* featured an article on Floorball and the TWELVE Sherwood Saints who will be representing Canada at the U-19 **World Floorball Championships**. Mr. A. Herrington (Sherwood teacher & Team Canada coach) and the following students will be travelling to Finland from May 2-12/09: Zac Anker, Mike Hayward, Dan Hewko, Joel Inouye, Dennon Koziol, Dan McKeen, Andrew Radjenovic, Pat Root, Roger Sherwood, Cal Smith, Connor Smith and David Stubbs. See Staff Report.
5. The HWDSB and Hamilton Public Health Services invite you to attend Glendale Secondary School to **The Rachel's Challenge Community Event** on Mar. 12/09 and hear an incredible story of courage and hope in memory of Rachel Scott, the first person killed at the Columbine High School tragedy.
6. On behalf of School Council, R. Gagnon has issued an invitation to Trustee Peddle and Superintendent Stephanian to attend the April meeting.
7. Hamilton Public Health is holding a parent conference **I'm Worth the Wait** with author/speaker Dr. Debra Haffner. There is no cost to attend the workshop from 7-9 p.m. at Michelangelo Banquet Centre on April 6th. RSVP 905-546-CITY (2489).

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library. Ms. D. Sawford of Special Education will present.

Meeting Adjourned at 8 p.m.
