

Unionville Public School Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Attendance:

Council Members Present: Barbara Hockin, Jeffrey Smith, Carol Worthylake, Gary Crosby, Kelly Smyth, Tara Tomlinson, Karen Harvey, Connie Prentice, Steve Gardner (Principal)

Guest Present: Margaret Hough (KOFF representative) *[for part of meeting]*

Council Members Absent: Debbie Kline, Michael Tamaki, Julia Sumner

A. Meeting Minutes

Motion for approval of the February Minutes was made by Barbara Hockin and seconded by Carol Worthylake. Minutes approved.

B. Financials

Motion for approval of the February Financials was made by Kelly Smythe and seconded by Carol Worthylake. Financials approved.

C. Asbestos

March 20, 2006 Kindergarten Classroom Maintenance

Margaret Hough (KOFF representative) and Mr. Gardner provided particulars of an incident which occurred on March 20th in the kindergarten classroom. During the March break remedial work the water was shut off. During a routine flushing of the water fountains and taps upon the school re-opening, it was determined that the shut-off valve had been stripped. As a result, a custodian was required to remove some of the ceiling tiles to access the shut-off valve located in the kindergarten classroom.

Ms. Hough was volunteering at the time the custodian took these steps and became alarmed since it was her understanding that there was asbestos above this ceiling. After speaking to Mr. Gardner, she contacted Ms. Renate Kaskow (YRDSB Manager of Health & Safety) who was unable to immediately confirm the presence of asbestos in that location based on the Board record. To err on the side of caution, Ms. Kaskow ordered a meeting with an asbestos inspector which took place the following day at 4 pm (ie. March 21st). Ms. Kaskow, Ms. Harvey, Mr. Gardner and Mira Laserson (YRDSB Maintenance Assistant Manager) were also present with the expert during the inspection. The expert determined that the pipe insulation in the location where the tiles were removed was fibreglass and that there was no asbestos in the vicinity. In addition, the condition of the asbestos

which is present in that classroom is indicated as "good" according to the Survey. As a result, Ms. Kaskow indicated the custodians were permitted to access that area and were therefore not in breach of the *Health & Safety Act Regulations*.

Ms. Hough expressed her concern that nowhere in the manual does it say that it is safe to go into the classroom 3 ceiling. She asked who the custodians reported to and whether they are supervised when accessing these areas. There was a general discussion as to deficiencies within the Asbestos binder. It was thought that a different format, including cross-referencing and completed *status* columns, would be more readily understandable to a layman. The 79 page Survey in the binder represents an inventory of all accessible asbestos present in UPS. Mr. Gardner confirmed that it is the responsibility of the custodians to be familiar with the binder and the locations in the school where asbestos is present. Ms. Hough left the meeting at the conclusion of this discussion.

Letter to Gary Unitas

A draft letter to Mr. Unitas was presented to council and discussed briefly (copy attached as "A") seeking his support of the KOFF petition and requesting a meeting to discuss the matter further. A motion for approval to send the letter was made by Barbara Hockin and seconded by Jeffrey Smith. Ms. Harvey will send the letter as amended.

C. School Update - Principal's Report

1. **Ministry Funding** - We are very pleased that the Ministry has announced funding to support parental engagement in education. The Minister's commitment to supporting the engagement of parents in their children's education is consistent with our Board's vision and fits well with priorities and initiatives identified within our Board Plan for Continuous Improvement.

Additional funds for school councils will be provided in accordance with the memo once the final details are received from the Ministry.

While decisions on the expenditure of school council allocated funds will be made by councils in accordance with the Minister's announcement, our Board will be providing suggestions and opportunities for your consideration. These details will be provided as soon as they are available.

2. **Asbestos Remediation work** was completed in the Primary hallway during the March Break. All asbestos was removed from the ceiling space and new ceiling tiles were put up.

3. **EQAO dates - 2005-2006**

To take place between May 23 and June 9th, 2006 (Final date to be set in April).

4. **Boy's basketball Area results** - UPS had an excellent tournament. They lost in the semi-finals to William Berzcy. Our girl's team competes on Wednesday, March 22. Thank you to Mr. Carlisle for all your time and efforts.

5. **SUMMER ADVANTAGE IS BACK!!** "Summer Advantage" is a 200 page, fully coloured, activity book designed to reinforce and maintain Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7 students' academic learning skills over the summer months. There is one 200 paged activity book per grade level from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7. All 8 major units and 3 summer fun units in each booklet are aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations and are written by Ont. teachers for Ont. students. Booklets have parent information pages, evaluation forms, follow up activities and a family focus. The cost of each booklet is the same as last year - \$20.00. There are sample units available for parents to look at in the office and on the website www.summeradvantage.ca Watch for the colourful posters advertising "Summer Advantage" throughout the school. Order forms/flyers will be distributed in May and books will be delivered in June.

E. Action Teams: - no reports given

- **Environmental Committee**
- **House Colours**

F. Council Members' Roles & Initiatives

Ms. Harvey requested that council think about the role of council members going forward. In addition to filling the roles of the executive (ie. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary), it was suggested that there also be leaders or co-ordinators responsible for specific areas such as Lunch Programmes, Fundraising, special programmes (eg. Jump Rope for Heart, Legacy, etc.), Literacy, House Colours and Environmental Committee. It was suggested that the April or May meeting be opened to the school community in the form of an invitation sent home with all the children), in an effort to encourage more parental involvement. It was indicated that if a fundraising effort other than a donation letter would be utilized for the coming school year, ideally the fundraising initiatives should be explored over the summer so that they would be in place for implementation in or around October 2006. Ms. Harvey asked that everyone think about possible fundraising ideas for the next meeting.

G. Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.