

Sherwood Heights School Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 24th, 2019

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. **Summary of 2018** – there were 7 Parent Council meetings, with robust discussion about topics such as school schedule, program offerings, fees, events and a cell phone policy

3. Election of Executive

- Ashley elected as Chair (by acclamation)
- Vice Chair position is vacant
- Wendy Oake elected as Secretary (by acclamation)

4. Approval of Agenda

5. New Business

a. School Fee Addition

- the new Government enacted the *Education Act*, which includes a *School Fee Regulation* - the Minister no longer has to approve fees and fees can be added mid-year – still requires Board approval and parent consultation, which Sherwood Heights does through the Parent Council
- the Superintendent has already approved a \$4 charge per student to fund an internal field trip bringing speakers in for Read-In Week – 2 authors are coming in to discuss the writing process to motivate reluctant readers and inspire creative writing – fee provides nearly \$2400 to cover cost of approximately \$2100 for the 2 authors, with the overage going to other literacy efforts – all students will have a session with an author, some will also have a session with a librarian - –
- all school fees will go out to parents at the end of this week

b. Meet the Teacher

- Took place on September 12th after the Cougar Run (3-5pm) – well attended (estimated 200 people) - food trucks were on hand
- Feedback from parents was provided to administration on communication and logistics of the event.

c. 2018-19 Academic Awards Night (October 16)

- will be held at the schools, so there is limited space, but it will also be live streamed more information to be forwarded to families shortly

d. Grade 9 Farewell

- will be the same format as past years – May 28th at Alliance Church at 5pm – parents will organize any celebration after the ceremony

e. New Schedule for this Year

- Staff and students appear happy with new schedule
- Grade 7's now have core plus time for a booster or challenge program to augment program and engage kids

- New reading period after lunch - students seem very engaged for the most part and teachers are supporting those who are struggling with engagement – seeing more kids carrying around books, and expressing interest in reading
- Phys Ed changes - gym teachers are still working out their schedules – A/B/C streams will start once outside activities are limited – the four Phys Ed teachers teach the classes collaboratively – all teachers will accommodate students missing parts of other classes for Rec Fitness field trips with good strategies in place to minimize impact
- Scheduling is very complex – students identify preferences for Options and Booster/Challenge classes – school accommodate preferences as much as possible. moving to an eight-day cycle allowed a lot more flexibility in schedule - Students in 'speciality' programs end up with less choice on options because of scheduling challenges

f. Building Update – Board Chair Trina Boymook

- change in government occurred before there was an announcement about a replacement school for Sherwood Heights – have already met with the two MLAs in Sherwood Park to discuss why Sherwood Heights replacement is the Board's priority, and gave them a tour to emphasize need – the Minister also came for a tour of Sherwood Heights - Boys and Girls Club partnership helps boost our replacement school plan – agreement with Strathcona County to allow new school to be built beside the existing instead of doing one half of the building at a time, which adds a year to build time – business case presented, and will be considered for Fall announcements, after the October 24th budget – plan is for a building with a 900 student capacity – EIPS will be ready to move on planning and construction as soon as an announcement is made.

g. School Education Plan

- Last year implemented a new three year plan but always interested in discussing any needed revisions – school has to file plan by mid-October - Full plan can be found on Sherwood Heights website at <https://www.sherwoodheights.org/about/our-school> - Parents are invited to send Paul feedback via email in the next week

6. Information Reports

a. COSC Report – Committee of School Councils

- first meeting of this year will be in October – partnered with SAFFRON last year to share CyberSeconds with parents – this year partnering with PEP (Parents Empowering Parents - support group for parents with students with substance use issues) to provide additions to newsletters on substance use and youth

b. Band Parents – no report (Band Parents meeting on September 25th)

c. Logos Report – Melanie – NEED REPORT

d. French Immersion Report – no formal report –

- Grade 8's and 9's will get an opportunity to see a play in French this year, and Grade 7s likely will go to Flying Canoe – 9's will be reading at Campbellown for Read-in Week – French Immersion information night for Gr7-12 will be in November – introduced a Language Monitor

e. Principal's Report

- Two new staff (a Social Studies teacher and a Counsellor) – total of 39 staff – 587 students – budget \$3.6M not including fees for options and sports
- Athletics – Volleyball Teams are having a great season– New teams this year: Ultimate Frisbee, Golf, and Cheer Team
- Staff PD – Teacher Quality Standards requires First Nations, Metis and Inuit knowledge – reading the *Outside Circle* graphic novel by Patti Laboucan-Benson, with plans for discussion

f. Trustee's Report – as provided by Board Chair, Trina Boymook

- Education Act and Regulations came into effect on September 1, 2019
 - Bill 8 positive amendments to the *Education Act* include:
 - Age of access – students can access education up to age 19
 - Residency – retaining where the parent resides from the *School Act*
 - Regulations amendments
 - School Fee and Transportation Fee – eliminate the requirement for reporting to the Minister and seeking Ministerial approval – reduces administrative burden to schools and at central level
 - Policy Work – will assess over the next year what the Board will retain under its authority and what will be delegated to the Superintendent
- No budget updates so no adjustments are possible until after the October 24th budget
- The Minister met with the Board – discussion included complexity of providing both urban and rural education, the *Education Act* and funding
- Trustee Trina Boymook elected as Board Chair for 7th term, and Trustee Heather Wall will serve a 3rd term as Vice Chair
- Policy 24 "Personal Communication Devices" is now in effect – Superintendent has updated the Administrative Procedure 145 to support the Board's policy
- Blue Ribbon Panel Report – recommendations of interest to high school families:
 - Recommendation 5: The Panel recommends that Government work with education stakeholders to decrease the percentage of government funding that goes to administration and governance (currently 24.6%) to a level comparable to B.C. (17%) – important to note that the 24.6% referred to includes things such as bussing, heating and lights, and maintenance, which may not be categorized as 'instructional' costs but support instruction
 - Recommendation 6: the Panel recommends that government completely review and revise its current education funding formula to ensure enrolment growth is addressed and to provide incentives for sharing services and achieving better outcomes for students – concerning recommendation as it suggests a portion of funding should be connected to student performance and achievement – schools that struggle often have a larger vulnerable student population so funding based on performance may negatively impact the resources they have available to assist those students
 - Recommendation 8 – the Panel recommends that the government work with post-secondary stakeholders to achieve a revenue mix comparable to that in BC and Ontario, including less reliance on government grants, more funding

from tuition and alternative revenue sources, and more entrepreneurial approaches to how programs are financed and delivered – this includes lifting the current freeze on tuition, which is concerning as it could out price this as an option for some students

- Recommendation 9: The Panel recommends that the government should assess the financial viability of Alberta's post-secondary institutions. The government should move quickly to address the future of those post-secondary institutions that do not appear to be viable in future funding scenarios – concern this could result in fewer choices available to students, which will drive up the cost of tuition as competition will intensify for the limited seats available.

Other Discussion

- Fundraising - Parent Council does not organize fundraising or manage any funds
 - Band Parents do fundraising for instruments, Lagos Society also does fundraising for their activities
 - Other fundraising efforts require school approval
 - The School is participating in Save-On Foods fundraiser – jar on front desk, put original receipts in, school gets a kickback – started in May, got a cheque in August for \$500 – only for Wye Road Save-on Foods

Future Meeting dates: October 22, November 19, January 28, February 25, March 24, April 28 and May 19 – 7:00 PM, School Library