

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Attendance:

Council Members present: Gary Crosby, JP Gagnon, Steve Gardner (Principal), Christine Gowe, Karen Harvey, Barbara Hockin, Connie Prentice, Jeffrey Smith, Carol Takagi (Vice Principal), Tara Tomlinson, Karyn Toon, Earlene Worrall

Council Members absent: Kelly Smyth, Andrew Yip

Teacher Reps present: Janice McGowen-Young

Guests present: Deb Kline, Kim Pryor, Michael Tamaki

A. Meeting Minutes – November 2006

- Motion for approval of the November minutes made by JP Gagnon and seconded by Connie Prentice. Minutes approved.

B. Financials – Gary Crosby – November/December 2006

- \$11,955 raised via monetary donation program, 96% of last year's total. Worthwhile to repeat given continued strong participation level. Much more lucrative, relative to degree of effort required, versus the alternatives for fundraising.
- Magazines are offered as a service and generate approximately \$1200. When used as a fundraiser in past, generated approximately \$6000. Suggestion to put magazine subscriptions online to permit renewals at any time, with dollars credited to the school.
- Could consider adding bulb program, positioned as a service. Connie will coordinate. Order from gardening catalogue in spring and fall.
- Question re playground maintenance; another audit done, cost not anticipated to be significant.
- Motion for approval of the Dec 31 financial statement made by JP Gagnon and seconded by Barbara Hockin. Financial statement approved.

C. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Report attached.
- Preliminary discussions have taken place re Environmental Awareness Month or Week, to take place in April (TBC). Ms. Rocha to lead with assistance from Environmental Committee.

D. Action Teams - Status

a) Community Outreach – Christine Gowe

- Salvation Army hampers were a success, culminating in great assembly at which they were presented.

b) House Colours – Karyn Toon

- Using bulletin board to keep kids posted.
- Beach Day Friday. Posters to advertise.

E. Literacy – Janice McGowen-Young

- Shared perspectives re literacy program. Hard copies distributed of booklet *Balanced Literacy at Unionville P.S.*

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- A balanced literacy program encompasses reading, writing and oral.
- Focus on comprehension strategies. Tips about proficient readers make the cognitive process apparent to them so they see where their own comprehension breaks down. Prompts then help students to self-solve.
- Will post the literacy information on the school website so parents can access it.
- Literacy room is in primary hallway. Reading recovery is provided for Grade 1, but Mrs. McGowen-Young's involvement spans all grades. Assistance is provided at all grades for kids reading below grade level, with meetings held to discuss strategies to address the challenge.
- One objective of the literacy program is to inspire and then maintain interest in reading.
- Level books arrived in December. These permit literature circles and guided reading with more latitude in books read, to align with individual interests while ensuring that specific works are at the appropriate level (ie. provide some challenge but not frustrating to students).
- Question re duplication of books (ie. same book studied in both grade 6 and 8). Can that be addressed as part of the continuum, given the vast assortment of quality books available? Debate about boredom of repetition versus difference in understanding with greater maturity. No resolution.

F. School Update – Steve Gardner

a) SPCI

- Steve reviewed report that had been preissued, encouraged input from parents.
- Concern about target being 80% of students at level 3 or 4 versus 100%. Intent is to reset annually. Tara noted that number had been higher in past. Suggestion to consider separating out IEP students to recalculate percentage for students on baseline plan.
- 29% of students currently working at level 1 or 2, so 71% of kids are at or above level (using October data, DRA/PM).
- Lots of discussion around multiple data sources and disparity, how to distill to one number. Is a weighted average possible, or do we need to track multiple measures? Agreed that objective must be measurable; need to optimize document with revision to the specific target, and to provide clarity around calculation. Council left the challenge to the experts (Steve and staff), with commitment to reconnect next meeting.
- Will also review balance of document next meeting given time constraints. Option to e-mail other input to Steve in the meantime, if desired.

b) Safe Schools Action Team

- Synopsis distributed in hard copy, also attached.
- Discussion around how to implement survey; balancing considerations of confidentiality versus participation rate, for home versus class completion.
- No input requested re specifics of survey, as it is ready to field.

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c) Administrator's Report

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Administrator's Report – January 16, 2007

1. Welcome Ms. Carol Takagi to UPS as our new Vice Principal. Ms. Takagi is at UPS every other week and shared with Coledale PS.
2. As a Ministry mandate, each school in the province is required to form a Safe School Action team. This team is comprised of administration, teachers, parents and students. Please refer to attachment.
3. UPS – Winter Activity Days – February 6 and 13th. Kindergarten program – Zoo visiting and Varley Museum off-site visit. Primary and Juniors have 5 package options. Grade 6, 7, 8 skiing at Mt. St. Louis – Moonstone.
 - No choice provided for grades 6-8; suggestion that there should be. Steve noted that students could play a leadership role within primary or junior program instead of skiing, if desired.
4. SPCI – Please see attachment.

G. Update on New High School, Bill Crothers S.S.

- To be constructed on Main south of Hwy 7. Opening September 2008.
- Elizabeth Richardson, trustee, will attend April meeting to discuss.
- Unclear whether we fall within catchment for new school.
- Designated a “healthy living” school.

H. UPS Constitution: Appendix E – Financial Policies

- Deferred to next meeting given time.

I. Meeting Adjourned 9:25 p.m.

Next meeting February 20th.