

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

Attendance:

Council Members present: Gary Crosby, JP Gagnon, Steve Gardner (Principal), Christine Gowe, Karen Harvey, Barbara Hockin, Al Mainprize (Vice Principal), Connie Prentice, Jeffrey Smith, Kelly Smyth, Tara Tomlinson, Karyn Toon, Earlene Worrall, Andrew Yip

Council Members absent: none

Teacher Reps present: Julie Lovatsis, Paul Yip

Guests present: N. Ansell, Pam Buckley, Laura Chapman, Deb Kline

A. Overview

B. Meeting Minutes – September 2006

- Motion for approval of the September minutes made by JP Gagnon and seconded by Tara Tomlinson. Minutes approved.

C. Financials – Gary Crosby - September 2006

- Motion for approval of the Sept 30 financial statement made by JP Gagnon and seconded by Karyn Toon. Financial statement approved.
- Gary Crosby noted that there was only \$60 profit from Barbecue (\$200 last year). No financial incentive to retain Barbecue. Will revisit opportunity to simplify event.

D. SMARTboard Presentation - Paul Yip

- SMART Notebook is extremely accessible for primary students; fingertip control, no fumbling with password or mouse, button clicks are intuitive.
- Capabilities include stories, drawing, graphing, geometry. Some canned lessons, also motivational tools.
- Can link to other software.
- Cost sharing agreement with Board for technology: for every \$ we contribute as a school, Board applies 1.5X. Cost sharing formula specifies a maximum of \$20,000 combined for Board and school.
- \$2000 for 1 SMARTboard or \$4000 for package including laptop and projector.
- Have 10 Mac laptops now, 1 SMARTboard with projector. The current SMARTboard was allocated to UPS by the Board for Communications classes, and Junior/Intermediate divisions have been using it when available.
- Recommendation: 5 more laptops, 1 SMARTboard package, 1 LCD projector alone = approximate cost of \$16,000 of which Board will contribute \$10,000.
- Must purchase; no leasing option. Confirm that service is included in agreement if purchased through Board.
- Need to make decision at November meeting. Will review specifics then as part of Budget discussion.

E. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Report attached.

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F. Action Teams - Status

a) Community Outreach – Christine Gowe

- Salvation Army campaign requires more parent volunteers.
- Helping Hands initiative running this year in lieu of Unicef boxes.

b) House Colours – Karyn Toon

- Report attached.
- Have strengthened linkages with other school activities. Agreed that we will continue to seek such opportunities.
- Brainstormed ideas to strengthen participation; ie. have pep rally by colour so students see others in their house, develop cheer/logo by house, have older grades lead houses to increase their involvement, clarify tallying of points in classroom, make participation more visible (vs. anonymous drops in food collection bins)

c) Fundraising – Karen Harvey

- Letter has been distributed. Reminder could be sent late November (as was done last year). See how we're tracking by next meeting.

d) Pizza Lunch – Steve Gardner

- Twelve grade 8 students will act as distributors to classrooms (grades 4-8), with two parents to oversee. Prefects will handle for grades 1-3.
- Grade 8 will again retain profit from sale of extra pizza slices (L&D donating two large pizzas at each pizza lunch).

G. School Update – Principal's Report - Steve Gardner

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Administrator's Report – UPS, October 17, 2006

1. As part of our Innovation Fund project, 20 Grade 5 and 6 students will be trained to be Conflict Managers. 5, 1 hour training sessions at UPS and Parkview PS. Training program begins October 20th at UPS.
2. We will be creating a School Climate survey for students to complete on-line. It will be part of our anti-bully initiative with a focus on school safety. Looking at creating a version for parental input. Timelines are November-December.
 - Can be completed from home, anonymously.
 - There will also be a parental piece.
3. Walk to School Day was a success. 93% participation – See Environmental Committee report (Connie Prentice). Great staff participation from the public library (8 staff formed walking school bus). Video shown on yorkregion.com (under videos). A thank you is extended to Environmental Committee.

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4. Cross Country a resounding success at Milne Conservation area. Over 120 runners from grade 3 -8. Mrs. T. Burton has taken on the role as head coach and the students have benefited tremendously. Thank you to all parents for their support and to Ms. Rocha and Mrs. McGowen Young for their time and expertise. 39 students will be going to the Regional meet set for Thursday, October 19th at Bruce's Mill. Tyke Girls – 2nd, Tyke boys – 2nd, Junior girls – 1st, Junior boys – 2nd, Senior girls – 3rd, Senior boys – 1st, Overall results – Jr. – 3rd, Senior – 3rd.
 - Extremely strong participation. 120 runners from within a student population of 441 = 27% of students.
5. Planning for February electives is underway – 2 full days rather than 4 half days as we had 2 years ago. Final dates TBD.
 - Change to 2 full days is to accommodate downhill skiing. Other electives can be paired to fill full days.
6. Staffing – Ms. Y. Braybrook (CYW) has been appointed to the Regional Autism Team. We welcome Ms. S. Wylie to UPS. Ms. Wylie is a CYW who is returning to the Board.

From Mr. Stokes:

UPS Advisory Council
Unionville Public School

Dear Council,

As presented during the last advisory council meeting, there are some significant deficits in the instrumental program based on student instrumentation. At this time, the acquisition of a new tuba would alleviate some of the strains that have been recently placed on Markville Music's low brass inventory. It would also ensure that our classroom and performing ensembles have the necessary materials with which to achieve the mandated music curriculum expectations.

I have secured a quote from Harknett Musical Services for the following instrument:

Jupiter 378L

378L BBb 3/4 Size Tuba, .661" bore,
smaller wrap, easier to play and hold,
lacquered brass, nickel silver pistons,
14.4" bell, hard-shell case with wheels.

The price I have secured for this instrument is \$1995.00 + taxes. This is a brand new instrument; it is a great place to start in our efforts to replace our severely damaged instruments.

I hope you will consider this request in cooperation with the current UPS inventory, which is awaiting verification from our repair technician, Jay Gemmill.

Thank you again.

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Mr. Stokes

Music Teacher

Unionville Public School

- Inventory will be available next meeting.

H. EQAO Presentation/Discussion – Steve Gardner

- Summary slides attached. Full report is available on school and Board websites.

Highlights –

- Grade 3 Reading – 55%, Writing – 58%, Math – 72% (55, 57, 73)
- Grade 6 Reading – 72%, Writing 71%, Math – 75% (76, 74, 79)
- Concern that significant numbers are not achieving standard. Figures noted represent achievement of level 3 or above (level 3 = achieving standard, level 4 = above standard). So for Grade 3 reading at 55%, for example, 45% of students are not meeting standard.
- Results noted above compare to Board averages of 69, 73, 77 for Grade 3 and 70, 70, 71 for Grade 6. UPS below average in Grade 3 (another concern), tracking at about Board average in Grade 6.
- Concern that there has been some decline versus previous year's test.
- Results are disappointing. Key focus should be on the action plan to improve, based on these results.
- Re trend, Board and provincial results have trended slightly upward over time. School results are much more variable, with a decline this year following an increase in the prior year. Greater variability would be statistically expected at the level of individual schools, given the relatively small number of students tested; the school's results can be strongly affected by a few students.
- Discussion around apparent lack of correlation between report cards and EQAO results. For example, grade 3 report cards showed 75% (30/40 students) at level 3 or 4, versus only 55% in EQAO (22/40 students). Writing shows similar disparity, 75% on report cards vs 58% EQAO.
- PM Benchmark is another standardized, objective evaluation of reading skills, yet 87% of grade 3 students scored level 3 or 4 with this methodology vs the 55% on EQAO. Methodologies differ. PM Benchmark is oral, whereas EQAO is written with no assistance to either read questions or capture answers. EQAO also places more emphasis on reading comprehension. Difficult to reconcile the gap in results, but it suggests that UPS students are stronger with oral skills than with written. There also appears to be a gap in reading comprehension.
- When comparing grade 6 results to grade 3 results from 3 years ago, important to note that it's not a consistent cohort group. Of the 64 students who wrote the grade 6 test, only 14 were at UPS in 2002/03 according to the analysis conducted. Results were much stronger for those 14 students having continuity at UPS.

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- Note: Parents in attendance challenged the 14 as inaccurate - could think of more students they knew to be in both classes. Steve Gardner relooking the analysis as a follow-up.
- Need to ensure continuity of curriculum between grades. For example, the grade 5 teacher needs to know what grade 4 looks like as a base to build upon. UPS is developing a continuum for JK through grade 8; will be formalized this year. Suggestion made that parents would like to see this continuum.
- For December meeting, revisit school plan (which sets priorities). Will open meeting to parental input, ie. role of parental involvement in higher grades. Agreed that invitation to parents will go out in advance of December meeting.

I. Meeting Adjourned 10:00 p.m.

Next meeting November 21.