**Sherwood Heights School Council Meeting  
Thursday, January 24, 2019**

**In attendance:**

Parents: Lisa Pichette, Dan Poulin, Charmaine Poulin, Sarah Mackenzie, Andrew Mackenzie, Natalie Frost-Ackerman, Natalie Frost-Ackerman, Amy Churchill, Robyn Morgan, Kellie Bennett, Dulcie Jarvin, Dawn Parker, Jacquie Surgenor, Wendy Oake

Staff: Paul Pallister, Sherri Johnston, Angelina Fleck, Michelle Blonski

1. Welcome & Introductions Jacquie Surgenor
2. Approval of Agenda Jacquie Surgenor
3. Approval of Minutes Jacquie Surgenor
4. New Business
   1. Transitions Jacquie Surgenor
      * *How does Sherwood Heights ensure successful transition from grades 6 – 7?*
      * *How does Sherwood Heights prepare students for a successful transition to high school?*
      * *What do parents need to know and do to prepare students for success in high school?*
      * SWH promotes teacher collaboration between Elementary School and SWH – Counsellors attend at Elementary Schools to talk to students – Grade 6 students did a SWH visit in the Spring to see the school – there was a Grade 7 only orientation day at the beginning of the school year – this year, there was also an opportunity for Grade 7 parents to attend part of a class – suggestions: (1) students seem to be stressed about undoing locker locks, so opportunities to practice before the summer might be helpful and (2) more discussion with students about changed academic expectations may help some students adjust
      * For Junior High to High School – SWH again promotes teacher collaboration – information nights (January 28th is a system-wide high school info night, Feb 20th for French Immersion transition)
      * Parents should try to read up on differences in high school courses and which courses are required, as course requirements change over time - can reach out to Junior High and High School with questions – parents should be aware of summer school and Next Step options, which can be blended with ‘traditional’ high school stream courses
   2. Students using Personal Devices Paul Pallister
      * Includes all electronic devices (phone, tablet, gaming, smart watches, earbuds, etc.) – some teachers have reported it is difficult to have inconsistent policies in different classrooms – often good reasons to use in class as part of educational activities – but students engage in non-educational use during classes when not permitted – noted that students are not permitted to take any photos in class
      * Structure/rules can help students manage device use, but it is also necessary for them to develop skills to self-manage as a life-long skill – one possibility would be to have relaxed rules in high school vs. junior high school – teachers have noted that learning can be compromised if students are allowed to use devices once their work is done, because they will rush their work to get to the device
      * *Which of the following 4 options would parents prefer?*
        1. *Teachers make own policy for their classroom.*
        2. *Personal devices can be carried in your pocket, but will be confiscated if seen.*
        3. *Personal devices must be put in some kind of pockets or box in classroom.*
        4. *Personal devices must be left in lockers other than on break or lunch.*
      * Parents at the Council meeting voted mostly for either pockets in classrooms or devices being left in lockers – a survey will go out to parents through the Cougar Tracks newsletter - further discussion will then take place with teachers – once a rule is decided upon, they will start discussions with students with a roll out over time – consequence of breaking rule will be phone being confiscated, on a first offence likely will be returned at end of the day, subsequent offences will require parents to come in to get the phone
   3. Minister Eggen’s visit Paul Pallister/Trina Boymook
      * Minister Eggen visited the school with MLA Annie McKitrick – no official reason for visit, he was a student here himself and said he wanted to see the school again – hopefully it is an indication that he is going to recommend a new building - parents are encouraged to email the Minister to advocate for a new building
   4. Staff Appreciation Jacquie Surgenor
      * Would like to do a Staff luncheon in May or June, with parents either contributing financially or with dishes – if anyone is interested in helping to organize, please let Jacquie know
      * Anyone interested in working with Jacquie on a campaign to encourage parents and students to send notes of appreciation in for Staff should contact Jacquie
   5. Accountability Survey Reminder Paul Pallister
      * Grade 7 parents will receive a mailing with the option of doing a paper or on-line survey – if parents are going to indicate “I don’t know”, it would be great to have the parent contact the school to ask – survey is open until March – in past years, about 15% of parents have replied, hoping for a higher response rate this year
   6. Possible Schedule Changes? Paul Pallister
      * Addition of Homeroom/Reading Time – provincial parameters for timetables: 950 hours of instruction in Junior High (320 minutes per day) – LA recommended 150 hours (SWH 159 hours), Math/Science/Socials recommended 100 hours each (SWH 133 hours each)– Phys Ed recommended 75 hours and Health recommended 50 hours (SWH 159 hours combined) – considering adding a homeroom/reading period of 15 minutes per day (could reduce each class by 2 minutes each and lunch by a few minutes to free up that time)
      * Change in Phys Ed Schedule – exceed recommendation, but struggle because space available is not adequate to keep up activity in the winter and expect school population will be larger next year – proposing to change Phys Ed to every other day (currently every day), which would result in 78 hours of phys ed- daily phys ed can assist with learning, as many students need that physical activity to burn off energy and be able to focus – for many students, the daily phys ed may be the only exercise they get in a day, and not all kids are active in sports etc.- there is a requirement that kids be active every day, but that does not have to be phys ed class – changing the schedule might allow more quality phys ed time in the gym vs. the current focus on quantity – may result in less gym time for kids who are also taking phys ed related options – the pressure is during the winter, as the ability to access outside space during the fall and spring opens up a lot more options – concern about making sure space is safe for the activity that is being done
      * Learning Strategies – considering a Humanities Boost (English and Socials) Class and STEM (Science and Math) Boost Class instead of current Learning Strategies
      * Considering adding an Academic Challenge option for Grade 7, for Humanities, STEM or both
      * Options - in Grade 7, Food and Fashions, Construction and Media are mandatory options (exception for French Immersion Students, due to time constraints) – exploring whether they should continue to be mandatory vs. free choice for options – can be beneficial for kids to try everything to discover strengths/passions
      * Parents with ideas about any of the above can contact Paul – Teachers will be discussing the schedule issues at their PD day on Feb 15th – will bring back to Parent Council in February - plan to implement in Fall 2019
      * Parents can find Guide to Education on-line, as well as the guide for physical activity, if wish to reference those
5. Information Reports
   1. COSC Report Jacquie Surgenor
      * shared experiences attending the various Results Reviews - Jacquie attended for Sherwood Heights - heard lots of great ideas and enjoyed being able to share a parent perspective.
      * the Alberta School Councils Association annual conference is coming up in April. The theme is Building Bridges and Dr. Jodi Carrington is the keynote speaker.
      * Superintendent Mark Liguori presented EIPS Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report which is a compiled look at results for the entire school division.
      * Extensive discussion took place regarding how various schools promote physical activity.
      * The Board is looking at developing a student use personal device policy and will be engaging students, staff and parents soon.
   2. Band Parents Report Ed Jollifee – no report
   3. LOGOS Report Brooke Hartum – no report
   4. Principal’s Report Paul Pallister
      * Reenrollment – opens Feb 1st until Feb 28th – All parents must enroll students online if want choice in school – after Feb 28th, students will be assigned to designated school – no changes permitted after Feb 28th
      * Registration for courses will happen in April
      * Haythorne is doing a session on the psych effects of marihuana on March 13th - all invited
   5. Trustee’s Report Trina Boymook – no report
6. Adjournment 8:30 pm

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 26th at 7pm