

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Attendance:

Council Members present: Gary Crosby, Debbie Donsky (Principal), JP Gagnon, Tess Georgakopoulos, Karen Harvey, Barbara Hockin, Lorrie-Anne Lauder, Zia McGarry, Pamela Nitert, Connie Prentice, Hilary Seppanen, Carol Takagi (Vice Principal), Jeffrey Smith, Wendy Wang, Earlene Worrall

Council Members absent: Noelle Hunt, Cyrus Mavalwala, Lesley Ruttan

Teacher Reps present:

Guests present: Deb Kline, Heather Baker, Karen Mitas, Emma O'Farrell

A. Welcome

- Council extended a welcome to UPS's new principal, Dr. Debbie Donsky.

B. Meeting Minutes – November 2007

- Motion for approval of the November minutes made by Tess Georgakopoulos and seconded by Gary Crosby. Minutes approved.

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – November and December 2007

- Gary outlined the additional funding requirements within our current budget. We have identified requirements totalling another \$21,000 vs the \$9100 we currently have available.
- Debbie will revisit the remaining priorities for the year. For example, some thoughts arose about athletic requirements that had not been previously identified. Anyone with suggestions for consideration should forward them to Debbie within the next two weeks. Debbie will also poll the staff and will then present priorities to Council in the February meeting.
- Motion for approval of the November 30 financial statement made by Karen Harvey and seconded by Barb Hockin. Financial statement approved.
- Motion for approval of the December 31 financial statement made by Barb Hockin and seconded by Karen Harvey. Financial statement approved.

D. EQAO Results

- Debbie reviewed EQAO results with Council. (Report distributed.) She has analysed the data and has drawn some conclusions about opportunities for improvement. She cautioned that it will take some time to address the issues identified.
- Results across the Board have trended consistently upward over time, while UPS's results are up and down. This indicates that the UPS results are child-dependent, per Debbie, and suggests that teaching has been inconsistent.
- Stronger results for females vs males suggests that we need to better meet the learning needs of our male students. Although this tends to be

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a province-wide phenomenon, it does not happen at all schools. We must figure out why it is happening at UPS and implement improvements.

- Our students are well positioned to achieve in EQAO. We should be able to reach the aspirational goal of 100% of students at/above standard.
- Next steps were identified to improve literacy achievement, consistent with Board direction. When asked about next steps to improve math achievement as well, Debbie noted that guided teaching will also benefit other subject areas.

E. Fundraising Committee Update – Pamela Nitert

- Dance-a-thon will inspire the kids to make a difference themselves by generating donations based on their dancing. The school will be dancing all day, in 20 to 45 minutes blocks by class (more time for older grades).
- Other schools have raised \$10,000+ via similar events.
- Council agreed to proceed with a Dance-a-thon. Timing TBC, with a February date likely.
- Prizes were mentioned as a means of hyping the event, but following discussion, Council suggested limiting them to prizes having low/no monetary value rather than sending a mixed message about “getting” when “giving”. Principal For a Day and class awards will work well, while individual prizes may not be appropriate.
- Pamela will now form a committee to organize the event.

F. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Report distributed. No discussion.

G. Community Outreach Initiatives – Tess Georgakopoulos

- Report distributed. No discussion.

H. House Colours Update – Lesley Ruttan

- Reminder re Wacky Hair Day on Friday.

I. Principal’s Report – Debbie Donsky

- No report issued this month.
- There has been no progress regarding a crossing guard at Kennedy, and the school received no response to the idea about a walking school bus. Glen, who works at the crosswalk in front of the school, is also employed on a temporary basis. Debbie and Carol will provide some recognition for Glen in Pawprints to reinforce his value to the school community.
- Regarding a question about schoolyard supervision, changes are being made to ensure that two staff are supervising at all times (ie. bell at 8:43 to remind staff to head outside for yard duty). Compliance has been an issue, but the design of the schoolyard itself also poses challenges to adequate coverage (ie. lots of blind spots, multiple doors, kindergarten playground at the street, large field with open access to public park/pond).

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- JP raised the issue of the proposed widening of Kennedy, further to e-mails from Cyrus. If parents are concerned and interested, UPS parents could work in conjunction with St. Matthew parents, who have the same safety issue given school boundaries that cross Kennedy, and could formally register the concern by filing a letter with the Town. Pamela will update Cyrus (absent today) about the discussion and next steps will be determined.

J. Meeting Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Next meeting Feb 19th.