



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m. at Romano's Restaurant.

In Attendance

B. Gerrish, R. Gagnon, Vice Principal E. Wilkie, Vice Principal J. Braun, Principal R. Gallant, Staff Representative S. Valeri, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), D. Wilson
Regrets from S. Shuttleworth, M. Heublein, E. Shore

Approval of Minutes

The April minutes were approved with no changes or deletions. The May minutes will be approved electronically by Council members in order to expedite the posting of the minutes on the school website.

Reports

1. Principal's Report

Mr. Gallant announced the Homeless-for-Hamilton campout on May 5/09 organized by Mr. Murkovich was exceptional and is hopeful it will be repeated next year. You may view a video taken that evening on the HWDSB website and there was terrific media coverage from the *Mountain News* and *CHCH TV*.

An Arts/Drama night was held on May 13/09 that included performances by the Dance Class and this year's award-winning Sears Drama Festival productions. Outstanding student art work was displayed.

Huntington Park students will share the stage with Sherwood music students for Music Night May 28/09. Additionally, Sherwood Repertoire Ensemble will perform a "Musical Soiree" to be held May 20/09 in the cafeteria that will feature arrangements by the Grade 11 & 12 music students.

Sherwood students were very fortunate to hear a very powerful message from Mr. Rob Ellis at an assembly April 8/09 that emphasized the importance of personal safety at work.

The Environmental Club has been making a noticeable improvement in the school courtyard and received wonderful media attention from the *Mountain News* this week. An environmental assembly was held in April during Earth Week.

Mr. Gallant also reported a steady stream of students visited the Career Cruiser Trailer and storefront displays for the first Job & Volunteer Fair April 28/09 and \$3200 was raised for the Juravinski Cancer Centre during the April Climb-a-thon.

Mr. Malcew organized a "rock band" Coffee House featuring the dazzling talents of Sherwood students with a tribute to Billy Brown who lost his battle with cancer earlier this year.

A group of twenty-two Grade 10 students wrote the PISA international language test on May 12/09. Results are pending. Fifteen to twenty students were recognized at the Luncheon of Champions held in the school Library earlier this month. Teachers nominated students who persevered through difficulties and honoured that achievement.

There were two evenings in May celebrating Profiling Excellence in the HWDSB. A dinner held at Michelangelo's celebrated Sherwood volunteers Robin Gagnon (School Council), Don Wilson (School Council), Brenda Della Maestra (School Council), Jim Hayward (Floorball/Hockey) and Blair Nesbit (Football). Sherwood's Reading Assistance Program (RAP) Tutor English Program was recognized the following evening at a gala reception held at the Royal Botanical Gardens along with individual honours to Sherwood Staff—Anthony Herrington (Floorball), Vesna Pankerichan (Coop Education) and Lydia Vamos (Player Development). This is the fourth year in-a-row that programming at Sherwood has won a Profiling Excellence Award! Hockey Canada Academy, Student Success Cooperative and Abilities Program were the previous program award recipients.

Ms. S. Valeri was instrumental in organizing the Coaches' Dinner held at Carmen's Banquet Centre on May 6/09. Over 300 secondary school coaches were recognized for their generosity and dedication.

Sherwoodstock is planned for this coming Friday and will coincide with the Eights-to-Saints visit. Three hundred Grade-8 students from our feeder schools will participate in an "Amazing Race". Mr. Gallant along with Sherwood Students Samantha Kadet and Nick Neu visited our feeder schools to reach out to Grade 7 students.

Sherwood Cheerleaders placed 2nd in the National Championship competition and the dozen Sherwood Saints on the U19 National Floorball Team enjoyed their tournament in Finland. A "Big East" All-Star basketball

tournament with Grade 7-8 students from our feeder schools was held in the Saints gymnasium. The *Mountain News* has a video slide-show posted on their website with coverage of the game.

2. Vice-Principals' Report—J. Braun

There will be a lockdown drill on May 25/09. Parent notification will take place the weekend prior using synervoice. Two of the three fire drills have been completed with the final drill to take place during the last week of May. Mr. Braun stated there is an increase in graffiti incidents on school property this year particularly in the stairwells and bathrooms. The Safe Schools Committee in the interest of student safety recommends signage for the school stairwells for accurate identification in an emergency. The stairs will be identified as stairwell A, B, C, or D and the floor will be indicated as well, e.g. A1, A2, A3.

Sherwood has submitted a proposed final exam schedule to Executive Council. Once authorization has been granted, the approved schedule will be posted on the Sherwood website and classroom teachers will distribute a hardcopy to students to take home.

Vice-Principals' Report—E. Wilkie

Approximately 80 students from Grades 10-11 completed the Student Diversity Audit. The rollout of the HWDSB's Gender Equity policy is delayed until September. A student-led goal to provide a safe space (Positive Space program) in every school has been set. Six students will attend all-day training at McMaster on May 29/09.

The Assessment-Evaluation-Reporting (AER) rollout is delayed while details surrounding late and missed assignments are tackled. A "step" class to assist Grade 8 students' transition to secondary school will be running in August.

3. Staff Report

Ms. Valeri reported the Grade 12 trip to Italy was successful. Travel to France for next year's History trip will be considered. Many sports are completing their season's schedule. Approximately 14-20 track students will be going to SOSSA. The Athletic Banquet will be held June 4/09 at Carmen's Banquet Centre. The Senior Male and Female Athletes-of-the-Year will be assembling June 12/09 at Bayfront Park. Photographs will be taken and published in *The Spectator*.

Grade 12 student, James Tonogai, is featured in the May issue of *The Virtual Blackboard* on the HWDSB website for Male Athlete of the Month.

Parents Who Care deliver baked goods to Staff throughout the year. In turn, Sherwood Staff donated canned goods to support church outreach by *Parents Who Care*.

R. Gagnon facilitated a link between St. Joseph's Healthcare and Sherwood School. As a result, the Sherwood Physical Education Department has been supplied with disposable ice packs and coolers for first-aid treatment from the hospital's Pharmacy Department.

The Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) results will be released in June. At that time, students will be able to pick up the hardcopy report in the school Library to take home. The school will provide a synervoice announcement to notify the school community. During numeracy month in April, students were exposed to basic numeracy life skills such as debit card usage and cheques.

There is a total of 3 Smartboards for instructional use at Sherwood. Two are located on the second floor and one Smartboard is located on the third floor.

There is an Ottawa History trip meeting for parents tonight at the school.

4. Student Council Report—absent

R. Gagnon attended a Student Council meeting April 22 and reported on Trustee Peddle's visit to School Council and extended her recommendation for Sherwood representation at the Board of Trustees as a Student Trustee. The 10th Annual Hamilton Commuter Challenge week begins June 1-5 and a high school package is available on FirstClass for Student Council participation in this national program recognizing Canadians who walk/cycle/take transit, or carpool to work/school.

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety—also see VP J. Braun's report.

Staff and Administrators participated in a Health and Safety school inspection April 24/09. There has been limited work performed on the third-floor ceiling tiles.

The anti-bullying initiative continues with particular focus for the Grade 9 and 10 students. Stand-Up-Speak-Out Against Bullying bookmarks will be handed out at registration and an assembly with an anti-bullying component will be held next September or October.

2. Parental Outreach Funding

Sharper Marketing delivered 500 school magnets at a total cost of \$316.40 and this account has been paid in full. Incoming Grade 9 students and new Sherwood registrants will receive a school magnet during timetable pick-up in August. A small portion of the funding was spent on stationery supplies for the School Council binder. It was agreed after a short discussion that the balance of the remaining monies will be

redirected for use at the October Parents' Night. R. Gagnon will purchase gift certificates and file the expenditure report due June 1/09.

3. Dr. Betty Boulton-HWDSB event

On behalf of Sherwood Council, R. Gagnon attended the seminar at Barton Secondary School on April 15/09. Dr. Boulton is the author of *176 Ways to Involve Parents* and as a former teacher/principal/superintendent in North America and more, she presented practical strategies for building bridges between schools and families. Here are her five goals to include parents as educational partners—welcome parents as vital members of the school community; sustain ongoing communication with families; include parents in school governance; develop parent volunteer programs; and foster shared ownership of the educational process. There are two copies of her book available for reading by any staff member or parent. Please see Principal Gallant or Chair Gagnon.

4. HWDSB School Council Training

R. Gagnon attended *How Do We Raise Money and What Do We Do With It!* a HWDSB Fundraising seminar at Queensdale School April 23/09. School Councils are governed by the Education Act Regulation 612 with regard to fundraising, consultation with parents, reporting to the community and records retention. The HWDSB has implemented a standardized method for reporting School Generated Funds (SGF) as required by the Ministry and External Auditor. Sources of SGF are fundraising activities, student activity fees, trips, community donations, external charities, nutrition entities, etc.

R. Gagnon is registered for the Chair Networking Session May 21/09 at the Education Centre.

5. Facebook 101

B. Gerrish and R. Gagnon attended the Facebook 101 information presentation at Westdale Secondary School April 13/09. Oakville parent Mr. Chris Vollum presented a workshop explaining (social networking site) Facebook's inner workings such as learning the privacy settings; understanding downloading within its third-party applications; distinguishing a friend, acquaintance and stranger and the impact on your real-world reputation and career; how to limit and allow access; and profile awareness.

Since information shared online can be used against us and personal information can be used to commit fraud, identity theft or to lure/stalk/harass a victim, School Council recommends as part of Sherwood's Safe Schools Anti-Bullying initiative to consider a possible student-parent event for next year.

6. Profiling Excellence—see Principal's Report.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. The HWDSB Committee of the Whole is currently examining the many aspects of the **Bottled Water Issue** (temperature, environmental, conservation). Secondary schools face a potential ban of water bottle sales and purchases effective September 2010. Therefore, the potential exists for an increase in water fountain usage at Sherwood and the need for all water fountains to be functioning and clean. "J. Moffat advised that in schools built prior to 1990, the water is flushed daily to remove impurities and other pollutants... flushing entails a minimum of 5 minutes... Caretaking staff will have a log of drinking water taps, i.e. flushing and then logging." (excerpt from the April 6/09 Minutes, Committee of the Whole)

2. In a bid to fight the rising obesity epidemic, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) is urging the Ontario Government to enact legislation on the listing of calories on restaurant and school cafeteria menus. Additionally, the OMA wants an education program not just in schools to tell consumers what constitutes a healthy daily caloric intake. HWDSB Trustee Robert Barlow plans to introduce a motion to be debated May 25/09 that will require the Board's food-service contractor to **post the calories of menu choices in school cafeterias** effective September 2009. Currently the Board is in the process of developing a nutrition policy. Informed dietary choices complement the work of Sherwood's HEAT initiative.

3. School Council has a responsibility to file **annual reports**. R. Gagnon will circulate a draft of the annual report to Council members who then will have an opportunity to electronically approve the document. Upon approval the document will be forwarded to Principal Gallant for distribution to the school community during the summer and posted on the Sherwood website. R. Gagnon will file an online version on the HWDSB website which was reviewed at tonight's meeting and Principal Gallant continues to be responsible for the reporting of School Generated Funds.

4. Cases of **H1N1 Swine Influenza** have been identified in countries around the world. Public Health Services continues to monitor the situation in conjunction with provincial, national and international partners. Hand hygiene is the number one method to minimize risk of being infected. Halton has 33 students attending 8 different schools ill with the flu. Is it feasible to have a number of alcohol-based hand sanitizers available throughout the school? S. Valeri will approach Sherwood's Public Health Nurse L. French for her recommendations regarding student and staff education for illness prevention. R. Gagnon offered to include information in the summer edition of the

School Council News for our school community. For further Influenza A advice, you can visit the HWDSB website at www.hwdsb.on.ca

5. Mr. Gallant will consult with Mr. Murkovich regarding last year's format for **October Parents' Night** to decide whether or not to pursue an invitation for outside agencies and notify R. Gagnon for inclusion in the summer newsletter. S. Valeri will consult with Cabinet at their next meeting to see if there is an interest in a group holding a silent auction following the success of this venture at the March Parents' Night. R. Gagnon will use the balance of this year's Parent Involvement Funding to purchase gift certificates for a draw during next year's October Parents' Night.

6. Sherwood's Cooperative Education Department is hosting the 4th annual Cooperative Education **Employer Appreciation Breakfast** at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre on Tuesday, May 26/09. Mr. Gallant extended an invitation to parent members of School Council to attend this event starting 7:45-9:30 a.m. RSVP the school 905-383-3377, Ex. 364.

7. R. Gagnon is drafting the **summer newsletter** for our school community. Please submit your articles for inclusion by email before June 15th in order to meet publishing deadlines.

8. **School Council meeting dates** were confirmed for the next school year. There will be 8 monthly meetings excluding January and June. R. Gagnon will submit the dates to A. Reid for inclusion in the school agenda.

9. The HWDSB Parental Involvement Committee (**PIC**) **currently has membership vacancies** for the 2009/10 school year. PIC provides direct input to HWDSB staff on issues throughout the school year, provides training for School Councils and organizes the Profiling Excellence Volunteer event. Interested parents may obtain an application form from Chair Gagnon or Principal Gallant. Deadline is June 1/09.

10. R. Gagnon expressed **appreciation to all** Council members for their dedication this year and to Principal Gallant for the opportunity to have our May meeting off-site. Good luck to our Student Co-Presidents Marc and Emily.

Next School Council Meeting

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
