

Sherwood Secondary School Council Minutes November 4, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. September 23 Minutes approved and two additions added to Agenda. Youth Summer jobs and Health Update on Nancy Lewis.
3. Reports
Principals Report - Mr Pratt
 - Mr Pratt recommended that Student Council representatives present their report first so that they can then leave meeting if need be to do homework.
 - Final enrollment numbers as of end of October 1030 full time students and 1050 with part time students. These numbers exceed the projected numbers from last year.
 - Take your kid to work day is Wednesday November 5th for grade nine students.
 - Grade eights will be visiting Sherwood November 5th while grade 9 students are absent. Six feeder schools will be coming through for tours through the optional courses for grade 9 and ten year. Grade 8 French Immersion students will be coming through on November 11. Staff will be sitting with them to get a sense of what they are looking for when they come to Sherwood in September 2015.
 - Parent teacher night was a success. The computerized online booking of appointments was 70% full within the first 24 hours. We are still working some bugs out of the system. We are the second largest board to use this system.
 - We are trying to use school twitter account for announcements and not just for posting information on clubs and teams. From a student perspective lots of kids in clubs or on teams are following their club or team. This seems to be a more common way to communicate.
 - Awards assembly was Friday October 10. A new format was used this year where students are recognized once and puts the focus more on the student. It was well received. This format moves the ceremony along at a better speed. Graduation ceremony will use the same format. Question of whether the Reach ahead students qualified for awards but Mr Pratt thinks that they are included and will check the criteria and let us know.
 - There has been some difficulty for some of the students from Hillpark transitioning to Sherwood. Some students are having a hard time fitting in and socializing. The grade twelve students are having the hardest time. Staff from the Board have come in to talk to the students to try to figure out ways to help them and make them feel more welcome. The same process will be done for the French immersion students. Ms Jones the new Vice Principal was also involved.
 - Students who will be writing the literacy test in March practiced today. School has a strategy to help identify key areas and are trying to encourage students to

answer all questions. They will be marked by teachers together with suggestions where to focus on and improve skills before they write it in March.

- Mid term report cards will be going home November 27th. Mr Pratt is encouraging students to ask teachers how they are doing prior to reports. This will eliminate any surprises for students. If students are struggling a phone call will go out to parents. This is not only expected but required for teachers to communicate this.
- The Remembrance day assembly will include a guest speaker from Corporal Nathan Cirillo's Regiment. The students have responded very respectfully in the passing of the former Sherwood student.

4. Staff Representative - Jackie Brown is the new staff rep for this council

5. School council report - Lauren Hicks

- Haunted Hallway was a huge success. 250 students participated.
- Sherwood Scares Hunger collected 3000 lbs of food for Neighbour to Neighbour.
- Pumpkin carving was in the cafeteria
- We had lots of support on red and white day for Nathan Cirillo.
- Leaders will be going through classrooms for grade eight night on Wednesday November 5th.
- We had our first volleyball game in the new gym. Senior boys won and will be continuing to play. If they make it the final is next Friday. Junior boys unfortunately lost and are now out. Senior girls basketball lost as well and are also out.
- Prom council will be having a bake sale November 20th to raise money for prom.
- Health action council has the Xbox kinect dance game set up in the cafeteria for students to use.
- Movember events have started. Some staff are involved and are raising money. Paper moustaches are on sale in front of cafeteria.
- Council is thinking of doing a movie fundraiser. More to follow.

6. Open Issues

Sherwood revitalization

- Three new boilers have been installed. There is still some work to be done with some plumbing, chemical flush and venting for stack inside courtyard. This should all be completed by the end of November. Unclear of what will be done in the next stage.

Social media presentation

- Chris Vollum was a recent guest speaker on social media and the pros and cons were discussed with students. Parents were invited to attend an evening presentation as well. Unfortunately it was not well communicated to parents but the students had a lot of positive feedback from his presentation. Chris communicated to students that there are a lot of positive aspects of social media

and that universities and employers often look at social media. He emphasized how it impacts school and community.

7. New Business/Correspondence/Announcements

Shared computer for School/Student Council - L Hicks

- A laptop has been purchased for Student and Parent council to share. Student council has used it for their meetings and find it very helpful. Password is Saints2014.

French Immersion Meeting update - M Hudson

- French Immersion program will start at Sherwood in September 2015. Enrollment data shows that approximately 97 students will be enrolled for grade 9 and those numbers are expected to rise by one hundred each year. Students from five elementary schools, Glen Brae, Lawfield, Norwood Park, Ancaster Senior and Michaelle Jean will feed into Sherwood. Transition committee has met once where they reviewed boundaries, enrollment data, funding and transportation. Committee broke into small group discussions and reviewed celebrations and questions/concerns for next meeting. Next meeting is November 11 where the committee will tour the school and we will address concerns brought up at the last meeting.

Recognition of Nathan Cirillo - B Pratt

- School has honoured Nathan but it is a slow process and we are proceeding cautiously out of respect for the family. At the next department head meeting we will be going over some ideas on how to move forward. Staff and students were given poppys and Canada pins. A wreath was placed at the Armouries on behalf of Sherwood. There was also a wreath ceremony here at Sherwood. School was invited to attend the ceremony at the Armoury and church and staff and students were encouraged to attend. Overall the students have been very respectful. Red and white day was well received and a banner was put up for people to sign. Donations for the volleyball team will likely go to the trust fund for his son. Students may also do a red ribbon campaign and that money will also go to the trust fund.

Appropriate topics for discussion at Council - L Hicks

- Some items that are asked to be on the agenda are not appropriate topics for this forum. This council is for general concerns and items that are too specific are not appropriate. As a council we want to work well with staff and be supportive to students and staff. We need to keep this fair and a productive place to meet and stay away from specific names or teams.

Questions regarding budget for Athletics and School - B Pratt

- School budget funding is based on students enrolled at the end of October. The board has a per pupil funding formula. The athletic budget comes from the Board. Transportation is done upfront by the team and is based on the number of students. Smaller teams rely on parents for transportation. Some teams do fundraising. Fees depend on the sport. Teams receive very little support from the Board. Clothing sales go into a separate account and could pay for equipment or

supplies depending on what they need. Students are not turned away because they cannot afford to be on the team. Students are aware that there is financial help available for them. Some sports have community support or receive donations. Discussion around better communication to students and parents for cost of sports so that students are not deterred from trying out.

Additions to Agenda

Youth summer job - B Zaman

- Sir John A Macdonald and Glendale have potential employers visit schools and students are asked to bring their resume. Sherwood does not encourage employers to come in but we do have the Employment for Youth program where the City of Hamilton and Board of Education do interviews at the school for jobs that include camp counsellors for example. This is a Board based program, not school based. Mr Pratt will check with the Principal at Sir John A Macdonald.

Update on Nancy Lewis - L Hicks

- Nancy underwent another surgery today and has been struggling with infection after her last surgery. Unfortunately she has had a very rough time with her health and thanks everyone for the best wishes. She hopes to be part of Council when she is feeling better. Please keep her in your thoughts.

Next meeting: January 13, 2015, 6:30 pm in the Library