

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Attendance:

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

Council Members absent: Christine Gowe, Karyn Toon, Andrew Yip

Teacher Reps present:

Guests present: Elizabeth Richardson, Bill Crothers, Becky Green, Elaine Essery, Karen Hopkins, Fiona Shotbolt, Darla Mitchell, Penny Psarianos, Gloria Nemett, Teri Tworzyanski, Angie Fong, Tess Georgakopoulos, Pam Brickley, Deb Kline

A. Meeting Minutes – March 2007

- Motion for approval of the March minutes made by Tara Tomlinson and seconded by Connie Prentice. Minutes approved.

B. Financials – Gary Crosby - March 2007

- Motion for approval of the March 31 financial statement made by JP Gagnon and seconded by Barbara Hockin. Financial statement approved.

C. Action Teams - Status

a) Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Report attached.
- Still require volunteers for some of the walking school buses for Walking Wednesday on April 25.
- Also need volunteers to sort clothing for the clothing drive.
- Low response to the Fundraising with Flowers program, but still reasonably lucrative since 50% of proceeds go to UPS (\$195 raised). Fall program could be inserted in the package of forms sent home the first week of school and/or offered at the Meet the Teacher event. Agreement to repeat.

b) House Colours – Karyn Toon

- Jersey Day this Friday.

D. School Update – Steve Gardner

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Administrator's Report – April 17, 2007

1. School Council Forum – East (Theme/Topics TBD)
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (6:30 pm snacks)
Middlefield C.I.

- Need Council parents to attend School Council Forum on May 8. Topic to be announced next week.

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2. The MOE provided school boards with funding to provide tutoring to struggling students. UPS submitted a proposal. The program is Monday and Wednesdays in the AM (8:00) for grades 1-4 and 3:45 PM for grade 5 & 6. Groups are approximately 5- 6 students. Four UPS teachers are acting as tutors for the 8 week program.
 - Goal of tutoring is to boost literacy.
3. Kindergarten registration continues we are close to capacity. Overflow site has yet to be determined. Transfer requests are being held until first week in May.
4. Arts Night at Markham Theatre was a wonderful performance. The theatre was near capacity and I have received many positive comments from parents via phone calls and e-mail. A special thank you is extended to all of our parents for their support and to parents who helped with backstage supervision. It certainly was a long night but one that was very worthwhile. Our staff was incredible in all of their efforts.
 - UPSAC offers its congratulations and thanks to all staff and volunteers who played a role in the flawless execution of UPS Arts Night last evening. It was a fantastic experience for students and audience alike!
5. Reminder that “Parenting – the Net Generation” will be held on April 24th. Please RSVP to Deb Kline by April 20th.
 - Suggestion to send “Parenting – the Net Generation” invitation electronically since not all parents received the hard copy.

E. Agenda Items for May Meeting

- Fundraising, planning for June teacher social/meeting, September planning, homework and dress code policy, approval to wording for amendment to Constitution (from March minutes)

F. Information Session: New Sports High School

- Elizabeth Richardson, Trustee; Bill Crothers, Board Chair, YRDSB; Becky Green, Principal

- School currently being built, to open in Sept 2008 – designed to be built in phases, allowing for additional sports facilities to be added if/when funded by the government
- 4 storeys, with entire bottom level devoted to sports facilities
- 32 acre site, partially on flood plain – system of community trails to be designed, with current flooding controlled – 3 playing fields, one intended to be all-weather (as funded by the Board) – seating cannot be permanent given direction of the Conservation Authority re the flood plain, but

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temporary seating can be included – Town of Markham has agreed to upgrade the other two playing fields to include all-weather turf (permitting play 8 or 9 months of the year), while also installing lighting on all three fields

- Larger than other secondary schools
- Developed in recognition that existing programs are aimed at developing students who excel academically or in the arts, but there is currently no comparable program to develop athletic ability
- Will be no set attendance area for this particular school – not a community school but rather a regional school
- Criteria for admission to the school not yet determined – athletes may be provincially or nationally ranked; there will be an application process
- Holistic application including written piece, references from teacher/coach, “conversation” (as opposed to formal interview) about how they view the school and their fit within it, and a group dynamic among several students invited in for the conversation
- Looking to achieve diversity, but no “quotas” per se
- Streaming and curriculum development will be similar to handling of the arts program
- Support will be provided for long absences required for training in each student’s particular sport – geared to students interested in a career in athletics
- Considering concept of balanced school year – meets needs of a lot of athletes/students, with shorter summer break supplemented by other breaks during the year
- “Healthy active living” school concept to be reflected in eating facilities, requirement for year-round health and physical education program, etc.
- Will meet Ontario curriculum guidelines, ie. 30 credits required for graduation, 80 hours of community service – goal to permit athletes to achieve that within the typical 4 years (currently a challenge given their other time commitments)
- By grade 11/12, students will move into different programs/packages, ie. sports medicine focus, etc.
- Will roll out in the fall with meetings across the area - also website linked to the Board, with principal Becky Green as key contact – communication plan will encompass newspapers as well as elementary schools
- School motto: “Love of learning through sport, love of sport through learning” – intended to reinforce that athletics and academics needn’t be mutually exclusive
- Governed by OFSAA – students entering the school must declare their first sport, then will not be eligible for the school team in that sport – intent is not to dominate school leagues
- Note that when the arts program began at Unionville HS, net effect was not to drain the other schools of the best arts students (an initial concern) but rather to raise the bar at all schools and inspire the development of exceptionally strong arts programs at many schools in the region

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- Objective upon opening is 250 grade 9 students and 250 grade 10, but may shift to larger proportion of grade 9 depending on interest – Enterprise Drive will not be completed initially, so agreement with city/neighbours to restrict enrolment at the beginning – will build to 1300 students over time – a grade will be added each year
- Note that Dance falls within the arts program at Unionville High School
- A sports facility is slated to be built just south of the school (dependent upon government funding, timing TBD) – expected to include a swimming facility capable of hosting national meets
- Bussing TBD, with some provision likely for students from outside Markham
- School to be called Bill Crothers Secondary School

G. Meeting Adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting May 15.