



# Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 in the Library. Mr. R. Gallant welcomed Ms. S. Valeri who will be the Teacher Representative on this year's Council.

## In Attendance

S. Shuttleworth, B. Gerrish, R. Gagnon, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary)  
Principal R. Gallant, Teacher Rep. S. Valeri, Student Council Reps. M. Heublein & E. Shore  
Regrets from Vice-Principal J. Braun, Vice-Principal E. Wilkie, Council Member D. Wilson

## Council Membership & Election of SC Executive

R. Gagnon remarked that nomination forms were sent out previously. B. Della Maestra has volunteered to be Recording Secretary. We do not have a non-teaching staff or community representative. B. Della Maestra nominated R. Gagnon for Chair. These positions were voted in unanimously. Vice-Chair will be revisited at next month's meeting.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with no additions or deletions.

## Reports

### 1. Principal's Report

Principal Gallant reported that the school collected over \$1,000 from the Terry Fox event with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the student population participating. In addition, Guidance Counsellor Szkwara added a new fundraiser for men's health, specifically prostate cancer, called *Movember*. Staff supported his new idea for those men who have beards to shave them off while the others without beards will grow one during the month of November.

*Crash Test Dummies* drummer Mitch Dorge visited Sherwood Oct. 6 and will return for in November for a second visit. Mr. Dorge talked about drinking & driving, peer pressure, and bullying with the Grade 9 students. School Nurse L. French has introduced a new initiative for female teens called Feel the Power Feel Fit. This campaign is designed to encourage students that don't usually get involved with physical activity.

Staff focused on departmental planning during the September Learning Community Day. Staff presentations to Council will resume with Mr. Kirkland (Geography) in November and Mr. Weston (Science) in December. Students will receive a preliminary report for all classes. Parents' Night is from 6-8 p.m. tomorrow evening (Oct 8).

There are a number of school trips planned for students this year—Ontario Science Centre, Washington, Stratford, downtown Hamilton just to name a few. In addition, the Hamilton "Me to We" conference will be held Oct. 15 at *Hamilton Place*. Sherwood is sending 19 students (from grades 9-12) and 3 staff members. Grade 9 students will be attending the "Hoops Against Hate" conference on Oct. 23 at *McMaster University* to eliminate racism/discrimination. The Awards Assembly is scheduled for 1 p.m. on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The next lockdown drill is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> and 3 fire drills are held each semester.

Transition plans continue this year with the "3 Cs" approach (comfortable, connected, correct programmes). Grade 7 & 8 teachers will be meeting at Sherwood on November 25<sup>th</sup>; Sherwood staff will visit feeder schools Dec. 1, 2 and 4/08; and Grade 8 students will visit Sherwood December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Grade 8 Parent Information Night/Open House will be held Jan. 14/09 starting at 6:30 p.m.

There is a technology rollout scheduled to upgrade all school computers between February-June 2009. A computer group (Ms. D. French, Mr. Gallant, Board reps.) will assess and examine needs, installation and disposal, etc. Director Spence visited Sherwood in September. And for the fourth year-in-a-row, the EQAO results have improved. A suggestion was made to send out a synervice announcement to notify parents.

### 2. Vice-Principals' Report—absent, no report.

### 3. Staff Report

Ms. Valeri reported the literacy scores are very good—par with the Board and above or par with the Province. The after-school Literacy Program will commence Oct. 20 to help prepare students to write the Literacy Exam. Mr. George will teach Mondays and Thursdays for 5 weeks from 2:45-3:45 p.m. Registration

forms have been distributed to those students who could benefit from this programme. There will be a literacy launch assembly for the grade 10 students on Oct. 22/08 in preparation for the April 2/09 test. The upcoming PD Day on October 24<sup>th</sup> will focus on literacy and numeracy. November will be "Literacy Month" with different activities throughout the school, e.g. "word of the day". Test results for numeracy increased last year. Activities re numeracy are in the planning stages to maintain scores.

Twenty-eight Sherwood teachers are linked with 70 students in the Caring Adult Programme to reach out to those students extremely at-risk. A book fair is planned for October 31<sup>st</sup> in the Library. Students may hold a fashion show to display Sherwood clothing and spirit wear. The sale period may be extended.

Sherwood athletics are having an amazing year. Girls basketball and field hockey teams are undefeated. Girls touch football and rugby teams and boys rugby are organizing. Three students are going to SOSSA for tennis.

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

Marc Heublein reported that Student Council has held 4 meetings to date with improved attendance. A new attendance policy is in place. Spirit kick-off is going very well. Great things are planned for the Halloween dance. \$500 has been raised for City Kidz for Hamilton children in need. Further fundraising will continue for this organization (buttons, bake sale). Council is considering a Maddie fundraiser next semester (in memory of Maddison Babineau). The "Think Freud" concert Oct. 4 sold over 200 tickets. Ms. Valeri put forward a suggestion for Student Council to begin the food/clothing drive earlier this year and launch December as the "month of giving". A new committee of 25 participants called "S.O.S." (Students Offering Support) is organizing.

#### **5. Chair's Update**

R. Gagnon reviewed the requirements for completing the annual report at year's end and Council member's responsibilities (workshops, training, communication to parents, Council communication). R. Gagnon attended a Safe Schools Committee meeting on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> where fire drill procedures were reviewed and a date set for this semester's lockdown. Mr. R. Blunsdon, special assignment teacher to Supt. Stephanian, replied to the inquiry regarding results from the Parent Satisfaction Survey collected July 2008. The research team is working on the report. Timelines will be posted in the School Council Discussion conference on First Class as they become available.

#### **Open Issues**

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

Principal Gallant welcomed a school inspection by the Ministry of Labour on Oct. 3/08. Broken ceiling tiles on the third floor were spotted along with a few other issues. The concrete stairs on the east side of the school still require some improvements. The graffiti outside of the gymnasium has been removed. The sign above the gym door needs adjustment following the removal of a tree. S. Shuttleworth reported the gym door continues to be locked at the end of the day prohibiting access for spectators who wish to watch sporting events. Principal Gallant has addressed this issue with staff and this door is to be open from 3-6 p.m.

##### **2. Parents' Night**

Student Ambassadors will be welcoming parents at the entrance doors. The School Council handout is ready. A reminder to post signage outside of the Library to list the teachers who are present for interviews was made. Appreciation is extended to VP Braun and Mr. M. Murkovich for their hard work preparing for the evening. The manufacturer is unable to provide samples of Sherwood athletic clothing in time for a display at Parents' Night Oct 8/08.

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

**1. Red Carpet Day** at Mohawk College is an opportunity for parents and senior students to talk with college representatives from multiple Ontario colleges regarding programmes and course selection. This will be held on the evening of Oct. 30/08.

**2. PRO Grant**—Sherwood will not applying for the 2008/09 grant. Online submission deadline is Oct. 24/08.

**3. Parent Outreach Grant**—The Ministry will be providing School Councils with the annual \$500 grants this year. Information will be forthcoming. Last year's grant was targeted for the school magnet project. All magnets (1200) were distributed to students in July 2008.

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

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

---