



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2008

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

In Attendance

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

Minutes compiled by R. Gagnon

Staff Presentation

Prior to the start of the business meeting Council learned about the Geography Programme from Department Head, Mr. J. Kirkland. For instance, students are applying GIS software to classroom lessons. Mr. Kirkland explained there is a challenge to have students return to Geography in the senior grades following a 1-year hiatus. Geography is not offered as a course selection in Grade 10. Both Travel and Tourism and Physical Geography are offered in Grade 11. Grade 12 offers a choice between Environmental Geography and World Issues. Student pass rates for grade 9 students climbed last year for both academic and applied Geography programmes. A Geography school trip is in the planning stages for a possible May 2010 date.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with 2 minor changes.

Reports

1. **Principal's Report**—absent, given by VP

2. Vice-Principals' Report

E. Wilkie reported that the Grade 9 *Take Your Kids to Work Day* will place on November 5. That afternoon the school will host the annual Awards Celebration starting at 1 p.m. Girls Field Hockey is competing at the provincial championships in Peterborough this week. Girls Basketball finished a very successful season last night. Boys Junior Volleyball won the championship earlier tonight. We have athletes going to OFSAA Tennis in June. To celebrate school spirit there is a pep rally scheduled for November 14th. STAT Team won an award that will be presented at Hamilton City Hall.

A lockdown drill was held. Some minor improvements to process needed for the next drill. Two hundred students attended the *Hoops Against Hate* session held at McMaster University and twenty students represented Sherwood at the *Hamilton Me to We* social justice seminar. Guest speaker Mitch Dorge is scheduled for a second student assembly as a follow-up to the introductory assembly earlier this semester. The topic is character and values.

The October PA Day topics were Literacy and Numeracy and a safe intervention plan to managing aggressive behaviour. Numeracy is to receive the same commitment as literacy with a concerted effort to incorporate into the classroom. Every department has a copy of the book *Math that Matters* to assist with this application.

3. Staff Report

S. Valeri reported on the numerous school-wide activities to promote literacy during November. A Halloween spirit day was held Oct 31st. A gymnasium curtain repair is required. The first of 3 electronic newsletters will be issued along with mid-term reports on November 13th. A volunteer group 'Parents Who Care' will be delivering Christmas cookies for staff on November 27th. The book fair was cancelled due to an unavailability of a vendor. R. Gagnon will post a message through the discussion board on FirstClass email to reach other secondary School Councils.

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

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety

The school has a couple of broken windows requiring repair. Exterior improvements are pending.

2. Parents' Night Review

Council appreciated the effort from Mr. Murkovich to organize the outside agencies that attended and enhanced the evening. It is hoped that this expanded format will be repeated next October. Council also thanks Mr. Braun and the Student Council Ambassadors for their participation. Congestion in the cafeteria was reported by parent guests. In particular, parents were clustered tightly waiting for Science teachers. Consideration to organize departments in the cafeteria to balance people traffic is required as well as clear teacher-line identification. This should be closely monitored in March.

3. School Council Training

R. Gagnon is registered to attend the Chair Networking Session at the Education Centre on Nov. 13/08.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. Vice-Chair Position

Council supports the inclusion of a Vice-Chair position this year and D. Wilson will fill this office.

2. Party in the Right Spirit Workshop

The notice for this workshop was previously circulated to Council members. Grad Committee students from Sherwood attended. The workshop was held Oct. 20/08 sponsored by the Public Health Services and the Trauma Program at Hamilton Health Sciences.

3. Hill Park PIC Proposal

Mr. Gallant received an invitation from the Principal at Hill Park (and their Parent Involvement Committee) to request our support in a joint venture with other mountain secondary schools to secure Mr. G. Chuvalo as a guest speaker to address the parents with his compelling message regarding drug abuse and depression. Following discussion of the particulars, Council declined the invitation. R. Gagnon will notify Principal Gallant.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
