

Sherwood Heights School Council Meeting

October 26th, 2021

The regular meeting of Sherwood Heights School Council was duly called and held on October 26th, 2021 virtually via Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Executive: Jacquie Surgenor (Chair), Lesley Bowman (Vice-Chair)

Administration: Amit Mali (Principal), Tandy Atchison (Assistant Principal), Jess Miskiw (Assistant Principal), Jessica Moen (Family-School Liaison Worker)

Parents & Staff: 10 Parents & Staff

Community: Trina Boymook (Board Chair, EIPS)*

*Absent with regrets.

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Jacquie Surgenor calls to order at 6:32 p.m.
- b. Treaty Six Acknowledgement.

2. Review & Approval of Minutes from September 28th, 2021

- a. Postponed to November meeting.

3. Approve Agenda, as is.

4. New Business

- a. Student Mental Health – Amit Mali
 - i. Ongoing support by Katharina Staub, Jessica Moen, Jess Miskiw
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LDkjXNWg3ACBE7owbuBq2jFNGTnyRm3Q4nsP77-WxT0/edit?usp=sharing>
 - ii. Working to develop anxiety/peer support groups, social skill development groups
 - iii. Anti-bullying week upcoming
 - iv. November 4 at 7:00 p.m.: Saffron will be presenting on Bystander Intervention (re: assault and harassment) virtually, will be shared with SWH feeder schools (Brentwood, Campbelltown, Westboro, Pine Street, Davidson Creek)

- v. Questions / comments
 - 1. Will there be permission letters sent home for students to take part in the Saffron sessions? Not permissions, but parents can be notified of info sessions in advance, concurrent parent sessions should provide background on content.
 - 2. Is Bystander Intervention only for Grade 9 students? Saffron is addressing Grades 7 & 8 students with Healthy Relationships and Handling Trauma.
- b. Save On Foods – Jacquie Surgenor
 - i. Visit the Wye Road Save On Foods and keep your receipts. Send them to the school with your students and the Wye Road location will donate 5% of receipt totals back to the school as a fundraiser.
 - ii. Joint vision between School Council and school: ideas presented on needs at school to parents. Identify “checklist” with costs. Want to consider projects that can be taken to a new school build.
 - iii. Idea brainstorm:
 - 1. Outdoor benches & picnic tables
 - 2. Plexiglass photo frames to rotate different photos of students
 - 3. Variety of library literature
 - 4. Outdoor gym equipment for winter Phys. Ed. and activity plus (sleds)
 - iv. Not keen on multi-year projects. Want to spend money raised by students on the same students.
 - v. Lesley Bowman has offered to organize receipt collection.
 - vi. Questions / comments
 - 1. Is there a way for Save On to arrange a school-specific box at the store that receipts could just be dropped off at the end of a purchase, rather than sent back to school with students? Lesley will review.
- c. Facebook Group – Jacquie Surgenor
 - i. How do we want to use the group? What parameters do we want?
 - 1. Acceptance questions are vague and not always answered. A “gate” is still required to determine how applicants are connected to the school.

- 2. Other schools have permissions to have members add other members, assuming posted rules are followed.
 - ii. Parent Facebook pages are often the first place a member will go to ask questions or for community building.
 - iii. Debbie Klita volunteered to act as the Sherwood Heights parent page administrator.
- d. High School Transition Idea – Jacquie Surgenor
 - i. Would it be helpful to give parents an opportunity to attend School Council meetings and ask questions of the High School counsellors?
 - 1. Yes, parents are interested.
 - 2. Would be great to compile a FAQ list from parents.
 - ii. Questions / comments
 - 1. Will all the high schools have an opportunity to attend? Salisbury, Bev Facey, SCA? Would work out details for any high school who wanted to attend.
 - 2. Are presentations / open houses always before returning registration dates? The proposed informal info night would include all school principals presenting different high school options and allowing for a question period after. Once students choose their school, open houses follow, to discourage “school shopping”. All programs will be presented from a Division perspective at the info night.
- e. “Paws”itive Referral Program Update – Amit Mali
 - i. Tickets are handed out by staff, all teachers in all programs have access to tickets. Every student that hands in a ticket gets a small prize, large prize every 6-8 weeks.
 - 1. Thank you to Vertex Resource Group for donating Oil Kings tickets.
 - ii. Lots of tickets being handed out, students are excited to receive prizes.
 - iii. If parents know of businesses willing to donate prizes, please contact Mr. Mali.
- f. SWH Replacement Project – Jacquie Surgenor / Lesley Bowman
 - i. www.ReplaceSherwoodHeights.ca – please share!
 - ii. Needs to be a community-driven project, website is intended to create awareness. Need parents and community members to write letters to MLAs.

- iii. Government claims that SWH students can just simply be moved to Salisbury. This is not true, 650 SWH students cannot be moved to one place.

g. Staff Recognition Idea – Jacquie Surgenor

- i. www.RecognizeSWH.ca

ii. Simple form to fill:

1. What is the name of the staff member you would like to recognize?
2. What recognition would you like to give?
3. What is your name?
4. Can we share your name with the staff member?

iii. Message sent to staff member:

<Staff Name>,

This year, the Sherwood Heights School Council undertook a program to collect recognitions for the amazing staff of Sherwood Heights. The second goal of the School Education Plan is “enhance High-Quality Learning and Working Environments.” School Council wanted to contribute to a safe, caring, welcoming and respectful working environment through this program.

<Name> wanted to recognize you and wrote:

“<Recognition>.”

On behalf of School Council, I'd like to thank you for your commitment to not only this student, but to all the students at Sherwood Heights. School Council recognizes the difficult circumstances that teachers and staff have faced over the past year and a half and we want to acknowledge your efforts to give our students an outstanding education and experience, regardless of those circumstances.

Thank you again!

Jacquie Surgenor

Chair, Sherwood Heights School Council

cc. Amit Mali, Principal: Sherwood Heights

Lesley Bowman, Vice-Chair: Sherwood Heights School Council

iv. Phenomenal response so far:

1. Mr. Verrier
2. Lynn Mekechuk
3. Erin Malec x 2
4. SWH Office Staff

5. Mathieu Rivard
6. Amanda Fayed
7. Admin team: M Mali, Mme Atchison, Mrs. Miskiw
8. Meghann Elgert
9. Mr. Koning

h. School Education Plan – Amit Mali

- i. Three goals carried over from 2019-22 SEP:
 1. Students are engaged, active and positive citizens who exemplify Cougar PRIDE.
 - a. “Paws”itive Referral Program.
 2. Students develop proactive social, emotional and personal health skills.
 - a. Mental health supports and development.
 3. Literacy and numeracy skills are emphasized in all aspects of school life to support overall academic achievement.
 - a. Additional small group instruction support.
- ii. How does School Council support the SEP?
 1. Building community awareness (new build).
 2. Positive support for staff during difficult times, staff recognition.
 3. High school transition idea.

i. School Council Engagement Task Force – Lesley Bowman

- i. ASCA (Alberta School Councils Association – legislated voice of parents) is looking for feedback from parents between AGMs, questionnaire sent out every month or so with questions relevant to the time.
 1. Questionnaire would be sent out prior to meetings and discussed during the meeting or via email after.
 2. This information is beneficial in advocating to the Minister what is important to the Minister of Education.

j. SRO Program Update – Jessica Moen

- i. School Resource Officer shared with Salisbury and Lakeland.
- ii. Proactive approach to connecting with students, great opportunity for community engagement.
- iii. Will plan to speak to parents at a virtual parent night early 2022.

5. Information Reports

- a. Committee of School Councils (COSC) Report – Sheena Singleton
 - i. Well attended meeting on October 6; Lesley Bowman is Chair, Jacquie Surgenor is ASCA Representative.
 - ii. Lots of discussion regarding Covid and Draft Curriculum.
 - 1. Will review questions regarding Draft Curriculum in November's meeting.
 - iii. Letter written by Deneen Zielke, ATA President, regarding a teacher's perspective on how difficult additional requested activities were during Covid, on top of added protocols.
- b. Program Information Updates
 - i. Logos Report – Melanie Ryzuk
 - 1. Chapel on Thursday November 4 - led by Celebration Church for all Logos kids.
 - a. If a student is not in the Logos program, can they participate in Chapel? Chapel is during class time so this is limited to Logos students only.
 - 2. Operation Christmas Child - we are asking any interested students (not just Logos) to have these boxes filled and returned to school by November 19, to Mr. Koning's class.
 - 3. Crossroads meets at lunch. Alpha has been meeting every Tuesday. Last meeting had over 20 students.
- c. Family-School Liaison Worker – Jessica Moen
 - i. Speakers coming in before Christmas to discuss questions with the whole school:
 - 1. Christina Rathjen coming in for interactive discussion during bullying awareness week regarding racism.
 - 2. Virtual assembly with Jean Francois Dupras in December regarding mental health.
 - ii. Questions / comments
 - 1. Are all the mental health programs for all students?
 - a. Small groups of students are currently piloting program, will determine down the road how all students will be engaged.
- d. Principal's Report – Amit Mali
 - i. Covered in New Business.
 - ii. Construction update
 - 1. Ongoing updates with lighting, ceiling, HVAC system.
 - 2. Only a single class being displaced per day.

3. Will be a period where classrooms will be run from staff room and stage.
- iii. Thank you to parents and staff for working through transition of new staff.
- iv. Questions / comments
 1. Will there be a Hot Lunch program this year?
 - a. Intend to start Pizza Lunch through Athletics after Fall Break, additional program through School Council to be determined later in the year.
 2. Will there be a yearbook?
 - a. Miss Malec plans to have yearbook by Christmas.
 3. Will there be a cheer program?
 - a. Athletics were scaled back this year, will likely not have a cheer program this year.
 4. Parent feedback regarding missing the information on staff email lists on the website. Parents are encouraged to use Brightspace and PowerSchool to connect with teachers. Can also email administration and the email will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member.

- e. Trustee Report – Trina Boymook
 - i. No report

6. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

- a. November 23, 2021
 - b. January 25, 2022
 - c. February 22, 2022
 - d. March 22, 2022
 - e. April 26, 2022
 - f. May 24, 2022
7. Jacquie Surgenor adjourns the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., virtually via Microsoft Teams.

These minutes are submitted by Lorena Ellsworth, Secretary.

Adopted by Council in the meeting of November 23rd, 2021.
Jacquie Surgenor, Chair