

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Attendance:

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

Council Members absent: Zia McGarry, Jeffrey Smith, Wendy Wang

Teacher Reps present: Elizabeth Dyer

Guests present: Deb Kline, Heather Baker, Karen Mitas, Jasmin Schiralli

A. Welcome

B. Meeting Minutes – May 2008

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

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – May 2008

- Motion for approval of the May financial statement made by Lorrie-Anne Lauder and seconded by Tess Georgakopoulos. Financials approved.

D. Lunch Program (reprise)

- Suggestion to maintain the fun Fridays that are most popular with students and parents (75% of the business), while eliminating the other lunches in order to reduce waste.
- Could survey parents to better understand wants/needs in September. Debbie is utilizing an online survey service for other school needs and we could easily add a few questions regarding lunch options.
- Agreed to begin 2008/09 school year with continuation of fun Fridays through L&D, then conduct a survey to determine appropriate lunches to add, if any. Gary will advise L&D, and pass on a request to substitute relatively more “healthy” snack chips such as Sun Chips or baked varieties.

E. Fundraising 2008/09 – Pamela Nitert

- Discussed the proposed revision to fundraising strategy, as developed by the fundraising sub-team.
- Intent is to simplify UPS fundraising efforts to reduce the number of times that we approach families for money, whether for our own fundraising or for community outreach. Based upon consideration of other schools, UPS appears to currently exceed the norm.
- Council expressed support for the term-based approach, with full communication upfront. The most significant change is incorporation of the community outreach initiatives so everything is communicated at once.
- Following overall endorsement by Council, specific elements were debated. There was some concern about the most significant fundraising occurring later in the year (silent auction in February) given the need to

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invest funds early. Silent auction timing in November would also be ideal for holiday gifting so there was a proposal to switch Dance-a-thon and Silent Auction, but the challenge would be pulling it together that quickly. Consensus was reached that it is more important to have sufficient time to execute the new Silent Auction with excellence. Debbie provided reassurance that delaying acquisition of new equipment to later in the school year will be manageable.

- Dance-a-thon is more inclusive (ie. more families took part than in the Investment in Education campaign in 2007/08 school year) and involves students more directly. If it takes the place of Investment in Education in term 1, contributions will logically increase versus this year's Dance-a-thon. \$5,600 was raised via Dance-a-thon this year at the first event of this kind for UPS. Council concluded that we may be able to match the \$12,000 raised by Investment in Education via a term 1 Dance-a-thon, with timing of receipts only a few weeks later.
- The handling of grade 8 graduation fundraising remains to be fully resolved. Discussion will be required with grade 8 parents next year. While Council assistance with grad fundraising may be appreciated, a concern was voiced that parents may feel removed from preparations. However, it's essential that we eliminate some of the other fundraisers previously utilized if we want to hold to the strategy of fewer monetary requests over the year. In addition, removing Candygrams and Freezie Fridays is consistent with healthy living principles and reduces allergen/food safety concerns at the school.
- Following discussion, Council enthusiastically supported the proposed fundraising strategy.
- In communication to parents, it is important to highlight the difference between community dollars and school dollars. Pamela will revise the draft communication for September based upon feedback received.

F. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Congratulations to UPS for achieving Gold level Eco-School certification! We were one of only 4 schools awarded Gold out of the 12 schools that achieved designations under the Eco-School Certification program this year.
- Mulch day was a tremendous success, with great work done by students.
- A summer watering schedule is in development.

G. School Colours – Lesley Ruttan

- Report issued.

H. Community Outreach – Tess Georgakopoulos

- Report issued.

I. Principal's Report – Debbie Donsky

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

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Principal's Report—School Council, UPSAC

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1. *Organization Number 2*

JK/SK am ASD	Grade 3/4
JK/SK pm ASD	Grade 4/5
JK/SK am	Grade 5
JK/SK pm	Grade 5/6
JK/SK M/W Alt F	Grade 6
JK/SK T/Th Alt F	J/I MID
Grade 1	J/I ASD
Grade 1/2	Grade 7
Grade 2	Grade 7/8
Grade 2/3	Grade 8

- For split classes, effort was made to get the classes as close to ½ and ½ as possible, versus having only a few students from one of the grades.
- Placement discussions were focused on positives, placing students based on their strengths in order to optimize success.
- Concern expressed about a split grade 7/8 class since grade 8 is the transition year to high school, but Debbie noted that a split 6/7 is worse since 7s and 8s are on a rotary schedule while 6s are not.
- Age was not specifically a consideration in split placements.

2. *School Plan for Continuous Improvement*

- *Teachers link Assessment for Learning with Balanced Literacy Approaches*
 - Teachers plan and make timely decisions for balanced literacy instruction including modelled, shared, guided and independent instruction.
 - Teachers use formative assessment to guide instructional decisions for ALL students and have evidence to support these decisions (reading assessment portfolio).
- *Teachers differentiate instruction for all students.*
 - Students are achieving a level three or above at their grade level in reading.
 - Evidence of formative assessment and differentiated instruction in unit and day plans
- *School Culture is a safe, supportive and respectful learning environment for all students, staff and community members by having restorative and culturally proficient practices permeate all aspects of the school.*
 - Staff and students develop understanding and strategies for bully prevention and restorative approaches.
 - Cultural Proficiency is practiced in all classrooms, throughout the school and with community.
- *Organizational structures maximize communication and collaboration for all staff members.*
 - Staff, Divisional and Lead meetings support the implementation and monitoring of the SPCI.
 - Shared planning time for Grade Teams and Case Management Meetings occur regularly to support increased student achievement in reading comprehension.

J. Meeting Adjourned 9:10 p.m.