



Sherwood Secondary SC Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2008

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

In Attendance

B. DellaMaestra, D. Wilson, B. Gerrish, S. Shuttleworth, R. Gagnon
Principal R. Gallant, Vice-Principal J. Braun, Teacher Rep. M. Murkovich, Student Council Presidents
J. Shore and A. George

Minutes compiled by R. Gagnon

Staff Presentation

Mr. C. Brady, Mathematics Department Head, explained how Sherwood is addressing and improving our EQAO scores; elementary panel transitions; the use of math journals for academic grade 9 and 10 students; and technology tools (smart board, Class Performance System Wands along with EQAO software is planned). Currently dialogue is established with McMaster University and Elementary Schools outlining student needs. A goal to expand dialogue with Mohawk College is planned. Sherwood students participate in Math contests online from Waterloo University. Future planning includes monthly math contests and a 3-year-plan for textbook allocation. Semester 1 Report cards will contain teacher recommendations for choosing the correct Math course level for next year. Personal visits to classrooms in second semester will take place regarding these 4 choices—University, Mixed, College, Workplace.

Approval of Minutes

December minutes approved.

Reports

1. Principal's Report

Principal Gallant announced the January Exam Schedule is posted on our school website and hardcopies will be sent home with each student. In addition, a synervice announcement was telephoned to residences. First semester final reports will be sent home with students the week of February 11, 2008.

Submissions for the second electronic newsletter are due by end of January for February distribution. Superintendent Stephanian is due to meet with Principal Gallant next week with regard to the School Improvement Plan. The second semester enrolment figure of 1170 has been met. Teaching staff adjustments will take place due to retirement and multiple maternity leave-of-absences.

Second semester preliminary reports will be released March 3 followed by Parents' Night on Wednesday, March 5 from 6-8 p.m. The Director's visit is expected March 4/08. Dr. Spence will meet with staff and attend the Shakespeare-English class. Associate Director of Education, Mr. C. Reid, visited Sherwood for informal meetings on December 13, 2007.

An extremely successful "Airband" performance was held in the school Auditorium prior to the Christmas Break. Hundreds were in attendance.

Sherwood staff will be attending a Cyber-safety workshop at Westmount Secondary School along with fellow teaching staff from other mountain secondary schools on the next Learning Community Day in February with keynote speaker Rob Nickel. Principal Gallant circulated a news article from the *Burlington Post* about the former specialist with the child pornography unit of the Ontario Provincial Police.

2. Vice-Principal's Report

VP Braun outlined the various strategies of reaching out to incoming Grade 8 students to make them feel comfortable, connected to Sherwood and guided to choose the right programming. Teachers and principals met in November. Feeder schools visited Sherwood for tours and class visits in December. Sherwood outreach continued with English/Math/Science teachers teaching mini lessons in the feeder schools along with performances by Sherwood drama students and Repertoire Ensemble. Council viewed a short CHCH TV recording of a drama presentation by Sherwood students at Huntington Park School that aired during the *News at Noon* in December.

January 16/08 is the Open House and Grade 8 Parent Information Night from 6-8 p.m. Sherwood Saints ambassadors will assist with school tours, Repertoire Ensemble will play in the Auditorium prior to the information session. Teacher storefronts will be set up in the foyer.

Five reach-ahead, Grade 8 students will attend Sherwood for English and Art in semester two.

Mandatory in-services developing programmes for Bill 212 will be taking place.

3. Staff Report

Mr. Murkovich announced Sherwood's plans to expand the "reaching ahead" initiative for next year. It is hoped an aggressive campaign will generate a whole class for 2008/09. The confirmed reaching-ahead students for this year and their parents will meet prior to the start of Open House.

Guidance councillors have been visiting the feeder schools to review student records and assist with option sheets for approximately 300 incoming Grade 8s. Attempts will be made to tailor programming to accommodate their top 2 choices in the first semester of grade 9.

The Guidance Office is in the midst of a very busy period—many students are requesting changes for next semester; two university level classes were cancelled due to low enrolment necessitating timetable adjustments; night school registration begins in 2 weeks; Credit Rescue, a pilot programme introduced by the Ministry of Education, is January 31/08 immediately following exams. The tight timelines for this student success initiative impact timetabling for next semester.

Approximately 15 students participate on the Healthy Eating Programme (HEAT) committee and meet weekly. The HEAT committee in conjunction with our cafeteria food service are promoting healthy eating by providing nutritional breakfast choices for purchase on exam mornings.

A group of Sherwood students will be given an excellent opportunity to earn volunteer hours with a *Habitat for Humanity* house renovation in Hamilton.

4. Student Council

Co-Presidents A. George and J. Shore announced the successful Food and Clothing Drive in December. The campaign filled 2 trucks for the Good Shepherd Centre of Hamilton. The Christmas Dance was successful and tickets go on sale now for the Valentine's semi-formal to be held at Marquis Gardens on Rymal Road on February 15. The \$40 fee covers admission and a picture. Flowergrams will also be available for purchase for delivery on February 14th Spirit Day. The popcorn fundraising drive at the end of February raises funds for graduation.

5. Non-Teaching Staff

No Report

Open Issues

1. Plant & Safety

- The deluxe Saints bleachers were installed in the gymnasium and the wall repair completed. Gymnasium logo installation scheduled for March Break.
- The installation of the woodworking dust collection system continues. The Fire Marshall will be inspecting on January 9/08.
- Installation of display cases should take place during the January PD days.
- No report available regarding science fume-hoods. R. Gagnon will request a facilities update from Superintendent Stephanian.

- The interior building temperature has been moderated.
- The exterior lighting assessment was completed and improved. It was noted that the last set of stairs exiting to the parking lot remain dark.
- Principal Gallant will follow up with the company selected to complete work on the exterior school sign.

2. January Open House

Feeder schools have been contacted along with the *Mountain News*. In order to promote this event with the Sherwood families, a synervice will be telephoned and an announcement will be placed on the school website. In addition, there will be an overhead school announcement for the attention of our students.

There are further details under the Vice Principal's report.

New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

1. Parent Involvement Money

Superintendent Stephanian's office issued a memorandum outlining the details regarding the Mobilization and Outreach Allocation funding (\$500) for this school year and this memo was previously circulated to members prior to tonight's meeting. The deadline for expenditures is May 30, 2008 and the reporting is due June 13, 2008. Multiple suggestions for outreach were discussed and it was recommended that Council members review these choices for further in-depth discussion and a decision at our February meeting.

2. Correspondence

- Public Health Services and the Trauma Programme at Hamilton Health Sciences are hosting the annual "Party in the Right Spirit" workshop on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at Michelangelo's Banquet & Convention Centre. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this workshop to encourage all students to participate in healthy choices and decisions. Please register by phone 905-546-2121, ex. 5255. The message has been forwarded electronically to Council members.
- The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board has posted a draft policy online www.hwdsb.on.ca for the Pupil Accommodation Review previously known as School Closure Guidelines. The guidelines and survey will be posted until February 8, 2008. Everyone is encouraged to review and respond.
- The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction have partnered to host a series of events. Dr. Ruby Payne will be the keynote speaker at a session for parents and community members February 6 from 7-9 p.m. at Cathy Wever Elementary School. The Planning Committee is looking to meet with parent representatives at the Education Centre on January 9/08 at 7 p.m. to discuss the format of the parent session. Superintendent Stephanian's memo was not announced at the January Council meeting but forwarded to Council members on December 17 since email confirmation was needed by December 28/07.

Next School Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Library. A staff guest presentation remains unconfirmed but the meeting will contain an in-service on the Class Performance System Wands.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

