



## Sherwood Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2009

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

### In Attendance

R. Gagnon, Vice Principal E. Wilkie, Staff Representative S. Valeri, B. Della Maestra (recording secretary), D. Wilson, D. Della Maestra, Student Council President N. Neu

Regrets: B. Gerrish, Principal R. Gallant

Prior to the business meeting Student Council teacher-advisor, P. Woods, presented information on Covenant Home orphanage located in Kisumu, Kenya, a Christian-based children's home caring for children and young adults from deprived backgrounds. Sherwood alumni L. & P. Knapp and Sherwood students are presently involved with fundraising to provide a home, education and future for these children. The need is great. It is anticipated that Student Council will help raise the profile of Covenant Home in our school community starting with a display planned for Parents' Night. One-hundred percent of the money raised will be targeted for clean water, clothing and items for their school.

### Council Membership

School Representatives for 2009/10 are R. Gallant, E. Wilkie, J. Braun, S. Valeri and N. Neu. Nomination forms were printed on page 2 of the summer newsletter mailed to Sherwood families. Three nomination forms were received. Parent Representatives are R. Gagnon, B. Della Maestra, D. Wilson, B. Gerrish, and S. Shuttleworth. Council Executive will be set at the November meeting. R. Gagnon will continue as Acting Chair.

### Approval of Minutes

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

### Reports

**1. Principal's Report—absent, see VP report.**

**2. Vice-Principals' Report—E. Wilkie**

November is Literacy Month. To raise awareness, there will be 3 weeks of activity starting with "Stop, Drop & Read" for 2 weeks plus a display will be set up for Parents' Night. Silent, sustained, uninterrupted daily-reading in classrooms is planned. Readings along with questions to improve student skills will be a focus for Grade 9 & 10 students. The display case outside of the Library will contain book reviews and a list of current books students are reading. New reading material has been purchased for the Library particularly for male students. A book swap is a possibility that may be set up in the school foyer to trade books during the lunch break. In memory of Tori Pesowski, her mother provided some of Tori's favourite books and they are available for borrowing from the school Library.

An after-school numeracy club begins Oct. 20/09 that will meet twice weekly for 5 weeks. Ms. Vamos is the teacher advisor. Letters were sent home to parents to invite students who may benefit from this program.

The allergies list and medical-alert list have been updated. Those students who require an EpiPen (epinephrine auto-injector) are listed in the maroon binders at 3 locations (Guidance Office, Staff Room, Main Office). Parents who have children that may require emergency treatment with an EpiPen will meet with Ms. Wilkie prior to the start of Parents' Night.

More information will be forthcoming regarding electronic access of student records by parents. "Parent Assist" is expected to be available later this school year. At that time, parents will be required to attend the school in person to obtain an access code.

Motivational speaker and author, Jim Jordan, will be addressing Grade 9-11 students for an anti-bullying assembly on Oct. 28/09. Two Sherwood students (K. Edge & T. Holmes) have been selected as representatives on a HWDSB youth-action committee on anti-bullying.

Plans are set for Parents' Night.

### **3. Staff Report**

Sherwood students won the city-wide Tennis tournament in mixed-doubles and girls-doubles and went on to compete at SOSSA. A. & N. Della Maestra won the SOSSA tournament for mixed-doubles and will represent Sherwood at OFSSA in the spring. Girl's Midget Soccer is undefeated to date. Senior Football lost their first 2 games. Boy's Junior Volleyball won the Westdale Tournament. Field Hockey remains undefeated to date.

It is planned to have a Sherwood athlete featured as *Character Athlete of the Week* on the HWDSB website in the months of October and February. We are currently in the sale period for Student Athletic Council clothing. Order forms have been sent home with students. Additionally, there will be a display of spirit wear outside the cafeteria during Parents' Night.

The Arts trip to New York City leaves tomorrow. Paris, France is the destination for the senior History trip in April. Twenty-two students have applied to participate in the 10-day tour.

Library orientation continues for Grade 9 students which also includes a review of passwords to ensure all students can log on to school computers.

A Sherwood student writer is needed to contribute articles to "The Hamilton Spectator". N. Neu suggested that students currently writing for the school newspaper may be good candidates and to speak with Mr. Weston.

There will be a Grade 11-12 student information session for Sherwood's Specialist High School Major (SHSM) Health & Wellness program in the school library on Oct. 14/09. All students wishing to pursue a career in fitness or health can sign up to attend the seminar.

### **4. Student Council Report—N. Neu**

Student Council has planned a monthly cultural day. The first one to be held Oct. 15/09 will highlight the Chinese culture by playing Chinese music during lunch, decorating the cafeteria and serving Chinese food. Student Council has a goal to develop student leadership and build school spirit. Ambassadors will be assisting at Parents' Night. The "Homeless for Hamilton" event last year was exceptional. Council would like to strive for a Board-wide event this year. More information will follow.

### **Open Issues**

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

The health and safety walk-around inspection took place today. The school boilers are precarious.

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

Teacher locations will be the same as last March. Ambassadors will provide maps and assistance to parents and hand out the School Council newsletter. Ballot stations will be at the two main entrances. Winners of the random draw will be contacted Oct. 9/09. Refreshments and student displays will be outside the cafeteria.

#### **3. PRO Grant Application**

It was decided that Sherwood will apply for this grant from the Ministry of Education. D. Wilson and B. Della Maestra will prepare the application due online by Oct. 16/09 and contact a possible speaker for an event to be held in the second semester.

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

**1. Post Secondary Information**—The Ontario University Fair was held last month in Toronto. Locally, there is a chance to visit the University Information Program at St. Thomas More Secondary School from 7-9 p.m. on October 15/09. Mohawk College is hosting an Open House on Oct. 28/09 at the Fennell Campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. There have been two university assemblies at Sherwood and one for colleges. Follow-up assemblies are planned in the near future to explain the application process to students.

**2. Technology at Sherwood update**—Computer drops not yet activated. There are new printers in the Library and there are four smart boards throughout the school (Phys. Ed., Library, 2 in Math). R. Gagnon suggested that Student Council information and activities be posted on the Sherwood website.

**3. Correspondence**—R. Gagnon issued an invitation to Superintendent Stephanian to attend a Council meeting this year. No further correspondence to report.

### **Next School Council Meeting**

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the school library.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

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