



# Sherwood Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

25 High Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L8T 3Z4  
**Phone:** 905.383.3377  
**Fax:** 905.318.6561

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:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 (re-scheduled from Tuesday, January 18, 2022, due to HWDSB Snow Day)

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual meeting through MS Teams

### Attendance

**Staff Reps:** Michelle Visca, Wendall Gillis, Dian Alexandre

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

**Parent Reps:** Jennifer Durley, Jay Edington, Shelley Stacey, Melissa Wagner-Wong, Lisa Urban, Lisa Mantysaari, Mike Martin, Shanda Licop

**Absent:** Kelly George Daigleish (staff), Stephanie McNeill (staff - short list), Stephanie Baschiera, Connie O'Hagen, Katrina Pavlovic, Danijel Radojevic, Julie Carr, Carly Jones, Tracey vanGageldonk, Crystal Holland, Jennifer Ward, Eliza-Jane Scott, John Popoola, Michelle Bohaychuk, Sara Alasadi (student rep)

**Community Rep:** n/a

**Student Reps:** Areej Hussain

### Proceedings

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Deborah Simon called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. with introductions, including new Principal, Mr. Wendall Gillis, formerly of Westdale Secondary School. Mr. Gillis has been in education for 29 years as a science and math teacher, as well as Vice Principal.



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## 2. HWDSB Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement read at 6:18 by Ms. Simon.

## 3. Student Council Updates – Areej Hussain, 6:19 p.m.

- No immediate plans for this week or next, focusing on academics/end of quadmester; hoping to sell Candygrams for Valentine's Day and host another spirit week.
- Goal: Water First donation project - clean water for northern indigenous communities, hoping to raise \$3,00.00 to \$4,000.00.
  - Ms. Simon asked if parents could donate, they can.
- Student Council hoping to do more with the return to regular semesters.
- Ms. Simon thanked Areej for her report and excused her from the rest of the meeting to focus on her schoolwork.

## 4. Principal & Staff Updates – Ms. Visca

- At 6:24 p.m., Ms. Visca began the By-law review.
  - Ms. Durley made changes to the By-laws and was able to share her screen so that all members could see the updates.
  - Voting status/roles and reinstatement clause added, member attendance/requirements cleaned up, meeting and voting by electronic means clarified – meetings to either take place in-person or on MS Teams, Ms. Visca informed Council that we cannot do both simultaneously and Ms. Simon added that we must follow Board directives.
    - Ms. Durley to remove this clause.
  - Previously discussed whether members are entitled to hold their position if they caused harm; refer to Conflict Resolution.
  - Council would hope the individual who caused harm would resign voluntarily, if unwilling, and if harm is extensive, two voting members are



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permitted to make a motion to remove the member who caused harm, which can be passed by a clear majority (quorum plus one).

- Ms. Simon asked Council if all were clear with this, as we will be voting on it.
  - Ms. Stacey stressed the importance of including this to protect everyone in Council and mental health.
- Amending By-laws: review annually after first meeting and amend time to time, voting members must be given advanced notice of proposed amendments and they must be adopted by a clear majority.
- All members should read By-laws annually.
- Ms. Visca thanked all involved with the By-laws and Ms. Durley for her hard work, legal research, and embedding human rights into the document; would like to share with Equity Team and Superintendent of School Councils, Estella Jones.
- Ms. Durley to send final Word document to Ms. Visca who will ensure it gets posted as a PDF to the school's website.
- At 6:39 p.m., Ms. Visca began reviewing the Sherwood Facility Plan, which was distributed to Council via email.
  - The eighth attempt to get a rebuild on the Sherwood site was denied by the Ministry, now looking at taking public input, which starts with Virtual Information Session #1 (not an open debate).
  - Three options for Sherwood:
    - Status Quo: Only repairs for health and safety issues, as per the last eight to ten years.
    - School to be renovated with Phase 1 (field, science labs, learning commons) and Phase 2 (ceilings, lighting fixtures, cafeteria, bathrooms).
      - All HWDSB schools have received Phase 1 renos, except Sherwood.
      - To do this, given the asbestos abatement requirements at Sherwood, everyone would need to be moved to the



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former Barton site for approximately 18 months during renovations.

- Renovate Barton site and build addition to move all Sherwood students there permanently, and close Sherwood.
- School and community survey to be sent out with a decision by March, and changes starting in September.
- Ms. Eddington spoke to Council addressing the need to fight for Sherwood, reminding all that parents won the last round. Barton was deemed uninhabitable, so it would be unacceptable to send our kids to Barton. As parents, Ms. Eddington encouraged us to do community outreach, grassroots organizing, and engage Student Council. We must keep Sherwood open in our neighbourhood and talk to our Board Trustee.
- Ms. Simon defined Sherwood's catchment as Upper Wellington to Stoney Creek to Binbrook.
- Will discuss further at next meeting, however trustees have final vote.
- Ms. Licop discussed the arc process, the decision made must be the one that makes the most fiscal sense, and that things cannot happen the same way they did before (not transparent, not equitable).
- The MS Teams meeting abruptly ended at 6:56 p.m. when the one-hour meeting allotment ran out. Ms. Simon sent an email to members telling them to sign back in with the same link, however, many missed this and did not attend the second half.
- There are 1,070 seats at Barton and approximately 1,300 at Sherwood.
- Ms. Visca informed those who were able to re-join the meeting that there will not be an arc debate this time and that we cannot continue in status quo mode; both buildings need significant work.
- Flyer coming out on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, as well as an ad in the paper.
- Community survey will help inform, but ultimately, the trustees decide; City Councilors do not have a say.
- If Sherwood is renovated, Ms. Visca has been assured it will be a wonderful facility, not a new building, but greatly improved.



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- French Immersion students come from all over: Ancaster, the lower city, Binbrook, and the Beach Strip; there are over 300 French Immersion students at Sherwood.
- Both Barton and Sherwood need significant work done, Barton has not had any upgrades and only very minimal work done, students were housed there while new school was being built.

## 5. PRO Grant – Ms. Simon

- Due on Friday, January 28, 2022; putting in for something stabilizing and helpful to parents, staff, and students (“help our village”), Ms. Simon uncertain if it could be in-person or a virtual event.
- Only five members currently attending at this point in the meeting, Ms. Simon attempted another email.
- Ms. Simon will keep everyone in the loop and will include PRO Grant in each of the meetings and minutes.

## 6. Program Advisory Meeting (Thursday, January 27, 2022) - Ms. Visca

- Returning to full classes with a regular semester not quadmester, might be two on, two off, although usually a five-period day, including lunch (Period 3 – Sr. Lunch, Period 4 – Jr. Lunch); assuming it will be a return to a five-period day.
- Cafeterias expected to reopen with cohorting by grades.
- Stressed PPE and wearing masks properly.

## 7. Other Business

- Possible joint email from Ms. Visca and Mr. Gillis re: Principal transition.
- Monday and Tuesday will be Student Success Days, Wednesday is a PA Day.
- Ms. Simon asked if Council would be open to a patio goodbye for Ms. Visca in warmer weather and to welcome Mr. Gillis; Ms. Visca will begin her cross-country bike adventure on May 14, 2022, so it will have to be before then.
- Ms. Simon expressed gratitude that our children attend Sherwood.
- Mr. Gillis is excited to hear positive things about Sherwood and Ms. Visca assured him he has a solid Parent Council behind him.



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- Ms. Simon will send apology email to those who were unable to get back into the meeting.

## 8. Confirmation of Date and Time for Next Meeting

- Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.
- Meetings are traditionally on the third Tuesday except in December, March, and June; Mr. Gillis open to March meeting given everything going on.
- Ms. Simon questioned whether to invite our Board Trustee to the next meeting, to address us and inform us; Ms. Visca suggested we wait for the first information session, then we can discuss at the next meeting with a respectful dialogue.
- Staff, students, and community members have one vote each.
- Ms. Visca said our role as Parent Council is to let people know that this process is happening, and they can participate in the survey, but in the end, the vote is left to the trustees.
- The decision will be based on facility to meet programming, informed by community voice (survey), and fiscal responsibility.
- Ms. Licop's son, Jack, asked how Student Council could help push this out to the student body as well, to which Ms. Visca answered: announcements, making people aware of the sessions, social media platforms (Instagram and Tik Tok), and making sure students know they have a say too in the survey.

## 9. Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Wagner-Wong, Executive Assistant