



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
PRINCIPAL: Mr. W. Gillis
VICE-PRINCIPALS: Ms D. Alexandre and Ms S. McNeill
www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood

SHERWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting through MS Teams

Attendance

Staff Reps: Wendall Gillis, Kelly George-Dalgleish

Co-Chairs: Deborah Simon, Sandi Horton

Administrative Assistant: Melissa Wagner-Wong

Parent Reps: Jennifer Durley, Jay Edington, Lisa Urban, Lisa Mantysaari, Shanda Licop, Eliza-Jane Scott, Crystal Holland

Student Rep: Sara Alasadi (student rep)

Community Rep: n/a

Absent: Dian Alexandre (Vice Principal), Stephanie McNeill (Vic Principal - short list), Stephanie Baschiera, Connie O'Hagen, Katrina Pavlovic, Danijel Radojevic, Julie Carr, Carly Jones, Tracey vanGageldonk, Jennifer Ward, John Popoola, Michelle Bohaychuk, Shelley Stacey, Mike Martin, Areej Hussain (student rep)

Proceedings

1. Call to Order and HWDSB Land Acknowledgment (Ms. Simon)

- a. The February Sherwood School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Co-Chair, Deb Simon; followed by Ms. Simon reading the HWDSB Land Acknowledgement.



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2. Welcome and Participant Introductions

- a. At 6:06 p.m. introductions began, starting with Sherwood's new principal, Mr. Wendall Gillis, followed by all members in attendance.

3. Principals Report (Mr. W. Gillis)

- a. Mr. Gillis acknowledged he joined Sherwood at a time of transition and change (and many snow days).
- b. Timetables were available online, as well as paper copies, with staff and older students on-hand to help younger/new students find classes after the delayed start to the semester, which also started with a teacher shortage.
 - i. Three staff members were needed for specialty classes (health, cosmetology, etc.)
 - ii. Had to fill classes with supply teachers, students were patient through this process, with cosmetology students excited to welcome their new teacher who started today.
 - iii. Sherwood now fully staffed, however many schools in Hamilton, and Ontario, need specialty teachers.
- c. This semester runs on a 75-minute period day: Periods 1, 2, 3 (Sr. Lunch), 4 (Jr. Lunch), and 5.
- d. Cafeteria now open, however food service not yet available.
 - i. An additional classroom has been opened for the overflow of students during lunch in cold weather.
 - ii. Students must eat in their designated space or outside.
- e. February is option sheet time, with this info being used to determine which classes will run during the 2022-2023 school year.
 - i. Staffing to be organized in March and April, while timetables will be prepared in May.
- f. Low contact sports happening, high contact sports should start up again soon.
 - i. Mr. Gillis very impressed by the Girls' Volleyball team: everyone played, remained calm, showed great momentum.
 - ii. Boys' Volleyball game will be held in the Sherwood Gym tomorrow.
 - iii. As mandates drop, it will feel more like regular high school.
- g. At 6:26 p.m., Co-Chair, Ms. Simon asked if it has been a challenge for students to transition from two-hour classes to 75 minutes, and if Mr. Gillis has any advice for parents.



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- i. Mr. Gillis admitted there are pros and cons to every system: students must juggle more classes, but learning skills are most important (organization, prioritize time), do a little bit of each subject at a time (avoid binge-learning, do a little over a longer period).
- ii. Focus: Student mental health and wellbeing, inclusion.
- iii. Lots of mentally exhausted students: focus on students first, then academics.
- iv. Ms. George-Dalgleish added that staff members are trying to ease the students into the new system.
- h. At 6:29 p.m., Ms. Edington shared that saving Sherwood is number one, but pivoting to extracurricular activities, will students know what is available? Mr. Gillis replied that all activities would be advertised.
- i. Ms. Edington inquired about students wanting to play sports, are there groups for marginalized LGBTQ+, or safe spaces at Sherwood? Can kids play a sport for recreation, not competition? What are those opportunities?
 - i. Ms. George-Dalgleish shared that Drama Club has always been a welcoming, safe space for racialized and LGBTQ+ students.
 - ii. Typically, additional sports running, but not now due to Covid, however recreational programs are trying to be added, although difficult with a five-period day.
 - iii. Volleyball team took an extra five students to ensure all who wanted to play, could.
 - iv. There is also Equity Club, Student Council, Book Club, and lots of virtual clubs (check Hub for announcements).
 - 1. Ms. Simon added that Sherwood's equity teacher's name is Ms. L. Petty, and that Equity Club is a good club, but there are many available for students to join.
 - v. Gym teachers listed:
 - 1. Head of Girls Phys Ed: Ms. J. Brown
 - 2. Head of Boys Phys Ed: Mr. R. Teufel
 - 3. Phys Ed Teacher: Mr. A. Herrington
 - 4. Phys Ed Teacher: Mr. C. Thomaidis
 - 5. Phys Ed Teacher: Ms. J. French
- vi. Music is back on with band practice and music theatre running, choir soon.



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4. Sherwood School Council Report (Sara Alasadi)

- a. Sara began the student report at 6:38 p.m.
 - i. Valentine's Day Candygrams sold well: 150 were sold at \$1.00 each.
 - ii. Water First Fundraiser will raise money through School Cash Online, with all proceeds going directly to charity, cash will be accepted by teachers as well, however SCO is the preferred, safer method.
 1. Ms. Simon asked if info would go out to parents as some might want to donate; suggested it should be in the newsletter.
 - iii. Planning another Spirit Week before March Break with each day of the week representing a different decade.
 - iv. The 20 members of Student Council meet every Monday (now in person) at Senior Lunch.
 - v. Ms. Simon briefly touch on using PRO Grant funds possibly for a geocaching event – looking for ways to bring people together safely, outdoors, and masked.
 1. Mr. Gillis reminded Council the intent of PRO Grant money is to encourage more people to connect in the Sherwood community.
 2. Ms. Simon will work with Sara on this.
 - vi. Ms. Simon excused Sara at 6:47 p.m. to focus on her studies.

5. Good News (Ms. K. George-Dalgleish)

- a. From Guidance Department Head, Ms. C. Lea, a reminder that all option sheets are due February 22, 2022, with parent sign-off.
 - i. IPP – Grade 9 students (talk about possible pathways)
 - ii. Course selection through Xello (will show which courses are compulsory).
 - iii. French Immersion video posted to Sherwood website.
- b. Technology teacher, Mr. C. Behrens used \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00 in SHSM funds to purchase new safety saws, engraving tools, and items for the Exploring Technology, Cosmetology, and Health departments.
- c. Ms. A. Barrigar hosted a book fair in the library, allowing students to make presentations on a book of their choice.
- d. Library events are posted on Instagram: "Making Bracelets for a Friend," etc.
- e. White boards are amazing, green screen coming soon.
- f. Hockey and Water Polo on.
 - i. At 6:53 p.m., Ms. Horton asked if there was any word yet on Girls' Hockey, but Ms. George-Dalgleish was uncertain.



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- ii. Ms. Edington asked if we are getting away from boy/girl sports; what about non-gender, so that all kids can participate equally?
 1. Ms. George-Dalgleish shared that the gym is gender-neutral and any student who wants to be on a team will not be turned away.
 2. Mr. Gillis added this is a Board discussion, and Ms. Simon suggested the Human Rights and Equity Advisory Committee: we can ask them questions to present to the trustees.
 3. Ms. Edington hoped Sherwood would champion taking gender out of teams and asked how we would get rid of gender roles, as sports are often exclusive, not inclusive.
 4. Ms. George-Dalgleish will talk to the Phys Ed team and Ms. Simon offered to bring it up with the Human Rights Committee, as she is a member.
 5. Ms. Scott suggested polling students about what they want to develop.
 6. Ms. Edington acknowledged this is an ongoing issue with more conversations to happen, but this is a starting point.
 7. Ms. Simon addressed pronoun use at Council, to which Ms. George-Dalgleish agreed to introduce with pro-nouns as students do.
 - a. Ms. Edington agreed and asked if names can be changed on MS Teams, or pronouns added; kids are far less reserved than older generations and we need to be accepting, pronouns are important to this generation.
 - b. Ms. Licop added she received training at work and there is no right or wrong, we must respect people wanting to share.

6. Current & Upcoming Events

- a. At 7:10 p.m., it was decided that grad, etc. will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. Mr. Gillis added that students are anxious to know if grad will happen; hoping to know by March break, will share that info once known.
- c. Ms. George-Dalgleish mentioned some parents and students are trying to organize a prom.



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- d. A musical showcase is in the works, featuring a variety of musical numbers, with the hopes of being able to host an in-person event, backup would be a recorded performance shared online.
- e. A link for Mr. R. Baker's Christmas performance should be available soon.

7. Future of Sherwood information page

- a. <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood/future-of-sherwood/>
- b. Mr. Gillis highlighted some points from the first virtual information session:
 - i. Better walkability rate for Barton.
 - ii. Higher costs for Sherwood reno.
 - iii. Higher capacity at Sherwood.
 1. Barton would require portables and eventually apply for funding for an addition.
 - iv. Maps available on website under "Accommodations".
 - v. Taking submissions/questions from now until February 20, 2022.
 - vi. Facilities meeting on March 10, 2022, followed by Trustee meeting.
- c. Mr. Gillis expressed that people have a voice on the matter, as he believes the Board would like to know what the community has to say, however staff must remain neutral (staff may engage as community members).

8. Other Business

- a. No other business presented.

9. Confirmation of Date and Time of Next Meeting

- a. Although March meetings are not the norm, Ms. Simon proposed having one in March was important, but would fall during March break if held during the typical third week of the month.
 - i. Mr. Gillis agreed Council should hold a meeting with everything going on, and possibly cancel the April meeting instead.
- b. Ms. Scott asked about the efficacy of "Safe Arrival" as it does not catch in time. Spoke to secretary, wondering expectations.
 - i. Mr. Gillis responded saying elementary schools have a safe arrival policy, secondary schools do not.
- c. The March 10th Facilities Meeting will be posted on the 12th, and there will be more info to discuss after March Break.
- d. Next meeting to be held on **Tuesday, March 22, 2022.**



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- e. Please email Ms. Simon with any questions, concerns, good news.
 - f. Ms. Simon would like to introduce geocaching even without PRO Grant, greatly missing the good vibe of family events at Sherwood; it's so important to support events if possible.

10. Adjournment

- a. The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Melissa Wagner-Wong, Administrative Assistant
Sherwood School Council