

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

Attendance:

Council Members present: JP Gagnon, Steve Gardner (Principal), Tess Georgakopoulos, Karen Harvey, Barbara Hockin, Noelle Hunt, Lorrie-Anne Lauder, Zia McGarry, Pamela Nitert, Connie Prentice, Lesley Ruttan, Hilary Seppanen, Jeffrey Smith, Wendy Wang, Earlene Worrall

Council Members absent: Gary Crosby, Cyrus Mavalwala, Carol Takagi (Vice Principal)

Teacher Reps present:

Guests present:

A. Welcome

B. Meeting Minutes – October 2007

- Regarding the Grade 1 literacy follow-up from last meeting, \$1000 was invested from the school budget for additional literacy materials (for levels 0 to 6), so needs have been addressed.
- Motion for approval of the October minutes made by Lorrie-Anne Lauder and seconded by Jeffrey Smith. Minutes approved.

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – October 2007

- Motion for approval of the Oct 31 financial statement made by Barbara Hockin and seconded by Pamela Nitert. Financial statement approved.

D. Budget Discussion

- Budget requests to be considered totalled \$25,005 versus \$11,884 estimated funds available (per Gary's statement). Excluding \$1600 for lunch program in January and April, \$1000 for magazine subscriptions in June, and \$414 for GST recovery in November (estimates, none of which are currently available) meant we were working with a total of \$8,870 at the time of the Council meeting.
- Process agreed was to vote Approved Now, Decision Deferred, or Rejected.
- Question re repairs to the JK/SK computers. Noted that this must be handled separately since the Board's Technology matching applies to fundraising dollars only.
- Discussion about Board's cost sharing for Technology. Removing any single item saves only \$400 or so given the cost sharing portion that makes our dollars go so much further.
- Easy to defer the playground cost since the school has already paid, but noted that the maintenance cost will be an ongoing issue. Council installed the equipment and, in principle, should maintain it.
- Literacy was agreed to be a high priority, with recognition that board funds are also available to purchase additional literacy texts but over a longer timeframe of two years. Noted that decision was not entirely at Council's discretion given \$2045 in directed donations for literacy and library combined.

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- Confirmed that library purchases could be addressed throughout the year as funds become available.
- Activity support in terms of supply teacher days would ensure that no extra-curricular activities need to be cancelled. Can be deferred per Steve since the dollars are not required until April.
- Discussion around importance of honouring the directed donations within the Investment campaign. Recognized need to honour the spirit of priorities while also maintaining some flexibility. Also noted the need to be cognizant of time sensitivity of some items, and recognized the opportunity to rebalance total investment later in the year when additional fundraising dollars become available.
- Decision Deferred for Playground, Athletics and Occasional Teacher Support (unanimous).
- Proposal to split Technology Cost Share into two parts: \$3592 for priorities of 5 laptops and 1 iMac Approved Now, with Decision Deferred for balance. Noted that Board matching can still be realized if the rest is purchased later in the year. Unanimous vote in favour of proposal.
- Balance of \$5270 to Literacy, split fairly equally across the divisions to address the priorities of each division. Preference expressed for an emphasis on in-classroom books for Primary. Carried unanimously.
- Decision Deferred for Library.
- No budget requests were Rejected.
- Agreed that an update to the parent community is required, but to simplify the proposed letter. Council will share amount raised to date and remind that 2007 tax receipts will be provided for donations received by year-end. Pamela will send draft to JP and Tess for feedback prior to issuing.

E. Fundraising Committee Update – Pamela Nitert

- Discussion deferred until January meeting given time. Agreed that Dance-a-thon has potential based on experience at other schools, and that degree of student involvement is a positive.

F. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Opportunity identified to install a large recycling bin. Environmental committee must not fundraise independently to finance it, but will investigate potential for corporate sponsorship. Council may be able to fund a portion from program budget.

G. Community Outreach Initiatives – Tess Georgakopoulos

- Update issued. No discussion.

H. Unionville Christmas Parade – Lorrie-Anne Lauder

- Lorrie-Anne has two parent volunteers to assist at the event, but requires someone to coordinate at the school in advance of the parade date. Steve will ask for a staff coordinator.
- Potential identified for school team participation and leadership from House Colour captains if required. Lorrie-Anne to advise Lesley.

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I. House Colour Update – Lesley Ruttan

- Update issued. No discussion.

J. Principal's Report – Steve Gardner

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Administrators Report – November 2007

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1. Bill Crothers Secondary School:

Bill Crothers Secondary School (BCSS) will be an inclusive, character-focused learning environment that links excellence in education and athletics with a commitment to healthy, active living for all students. BCSS will be a school for students across York Region, serving as a catalyst for the development of health and physical education programming as well as sports and academic innovation.

Bill Crothers Secondary School is scheduled to open for the 2008-2009 school year. The school will open with Grade 9 and 10 students. Grade 11 and 12 will commence in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Students from across the region are invited to attend our information evenings. Information will be shared regarding the vision, mission, schedule, programs, and application process. For your convenience, information sessions will be offered throughout the region at the following locations:

Keswick High School 100 Biscayne Blvd, Keswick	Wednesday, November 21
Richmond Green Secondary School 1 William F. Bell Parkway, Richmond Hill	Tuesday, November 27
Sir William Mulock Secondary School 705 Columbus Way, Newmarket	Thursday, November 29
Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School 90 Bur Oak Ave. Markham	Monday, December 3
Emily Carr Secondary School 4901 Rutherford Road, Woodbridge	Tuesday, December 4

All information sessions will occur from 7-9 pm. in the cafeterias.

We request that only students entering Grade 9 (2008) attend these evenings due to building capacity regulations. Separate information sessions are scheduled for students entering Grade 10.

2. Parent, Family and Community Engagement Towards Common Understandings

Parents, educators, trustees and many of our community partners in York Region have devoted considerable energy over the past few years towards building common understandings of how we can most effectively work together to support our students and their learning.

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Emerging from these discussions are five key messages or principles that we are hoping will help bring consistency of understanding, priority setting, training and action. The following five key messages are *draft* and your comments are welcomed. (Messages attached in separate document.) Feedback is invited by December 7.

3. The Prologue Arts performances have begun. Each division had an opportunity to see 1 performance up to this point in time. There has been very positive feedback from students. The twenty47func dance troupe will begin working with our classes the week of November 26th. Each class will have 2 scheduled periods/sessions.

Primary

Kim and Jerry Brodey -- Monday April 21st at 2:00 PM "Let's Help This Planet".
Dufflebag Monday -- February 25th at 2:00 PM - "Rumpelstilskin"
Robert Morgan -- Friday November 9th 9:30 a.m. - "Morgan's Journey"
Chris McKhool Wednesday May 7th at 9:00 "Celebrate! Holidays for the Global Village"

Junior

Mike Ford -Wed May 14th, 9:30-10:30 and 11:30 - 12:30 (the division will be split up, list to follow as we get closer). "The Great Canadian songbook".
Faustwork - Thursday, May 1st 9:30 a.m., "Mask Messenger"
Corpus -Tuesday November 20th at 9:30am. "A Flock of Flyers"
Jim Wellheiser - Thursday, February 7th, 11:15-12:45 a.m. "The Way of It" (First Nations presentation)

Intermediate

Mike Ford - Wed. May 14th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. "The Great Canadian Songbook" (adapted to the Intermediate division)
Cadence - Tuesday January 22nd at 9:30 a.m. "Four Men, Four Microphones, No Instruments"
Leslie McCurdy - Wednesday, November 14th 2PM, "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman."
David Morris - Monday, February 4th, 9:05 a.m.-10:35 a.m. "Tecumseh and the War of 1812"

4. We have coordinated the purchase of UPS identification lanyards for our students to wear on field trips. "Unionville Public School Student" 905-477-5266, YRDSB emblem.
5. As was advertised in the November edition of Pawprints, we are in need of a parent who would like to take on the Milk Program coordinator role. If we do not have anyone to take it on for the new year, we may have to cancel the program. We will include an insert in December's Pawprints also. Ms. Takagi will coordinate December's orders. A special thank you is extended to Tess Georgakopoulos for all of her hard work and

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support. She did an amazing job and put countless hours into the program. Thank you Tess!

6. I spoke to the Town of Markham, staffing services, as late as yesterday afternoon and they are still trying to secure a crossing guard for Kennedy and Bridle Trail. A large sign is being placed in front of the school on Wednesday, November 21st advertising the need for a crossing guard. Paul Imrie (416) 606-0901 (Town of Markham)
 - Concern was also expressed about supervision of playground in the morning. Steve clarified that supervision begins at 8:45 and so far this year has been handled by 1 person covering both playgrounds. Coverage will improve moving forward since there will now be a person supervising each playground.
7. Term 1 report cards are sent home with students on Wednesday, November 28th. Interview days are Thursday, November 29th from 4:00-8:45 and Friday, November 30th, all day. Letter was sent home with students today (November 20th) outlining process.
8. Congratulations to our Area and Regional Cross Country runners. Another fantastic showing. Our Tyke girls won the east pennant; Atom boys also won the area pennant. Our Juniors were crowned Area winners and our Intermediate girls are the new Regional champions. Well done! A special thank you to Tracey Burton for her dedication and expertise and to Ms. Rocha for her time and commitment. Thank you to our amazing group of parents who helped in every facet – we couldn't do it without you!
9. The UPS book fair is set for November 26-November 30th. Please refer to Community Outreach report for details.
10. The UPS Primary Literacy Night was a success. There were 87 parents who attended and 50 students. The evening ended with a Q and A session and a feedback form – very positive and appreciative comments made. Thank you to the Primary Division under the leadership of Mrs. McGowen-Young and Ms. Worthington.

K. Meeting Adjourned 10:15 p.m.

Next meeting TBC. Proposed for Dec 11. Council members to e-mail JP re availability for that date, and JP will advise whether he elects to proceed with a December meeting. Otherwise Jan 15.