



# Sherwood Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

25 High Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L8T 3Z4  
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EMAIL: [sherwood@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sherwood@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Ms. M. Visca  
VICE-PRINCIPALS: Ms. D. Alexandre and Ms. S. McNeill  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood)

## SHERWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2021

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual meeting through MS Teams

### Attendance

**Staff Reps:** Michelle Visca, Kelly George Daigleish, Dian Alexandre, Stephanie McNeill

**Co-Chairs:** Sandi Horton, Deborah Simon

**Parent Reps:** Jennifer Durlly, Jay Edington, Shelley Stacey, Stephanie Baschiera, Eliza-Jane Scott, Michelle Bohaychuk, Melissa Wagner-Wong, John Popoola, Lisa Urban, Lisa Mantysaari, Mike Martin, Jennifer Ward

**Absent:** Connie O'Hagen, Katrina Pavlovic, Danijel Radojevic, Julie Carr, Shanda Licop, Carly Jones, Tracey vanGageldonk, Crystal Holland

**Community Rep:** n/a

**Student Reps:** Sara Alasadi, Areej Hussain

### Proceedings

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Sandi Horton called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with introductions.

#### 2. HWDSB Land Acknowledgement

At 6:45 p.m. Principal Michelle Visca read the land acknowledgement. Ms. Visca would like parent reps to read the land acknowledgement at the start of subsequent meetings and to



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make a personal connection (different parent for each meeting). Ms. Visca to email and acknowledgement to parent reps.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

No issues were presented with regards to the October 2021 Minutes. Ms. Horton made a motion to approve the minutes at 6:48. Motion seconded by Ms. Baschiera and Ms. Scott. No one opposed. Minutes approved.

### 4. Student Council Updates – Sara Alasadi, Areej Hussain

- The food drive will run until November 27.
  - Items needed include canned food, personal hygiene products, boxed food, and toiletries.
  - There will be a pizza party for the winning class.
- Muslim Prayer Room set up in library, Friday prayers in upstairs Resource Room.
- School Council created a Tik Tok account, will begin posting content shortly.
- Winter Events
  - Winter Clothing Drive (jackets, hats, mittens, gloves) for Sherwood students, anything left will be donated to shelters.
  - Winter Spirit Days leading up to break as last spirit days in October were a huge success.
  - Door decorating to encourage school spirit and participation.
- Student Senate sending out Student Census next week about online learning/Covid, quadmesters, mental health.
- Ms. Visca thanked Sara and Areej for their contributions to the meeting and excused them.

### 5. Principal & Staff Updates – Principal communications, news, upcoming events

- Ms. Dalgleish informed Council the library has now opened to classes. It is a new space that is bright and welcoming.
- Lots of clubs and winter sports happening, volleyball tryouts for the girls were today with 45 attending. 30 students in Drama Club. Excellent numbers for clubs/sports.



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- Ms. Visca announced reports will be available November 22 via School Messenger (final marks for first two courses). Watch for email, contact school re: any issues.
- PA Day on November 26, 2021
  - Focus school plan – moving to equitable focus for positive wellbeing and mental wellbeing.
  - Various presentations for staff, continuous learning, and improvement.
- All grade 9 will be destreamed in September 2022: French, Science, English, Geography will no longer have Applied or Academic options. Math already destreamed.
- New grad coach, Monique Pitt – for black youth who are struggling, offering post-secondary support.
- By-Laws
  - Ms. Visca thanked Council for their contributions to the new Sherwood By-Laws and did a run-through of the draft.
  - Maximum 25 voting members, determine minimum for quorum (4 – 25 members).
  - Committee may be appointed: Executive Assistant (Melissa Wagner-Wong) and co-chairs (Sandi Horton and Deb Simons).
  - To start membership, must attend meetings within the first two months.
  - Elections Committee
    - Include info in August email to families.
    - Everyone automatically becomes a voting member, unless more than 25 respond, then follow Election Procedure.
    - Electronic Vote – one vote per email address before September 10. Posting must be within the first 35 days of the school year - post elected members and first School Council meeting date.
  - Add to co-chair duties
    - Ensure quorum at meetings, suggested by Jen.
  - #8 Communicate, now #9
    - Questioning whether to terminate Council for remainder of school year, after four mandatory meetings held, if the quorum of voting



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members agrees and/or if attendance goes down, especially for unforeseen circumstances, such as Covid. Possibly in April or May. Couldn't do it last year as it was not in the By-Laws.

- Jen questioned if we would have to reconvene and would we need a statement to that effect.
- Mr. Martin suggested having a clause to stop and start again, reinstatement if quorum voting members agree.
- Ms. Edington wanted to know how Council determines if next meeting is required/feasible, what is the qualifier? Ms. Visca responded if a member puts something forward and the group votes if a meeting is necessary.
- Jen suggested member puts forth to Principal that a meeting is warranted, or vice versa: the Principal could call the meeting (without a vote). Ms. Dagleish agreed.
- Jen to add voting session (can voting happen by email?)
- Conflict of interest – must declare. Conflict resolution – not necessarily step by step.
- HWDSB Human Rights Policy – serves as an anchor to related policies and furthers HWDSB's commitment to foster and maintain a culture of respect that permeates all HWDSB learning and work environments.
  - Covers guidelines for discussion or behaviour, conflict resolutions.
  - The member who caused the conflict may be asked to resign voluntarily or asked not to speak at further meetings (only attend). If non-compliant, in an effort to cease further harm, the Chairs "may" invoke article 8 of their duties and terminate School Council for the remainder of the year with the quorum of membership in agreement.



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- Ms. Visca asked Council if the topic not to speak at meetings should be a blanket request or issue specific. Ms. Scott believed it should be topic to topic.
- Check to see if a member can be voted out due to harm related to human rights, blatant racism, etc.
- Jen said the Principal can call the meeting or if members request it, will work on improving language for by-laws.
- Ms. Scott suggested “they” in place of “he” or “she.”

## 6. Activities & PRO Grants – Ms. Horton

- Ms. Edington wanted to discuss PRO grants but lost her connection to the meeting.
- Ms. Visca read email from Ms. Edington
- Ms. Licop suggested student mental health events – this could be support for parents to support student mental health.
- Ms. Visca proposed individual brainstorming with the co-chairs, perhaps a Teams presentation with a link for quad 3 or 4. Will reach out to the Board’s Manager of Mental Health.
- Ms. Horton asked Council to send any ideas to Ms. Simon ([debsimon@rogers.com](mailto:debsimon@rogers.com))
- Ms. Stacey (an HWDSB employee) stressed the event cannot be child centric, must be for parents.
- Ms. Ward asked if mental health would include helping parents communicate with trans and neurodivergent teens.

## 7. New Business

- Ms. Ward asked how parents can find social workers. Sherwood has social workers through admin or guidance counsellor.
- Ms. Alexandre added that a social worker and a mental health worker are available through admin, and they can put a referral through.
- The Board also has a social worker for trans, LGBTQ+ students.
- Mr. Martin asked if that could be posted on the school website.



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## 8. Confirmation on Meeting Dates 2020 – 2021

- Moving forward, meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
- Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, but not every month.
- Email Ms. Visca with questions or concerns [mvisca@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mvisca@hwdsb.on.ca)

## 9. Adjournment

- Meetings adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Wagner-Wong, Executive Assistant