

Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Mr. Cooke called the October meeting of 2013 to order at 6:35 pm, welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the new council.

In Attendance

Principal G. Cooke, Vice Principal B. Monkley, Teacher Rep Ms. T. Behiel, Student Council Rep Will Redgate, Wendy Burley, Jennifer Clarke, Nancy Lewis, Lynn Hicks,

Discussion

General discussion took place regarding the absence of a Chair for council. Parents handed in documents to become council members (some parents have already handed in forms to the office). Nancy Lewis volunteered to Chair the School Council for this school year.

Reports

1. Principal's report - Mr. G. Cooke

- the school website is up to date and includes the First Class Calendar with information that parents can access
- preliminary anecdotal reports will go home with students next Monday, October 7th.
- parent night is Wednesday, October 9th from 6:00-8:00. Parents are encouraged to bring the preliminary reports when they meet the teachers.
- Social Justice club and Spirit are running the Halloween Hallway and a Halloween community food drive to support food banks in Hamilton.
- EQAO math scores are down from 38% to 35% for the applied stream and from 78% to 71% for the academic stream. This is the trend for the whole Board and therefore math will be a Board focus with adjustments being made to instructional strategies.
- The Mountain News has shown an interest in highlighting the local high schools. Sherwood has submitted information.
- Sherwood's twitter account is active. Sherwood@hwdsb
- Social Justice club is considering bringing in a speaker to focus on Social Media Awareness

2. Vice-Principal's report - Mr. B. Monkley

- challenging start to the school year with many students facing mental health issues
- staff still working to enforce the late policy
- Awards Assembly is the afternoon of Nov. 6th. Grade nine students will be at "Take your student to work day".
- Mid-term reports will go home mid-November

- Mental Health and Addictions Nurses (MHAN) are now available as a community resource with information being shared with schools.

3. Teacher report - Ms. Behiel

- Blood drive happening October 15th involving students 17 and over.
- Rep Band is doing their Fortino's fundraiser Thanksgiving weekend. They will be bagging groceries for donations at the Upper James Fortino's on Saturday from 10 until 4:00.
- Enrichment Band has 65 grade 7 and 8 students and 35 mentors.
- Sherwood music will be participating in the Hamilton Santa Claus Parade on November 16th.
- Phys. Ed. clothing sales will be starting the week of October 7th with samples available for parent night.
- Sherwood athletics has had many successes this Fall: golf, tennis, volleyball and touch football.
- Nov. 26th marks the Indigo Fundraiser for library and music. A portion of sales for the evening come back to these programs at Sherwood.
- Sept. 26th Terry Fox Run - Sherwood raised approximately \$2600. for this cancer fundraiser.

4. Student council report - Will Redgate

- Spirit club will be in charge of the Haunted Hallway; students can go down the decorated hallway by paying or donating a canned good.
- Music department clothing sales are happening soon.
- Cheerleaders are selling Entertainment books as a fundraiser.
- Art committee murals scheduled to start soon.
- Student council is trying to get dances back at Sherwood; discussion of how to promote this
- Student Council is very interested in the Mental Health Strategy; youth helping youth. They will be looking at ways to support this at Sherwood.

5. Additional items

- Graduation - parents concerned about the short notice for paying grad fees; would like to see an early notice for parents and a much longer timeline for payment. Also a discussion about prom tickets and school council finding a funding solution so that, any student who wants to attend prom can. Prom location is a concern. Committee last year suggested that it return to support a business in the Sherwood community, rather than Ancaster. Discussion took place regarding the grad ceremony itself. Possibility of students only crossing the stage once and receiving all awards at that time.
- Gym floor and field conditions - there is ongoing concern about safety of Sherwood's gym floors and playing fields. Mr. Cook indicated that he received information about the Sherwood field being a priority for improvement. Parents also voiced concern about the appearance of the back stucco wall.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 5th. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

