



# Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order by R. Gagnon at 6:30 p.m. in the Library followed by the introduction of our Chair, Principal, Vice-Principals, Staff Representative and Council members. A warm welcome goes to our new Vice-Principal E. Wilkie.

## In Attendance

B. Gerrish, R. Gagnon, S. Shuttleworth, D. Wilson, B. Della Maestra  
Principal R. Gallant, Vice-Principal J. Braun, Vice-Principal E. Wilkie, Teacher Rep. M. Murkovich

Minutes compiled by R. Gagnon

## Approval of Minutes

The 2007/08 School Council electronically approved the May minutes prior to summer break along with the Annual Report.

## Reports

### 1. Principal's Report

Principal Gallant further welcomed our VP Evelyn Wilkie to Council. Principal Gallant reported the current school enrolment at 1199 with a projected enrolment of 1170 for October 31, 2008. Sherwood School is staffed by 75 teachers, 9 Educational Assistants, 5 Secretaries, 6 Caretakers and 6 Cafeteria workers. The Celebration-of-Life memorial for Tori, a past volunteer with our Music Department and former cafeteria worker, was held this past Sunday. Tori's mother, Diane, is our school cafeteria manager.

The Grade 9 Welcome-Barbeque was held prior to the start of classes on Sept. 2/08. Our Administrators have been busy visiting the Grade 10 and 11 classrooms. Spirit Day (Green & White) is planned during period 5 on Sept. 19 with a Kick-Off Carnival for all students. The Terry Fox Run will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Plant updates over the summer break included the completion of the science fume-hood project, completion of the High Street school sign and installation of a new Sherwood School sign at the Princeton Street entrance. The "floating" gym floor was "glued down" and a third-floor girls' washroom was artistically painted. Plant issues proposed for the future include the replacement/repair of north-facing entrance doors, auditorium/stage improvements, boys' washroom project, and championship banners for the gym.

The guitar/keyboard Music classroom was relocated to Room 107. The Awards Assembly will be held at 9 a.m. on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Department Heads who did not present to Council last year will be invited to present for the coming year. Council viewed a DVD copy of the CHCH news coverage from Ontario Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne's visit to Sherwood on Sept. 3/08 who was here visiting classrooms and to make an announcement regarding the planned expansion of Specialist High Skills Majors (career-preparation programs) in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Dr. Spence, Director of Education, issued a letter to parents Sept. 12/08 with regard to making our schools safe. A hardcopy of that letter was sent home with Sherwood students. Dr. Spence will visit Sherwood on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### 2. Vice-Principals' Report

VP Braun issued an invitation for a parent member of Council to join the safe schools committee. A meeting will be held on Monday, September 22/08 with a second committee meeting to follow on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail the SC chairperson if you are able to attend. Both meetings start at 3 p.m. There are a number of school emergency procedures in place regarding fire alarms, lockdowns and evacuations. A fire drill will be held this week and there will be 2 lockdown drills each year. The police liaison officer visit to Sherwood took place this week.

VP Wilkie announced the Directions Team will meet and plan out for the 5 Learning Community Days (LCD). Topics include Effective Instruction, Differentiated Instruction, Technology, Literacy and Numeracy. Parents are welcome to attend the afternoon sessions and the first LCD is Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. RSVP Principal Gallant if you are able to attend.

### **3. Staff Report**

Mr. Murkovich reported that the Guidance Office has been working since August 25<sup>th</sup> on timetable changes. Class scheduling has been set and there will be no further course changes. The TV screen in the Guidance area contains updated information. Sherwood has been linked with Saltfleet, Orchard Park and Westdale with regard to student success and accumulated credits. There will be a continued “push” towards Math. Guidance Counsellors will be reviewing every student’s timetable.

The annual Ontario Universities’ Fair is September 26-28/08 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. All 21 Ontario universities will be represented. There will be a smaller University Fair at St. Thomas More Secondary School on October 16/08 with representation from local Universities. Colleges and Universities will be making presentations at Sherwood and some of these will be held after school. Parents are welcome. Dates and times of these visits are posted in Guidance.

A movie-night, welcome-event for Grade 9s is Wednesday evening. There are numerous school sports underway, including golf, tennis, field hockey, football and more.

Mr. Murkovich has been in touch with a number of outside agencies and will confirm their attendance for displays at Parents’ Night in October.

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

Absent—No report

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

Chair R. Gagnon provided a recap of Council affairs since last May. Trustee Peddle attended the last meeting. Council was represented at the Coop Breakfast by Member B. Gerrish. Principal Gallant continued the outreach to the feeder School Councils. The annual reports were filed. The summer newsletter was distributed along with the school magnet and annual report to the school community in the July mailing.

Although this is the first SC meeting of the school year, this is the last for the current Council. The upcoming October meeting will formalize the School Council membership for the 2008/09 year. Nomination ballots were distributed to the community on the back page of the newsletter and will be accepted until Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. R. Gagnon reviewed some general Council information and positions/vacancies on Council. Council will be seeking a replacement for Mr. Murkovich who ends his term as the teacher-representative. We thank Mr. Murkovich for his contribution and dedication to School Council.

### **Open Issues**

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

(See Principal’s report) Council member S. Shuttleworth reported that the pathway leading from the parking lot to the rear of the school is uneven and the entry doors were prematurely locked for evening use. Council member B. Gerrish mentioned the hazard posed by the unlit set of concrete stairs facing Princeton Street particularly when exiting the school building in the evening. The stairs closest to the parking lot are in the shadows. Council members viewed the completed girls bathroom art project at meeting’s end.

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

#### **1. Parents’ Night**

Wednesday, October 8/08 from 6-8 p.m. is Parents’ Night which will take on an expanded format. Outside agencies will be invited to set up displays for parents. Our school Ambassadors will be invited to assist with navigation and handouts. School clubs are also invited to set up displays.

#### **2. Ontario Universities’ Fair—Sept. 26-28/08 in Toronto**

(See Staff report)

#### **3. HWDSB Annual Parent Satisfaction Survey**

Parents were invited to participate in an online survey by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board ending on July 31/08. Results are unknown at this time.

#### **4. HWDSB Virtual Blackboard Newsletter**

Sherwood’s Healthy Eating Advisory Team (HEAT) was mentioned in an article about the HEAT program featured in the July Virtual Blackboard Newsletter posted on the HWDSB website. You can subscribe by visiting the newly-launched Board website. Please visit [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca) for up-to-date information.

### **Next School Council Meeting**

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the school Library.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

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