



Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2010

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

In Attendance

R. Gagnon, D. Wilson, Principal R. Gallant, B. Gerrish, S. Valeri, N. Neu, Trustee L. Peddle, L. Chenoweth
Regrets: S. Shuttleworth, B. Della Maestra, J. Braun
Minutes compiled by R. Gagnon

Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were approved with no additions or deletions. Approved minutes will be forwarded to our Superintendent and Trustee.

Reports

1. Principal's Report—Principal Gallant reported the Student Success Team visited Sherwood on February 11th and met with Administrators and Guidance Staff to discuss Early Leavers and the transition process for Grade 8s. Option assemblies took place February 18 & 19 with option sheet entries scheduled to take place this week. The computer patch for Grade 9 students is late arriving causing a system delay.

The expected September enrolment for incoming Grade 9 students should be 320 which includes 25 out-of-catchment and HWDCSB students. Preliminary reports for semester two will be released March 8th prior to the new date for March Parents' Night to be held on Wednesday, March 10/10 from 6-8 p.m. The Awards Assembly rescheduled from last fall is set to take place on March 9th at 1 p.m.

The Ontario Secondary Schools Literacy Test (OSSLT) is scheduled for April 8. Preparations include an after-school literacy course.

The Boys Indoor Soccer Team won their championship game in a shoot-out. The Boys Hockey Final is Thursday. There will be a single lunch schedule on March 4 to accommodate a Pep Rally and "Buy In".

2. Vice-Principals' Report—J. Braun absent, please see Principal's report.

3. Staff Report—Ms. Valeri announced the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for Grade 10 students (and those Grade 11 & 12 students requiring re-writes) is scheduled for April 8th from 8:30-11:15 a.m. Students have attended literacy assemblies and are currently completing practice booklets. A follow-up assembly will take place April 6th. Parents will receive a Literacy-Test Newsletter with the March preliminary report along with a synervice announcement reminding the community of the abbreviated schedule to accommodate testing.

Seventy students are enrolled in the successful Specialist High School Major (Fitness) programme giving them an opportunity to try out a career. The Pep Rally on March 4th will honour 25 athletic teams from fall and winter sports. Sherwood Cheerleaders enter provincial competition this weekend. Spring sports are underway.

Library improvements continue and Ms. Dupuis will have a display table set up to meet parents during the upcoming March Parents' Night.

4. Student Council Report—N. Neu reported that two events took place each day for the Wacky Olympics held Feb. 16 & 18. Student teams and one team of teachers participated. A student talent show will be held on March 12 to kick-off March Break. The Sherwood Idol competition is rescheduled for April 16th and Student Council has organized a "toonie" Monday fund-raising event for SOCKS.

Student Ambassadors will be on duty assisting parents for March Parents' Night and SOCKS representatives will set up a fund-raising display for the same evening. A Cops versus Cats basketball game will be played on April 21st and Student Council received \$2400 "Speak Up" grants.

5. Trustee's Report—Laura Peddle announced that she is standing for re-election later this year for Ward 6. Discussion surrounding the current timelines for the ARC review pegged to start in January 2011 took place along with the whole Accommodation Review Process (see item 3 under New Business). Sherwood Council members verbalized concern over the present timelines reaching into 2 academic years with a tentative decision date of Spring 2012. Council recommends a transparent discussion of topics (land value, programmes,

transportation, pros & cons, boundaries, etc.) from end-to-end at the first meeting of the ARC. Any and all scenarios that imply a pre-determined outcome need to be eliminated and let the facts speak for themselves. Everyone recognizes the need for a leaner, efficient system.

School boundaries issue is a second controversial topic and remains part of the secondary school review. Programmes of Choice and Specialist High School Major (SHSM) are hugely successful programmes. Students are attracted by specific programming thereby becoming increasingly mobile, attending schools out-of-catchment. Both issues (accommodation review and school boundaries) will be important topics for an election year, in addition to the topic of one publicly-funded school system.

The Education Centre consultation process continues (see Item 5 under New Business).

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety

There has been no response yet to the quotes previously submitted to the Board to replace carpet in the Library and concrete in the back walkway. Vents in second-floor classrooms have been cleaned and repainted.

2. PRO Grant Event

Approximately fifty people attended the evening PRO Grant event on February 23 and of that number, 27 written responses were returned. A summary of those responses was circulated to members for review. The majority of comments were positive and are noted for any future planning of parent events. R. Gagnon issued appreciation to our guest speaker, Mr. Chris Vollum, to all committee members and school staff/administrators for a successful event.

The Ministry of Education approved our grant proposal and \$1000 has been received. This funding will be applied to the speaker's fee, refreshments and print advertising. There was an additional cost to provide an unblocked internet connection for the 3 assemblies. It was suggested that Parent Involvement Funding may be used toward the PRO Grant expenses above \$1000. The status of PIF is unknown. A formal expenditure report needs to be filed once all receipts and payments have been finalized. Further expense reporting will be tabled at the April meeting.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. March Parents' Night—Teacher locations will be unchanged from October Parents' Night. Our new school Librarian will be available to meet parents. Student Ambassadors will provide assistance to parents navigating the school as well as hand out the School Council Newsletter. Parents will be able to obtain password information to access *Parent Assistant* from the Guidance Office display booth. Parents will be asked to produce photo identification. SOCKS will have a fund-raising display table.

2. Parent Involvement Funding—Not in receipt of the 2009/2010 funding. (See PRO Grant Event.)

3. Future of Secondary Schools in HWDSB—Trustees approved the initiation of three Secondary School Pupil Accommodation Review Committees (ARC) on February 9, 2010. Rather than begin this process in the next few months, Trustees decided February 22nd to postpone the review until January 2011. The timelines and guidelines for the process are expected to be formally approved at the Board's Committee-of-the-Whole meeting March 8th. Student enrolment is expected to decline sharply during the next 10 years. Three committees will examine enrolment, the quality of facilities and access to specialty programs. The committees will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees (excluding Student Trustees) on how best to use available resources to meet the educational needs of students.

Sherwood is part of the Secondary Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) South along with Barton, Hill Park, Mountain and Sir Allan MacNab. Westmount has been exempted from the review along with Waterdown and Saltfleet. A minimum of four public meetings are to be held by each of the ARCs. Near the end of the process, each committee will make its recommendations to trustees. The Board will then look at the options and invite public presentations before a decision is made. The Pupil Accommodation Review Policy (No. 12) can be found at the bottom of the home page of the HWDSB website under "About Us" Policies and Procedures. The Sherwood committee members of the ARC South will consist of two parent reps (voting members) from Sherwood to be appointed by School Council along with a Sherwood Principal, Sherwood Teacher, and Sherwood Non-Teaching Staff representative (all non-voting members.) Sherwood ARC South Members will be appointed at a future meeting.

4. Earth Hour takes place on Saturday, March 27 at 8:30 p.m. when it's time to switch off your lights, shut down your computer and say no to TV for an hour to let people know you are voting for the Earth. Millions around the world support this environmental movement.

5. Education Centre Consultation Sessions will be held March 9-11. Small workshops will be held to exchange views about what the Education Centre will represent and bring to the region. If you wish to contribute your opinion, please respond to neelam.sanduja@hwdsb.on.ca before March 3rd to confirm your participation. This information was circulated to School Council members February 24th.

6. Correspondence—(a) School Council received a booklet from the **Ontario Science Centre** promoting events for students. (b) The HWDSB is seeking public consultation for the **Medical/Health Supports Policy Scoping Document**. Please visit the Board website before April 6/10. This information was circulated to SC members on February 28/10.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.
Staff Presentation R. Baker, Music Department

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
