

# Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

## **Attendance:**

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

**Council Members absent:** Noelle Hunt, Zia McGarry, Jeffrey Smith

**Teacher Reps present:**

**Guests present:** Deb Kline, Karen Mitas, Diane Loveys, Catherine Hankins

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## **A. Welcome**

## **B. Meeting Minutes – March 2008**

- Motion for approval of the March minutes made by Gary Crosby and seconded by Pamela Nitert. Minutes approved.

## **C. Financials – Gary Crosby – February 2008 (revised) and March 2008**

- Motion for approval of the revised February financial statement made by Karen Harvey and seconded by Barbara Hockin. Financials approved.
- Given revenue of \$5454 from the Dance-a-thon (to date, with a few additional forms still trickling in), we now have \$6000 available for additional investment.
- Motion for approval of the March financial statement made by Barbara Hockin and seconded by Karen Harvey. Financials approved.

## **D. Dance-a-thon Post-Mortem – Pamela Nitert**

- 179 pledge forms were submitted, 44% of students – quite strong participation for the first event of its kind at UPS.
- Average donation of \$30.41. Would contributions have been larger with a higher goal/student, or perhaps with no goal communicated?
- Highly successful with elementary and junior classes, less clear for intermediate given reluctance to actually dance.
- Pamela will set a meeting to plan for 2008/09 fundraising, at which time 'lessons learned' will be considered. Suggestion to itemize all monetary requests throughout the year. Debbie will seek feedback from teachers about the dance-a-thon so it can be optimized when repeated.

## **E. Remaining Budget for 2008 – Gary Crosby**

- Agreed that Council should budget for maintenance of the playground equipment next year (and ongoing) given projected need and the fact that Council originally installed the equipment.
- Classroom Allocation has been removed from the budget since Debbie prefers to save on the small expenditures across classrooms in order to more effectively spend against larger, more meaningful investments.

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- Proposal made that the \$3000 from Classroom Allocation could be redirected to playground maintenance, which is a priority given safety concerns. Will be brought forward for approval next meeting.
- Proposal that Yearly Operating Expenses be budgeted at \$2000. Will also be brought forward for approval next meeting.
- Re Athletics, the gym mat that we considered replacing can instead be repaired for \$100, which Debbie will fund from the school budget.
- Mr. Chin reviewed jerseys used across all sports at UPS. First priority is junior boys basketball, with recommendation to buy the same reversible jerseys as the girls wear, but in red to coordinate with existing red shorts. Cost would be \$900 for 20 jerseys with shorts, or \$650 for the minimum requirement of 15 jerseys.
- These jerseys would be too warm to wear for cross-country. Suggestion to wear the UPS t-shirt that has now been introduced for individual purchase for gym class, with solid navy shorts. Alternatively, some of the existing large shirts could be shortened for a better fit on smaller runners. Could get single layer mini-mesh jerseys for approximately \$20 each, which could be used for cross-country as well as track and field.
- Debbie will investigate the acceptability of sponsorship on additional jerseys.
- Based on Mr. Chin's presentation, Council agreed to direct the \$1000 budgeted for Athletics toward 15 basketball jerseys for \$650, with \$350 for purchase of small size singlets. Passed by vote.

## **F. Lunch Program – Gary Crosby and Lorrie-Anne Lauder**

- Kids Kitchen services 40 schools and the menu appears solid.
- Gary will complete comparison of Kids Kitchen to L&D Fun Foods for next meeting.
- Suggestion to solicit input from the broader school community (ie. regarding desired healthiness of food options, cost, etc.) Debbie will put a notice in the next Pawprints and include the Council e-mail address for input.

## **G. Teachers' Appreciation – Karen Harvey**

- Agreed to repeat last year's approach of providing a lunch in the staff room. Well received by teachers last year. Will consist of sandwich and vegetable trays (purchased – not a large expenditure) along with a variety of home-baked desserts. Agreement that this is a worthwhile gesture and an appropriate use of Council funds.
- Karen will again coordinate the event. She will set a date with Debbie well in advance.

## **H. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice**

- For Earth Week, students will be asked to make a pledge related to protecting the earth (ie. to walk to school every day, to regularly bring a litterless lunch).

## **I. Community Outreach – Tess Georgakopoulos**

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- Report pre-issued and reviewed.

## **J. House Colours – Lesley Ruttan**

- Karen Harvey and Karyn Toon will assist Lesley in planning the year-end award lunch.

## **K. Principal's Report – Debbie Donsky**

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

## **Principal's Report—School Council, UPSAC**

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Tuesday April 14, 2008

1. *Meeting with the Town of Markham re: Crossing Guard at Kennedy Road and Bridal Trail*  
Currently there is a crossing guard at the intersection.

### MEETING INFORMATION

Date: April 10, 2008

### ATTENDEES:

Debbie Donsky, Principal – Unionville Public School  
Paul Imrie, President – Staffing Services  
Joe Virgilio, Ward 3 Councillor  
Domenic Smarrelli, Traffic Operations Supervisor – Town of Markham  
David Porretta, Traffic Operations Technologist – Town of Markham

### NEXT STEPS

Following our meeting, discussing the situation of the school crossing guard at Kennedy Road & The Bridle Trail, the following is a list of “next steps” that are to be implemented:

- i. Paul will be requesting feedback from the crossing guard at the intersection of Kennedy Road & the Bridle Trail regarding pedestrian/vehicle conflicts, aggressive driving behaviour, etc. and report back to Traffic Operations staff.
  - ii. Councillor Virgilio, Paul and Transportation staff have volunteered their time to attend a future Parent Council meeting, at the discretion of Debbie, to meet with the community regarding:
    - a. School Crossing Guard staffing
    - b. Active & Safe Routes to School program
    - c. Re-enforcing how to cross at a signalized intersection (i.e. utilizing pedestrian push buttons)
  - iii. Consideration will be given to requesting assistance of the two Ratepayers Associations with respect to recruitment of local community members for available school crossing guard positions in the area.
  - iv. Transportation staff will be providing Debbie the School Safety Zone and Traffic Signals brochures for distribution to students and parents.
  - v. Transportation staff to consider removal and/or reallocation of the noon crossing guard shift due to the lack of children crossing during this time.
- The crossing guard currently in place at Kennedy and Bridle Trail is being paid at higher than the typical rate, so it seems that budget was approved based on our phonecalls.
  - Town of Markham proposed potentially removing or reallocating the crossing guard at lunch time, but Debbie expressed concern that those students may in fact be at greater risk given the smaller number of children travelling home at that time and reduced visibility.

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2. *Sports Uniforms*

In consultation with the staff, the feedback I have received is that they would prefer to have new uniforms for the Junior Boys' Basketball rather than Cross Country. They would like to see students wearing the school gym uniform for cross country. There is a difference of opinion on this issue between staff and school council.

3. *Citizenship Ceremony*

Mr. Farber organized a beautiful ceremony for New Canadians to take the Oath of Citizenship and receive their citizenship at UPS on Wednesday April 2. The ceremony was attended by 32 New Canadians, Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Town of Markham, Councillor Joseph Virgilio, Ward 3, Town of Markham, Councillor John Webster, Ward 5, Town of Markham, Trustee Elizabeth Richardson and officiated by Judge Philip Gaynor.

Mr. Farber's students presented poetry, essays and songs including their own version of "*This Land is Your Land*".

4. *Lunch Programs*

Special thanks to Karen Ingram-Mak for arranging four programs for our students at lunch time. The programs currently running at UPS are:

- i. Kids Craft Company on Mondays—Cooking, Arts and Crafts
- ii. Kids Fun Factory on Tuesdays (two classrooms)—Dinosaurs
- iii. Mad Science on Thursdays (two classrooms)

- Based on the strong reception for the new lunch programs, suggestion to expand for next year.

5. *Teams*

Intermediate Girls' B Ball won the Regional Championship and came in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 12 teams in the GTA Championship.

Junior Girls' B Ball won the Area Tournament.

Junior Boys' B Ball won Redstone Invitational tournament.

6. *Playground*

New report from SAFEplay Recreation completed November 2007 and presented by Douglas Smith from YRDSB Plant Technician. (Estimates to follow)

- Estimate for playground maintenance is \$2200. Funding to be approved next meeting (as discussed in section E of agenda).

**L. Meeting Adjourned 9:15 p.m.**

**Next meeting May 20th.**