

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Attendance:

Council Members present: Noor Al-Shaikh, Gary Crosby, Debbie Donsky (Principal), JP Gagnon, Tess Georgakopoulos, Catherine Hankins, Noelle Hunt, Lorrie-Anne Lauder, Karen Mitas, Pamela Nitert, Connie Prentice, Hilary Seppanen, Jodi Wilson, Earlene Worrall

Council Members absent: Karen Harvey, Carol Takagi (Vice Principal), Karyn Toon, Ruchi Vij

Teacher Reps present: Elizabeth Dyer

Guests present: Leanne Crosby, Jasmin Schiralli, Diane Loveys

A. Welcome

B. Meeting Minutes – Earlene Worrall – Oct 2008

- Motion for approval of the October minutes made by Gary Crosby and seconded by JP Gagnon. Minutes approved.

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – Oct 2008

- Motion for approval of the October financial statement made by Karen Mitas and seconded by Noor Al-Shaikh. Financials approved.

D. Hilary Report – Hilary Seppanen

- There was brief discussion around the intent of the Principal's Profile (previously circulated electronically). It is intended to permit parental input into desired characteristics of the Principal for UPS. The document is kept on file with the Board and utilized to assess the fit of Principal candidates when a move is being considered. Council members, and other parents having interest in this process, are invited to provide additional input to Hilary via e-mail over the next month, for approval at next Council meeting.
- There are now 161 e-mail addresses registered for online communication.

E. 2008/09 UPSAC Budget Approval – Gary Crosby

- Gary reviewed his financial summary, showing total available funds including estimated receipts for the balance of the year (most significantly Silent Auction) relative to purchase requests.
- Debbie's "wish list" totals \$14,424 plus \$4,732 required for playground repairs, for total purchase requests of \$19,710. We will ideally close the year with \$6,000 remaining to start off the next academic year, resulting in 2008/09 requirements totalling \$25,710.
- Half of the required funds are available now (\$12,855), with the balance yet to be raised via Silent Auction, Lunch Program and Magazine Subscriptions.
- Gary raised the point that Council would be well-advised to take advantage of the Board's technology cost share program by purchasing more SmartBoards. Pamela noted that, based upon the recent Silent Auction meeting, there appears to be considerable parental interest in increasing student access to SmartBoards. Although not part of Debbie's

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

purchase request list, a line for Technology Cost Share has been included on the voting list in order to permit Council to approve such an expenditure “in principle”, with no specific dollar amount associated.

- Council discussed the potential to have a SmartBoard display available for Parent/Teacher Interviews, in order to highlight past use of funds as well as utilizing the technology to showcase plans for this year (most notably library and playground). Connie has discussed this with Mr. Norquay and he may have students available to run the demonstration; Debbie will confirm given that it's a very busy time of year.
- Council debated concerns around committing funds that we do not yet have. If we do not raise as much as estimated, there is the risk that we may be unable to fund all the requests approved tonight. While Council has confidence in Debbie's prioritization, there was concern that the reality of spending could become time-based rather than truly aligned with priorities.
- Debbie reviewed her prioritization and questions of clarification were addressed.
- Agreed to proceed with the vote, focusing on either supporting the nature of the expenditures with a “for” vote or expressing reservations with an “against” vote.
- All purchase requests were approved with at least 75% “yes” votes.

F. School Council Forum – Debbie Donsky

- Debbie, Hilary, Gary and JP recently attended the School Council Forum. They shared learning/perspectives with the rest of Council.
- Agreed to review SPCI (School Plan for Continuous Improvement) in detail in January.
- Debbie highlighted the opportunity for an increased level of community engagement. She will evolve the SPCI with input from Council over the course of this academic year. Certain elements from the Board Plan for Continuous Improvement could be more strongly incorporated into the SPCI for UPS.
- Ideally UPSAC would devote more time to discussing broader issues such as those addressed in SPCI, rather than focusing to such a large degree on raising and distributing funds.
- Gary discovered that UPS is unusual in terms of its charitable status (set up in 1976). Generally the Board issues charitable tax receipts for donations to schools, rather than individual Councils. At a later date we will consider the possibility of revising UPS's status.

G. Fundraising Committee – Pamela Nitert

- Pamela shared committee decisions regarding the Silent Auction.
- Council agreed that Varley Art Gallery will not work as a venue given cost and the large number of items not included (ie. Council would have to source even the linens). As with the committee, there is reluctance to spend \$9000 for Angus Glen. Pamela agreed to confirm cost for alternative York Downs as well as Crystal Fountain, then make the decision.

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

- Council discussed the importance of understanding the cancellation policy for the venue, in case ticket sales are not to the level anticipated. The survey will assist in firming up projections. In particular, Council suggests confirming acceptable ticket price.
- Connie also reviewed the specifics of the upcoming Book Fair. Council supports the three elements of Book Fair: (1) the usual Scholastic Book Fair, (2) the community outreach component regarding passing on donated books to the Toronto Breakfast Club, and (3) Donate a Book to UPS involving purchasing a book specifically identified as needed for the UPS library with recognition via a bookplate.

H. Principal's Report – Debbie Donsky

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Principal's Report—School Council, UPSAC

Tuesday November 18, 2008

1. Food Policy Committee

- We are seeking community involvement in setting a school policy around food including:
- Debbie needs parents to work on Food Policy. Tess, Karen and Hilary volunteered.

2. Principal's Profile (Hilary)

3. School Plan for Continuous Improvement

- New template, model based on Board Plan for Continuous Improvement

4. School Council Forum

- School Council Journal-Tracking progress based on SPCI and Parameters for Community Involvement

5. Wish List (In Order of Priority)

i. Teacher Release Days

Cost: 15 days @ \$212.72/day=\$3190.80

ii. Physical Education

Cost: Cross Country Uniforms approx \$500.00

iii. Playground Budget

Cost: \$3000.00

iv. Library Cost: \$5000.00

v. Music Program Cost \$912.00

vi. Media Literacy and Technology

Cost: Listening Centres for Primary Classrooms 5 @ \$125.00 = \$625.00
Television Set with DVD player approx \$1000.00

vii. Cost Sharing for following items:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Digital Video Camera approx | \$116.89 |
| 2. Smartboard | \$4200.54/pkg* |

Total Fundraising \$ Requested:

Teacher Release Days \$3190.80
Media Literacy and Technology \$1704.89

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Camera	\$ 116.89
Physical Education	\$ 500.00
Library	\$5000.00
Playground	\$3000.00
<u>Music Program</u>	<u>\$ 912.00</u>
TOTAL	\$14,424.58

* Based on interest from the fundraising committee, smartboards have been added to the wish list as “big ticket” items for the silent auction. If we want to go for the goal of a Smartboard in every classroom, we may want to go for the package with brackets rather than rollers which would be a slightly different cost. The cost for Smartboards are not included in the total fundraising amount but will be purchased if the silent auction raises enough funds.

7a. Smartboard Package Elementary					\$ 4,200.54
a. Smartboard c/w stand	Duplicom	SB680	1	\$ 1,724.00	\$ 1,724.00
b. HP Notebook Computer - bundle #50950	HP	HP 6510B	1	\$ 1,456.00	\$ 1,456.00
c. LCD Projector	Office Depot	Epson 83+	1	\$ 626.09	\$ 626.09
d. 1 day Professional Development	YRDSB		1	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
e. Speakers	Office Depot	Logitech X240	1	\$ 39.50	\$ 39.50
f. Cart 42" with larger surface area	Schoolhouse Products	42M4	1	\$ 105.50	\$ 105.50
g. Laptop security kit	Office Depot	Targus 64-840	1	\$ 44.50	\$ 44.50
h. Safety tie down Kit	Schoolhouse Products	SBRT	1	\$ 19.95	\$ 19.95
i. Setup by Duplicom	Duplicom		1	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00

I. Environmental Committee – Connie Prentice

- Report was issued.

J. Community Outreach Initiatives – Tess Georgakopoulos

- Education regarding Asperger’s syndrome was well received.

K. House Colours – Karen Mitas

- Karen praised the great leadership exhibited by the grade 8 students during last week’s House Colour event.

L. Other Matters

- JP advised Council of the Premier’s Awards for Teaching Excellence. Nominations are due by January 31/09 and may be submitted online at ontario.ca/teachingawards.
- Agreed that there will be no Council meeting in December.

M. Meeting Adjourned 9:25 p.m.

Next meeting January 20.