

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Attendance:

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

Council Members absent:

Teacher Reps present: Elizabeth Dyer, Will Stokes

Guests present:

A. Welcome

B. Meeting Minutes – Earlene Worrall – Sept 2008

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

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – Sept 2008

- Recommendation to set aside \$3000 reserve for operating expenses plus \$3000 for playground maintenance. As background, Council carried forward \$6195 from the 2007/08 school year and agreed to establish the objective of also ending the year with a \$6000 balance for next year. Timing of requirements may dictate drawing down the balance (ie. in advance of the Silent Auction in February '09), but Council will keep the spring maintenance in mind and rebuild the fund. There was no objection to holding a contingency reserve for playground maintenance.
- Motion for approval of the September financial statement made by Lorrie-Anne Lauder and seconded by Connie Prentice. Financials approved.

D. Hilary Report – Hilary Seppanen

- Applying for a grant to prepare welcome packages for families who are new to the school community. Application due to Ministry of Education on Friday.
- Interested in thoughts re means of collecting more e-mail addresses for electronic communication to parents.

E. Volunteer Database – Lorrie-Anne Lauder

- Again this year we have a very strong volunteer group within our school community. Council thanks all parents who expressed interest in assisting during the year.

F. SmartBoard Presentation – Elizabeth Dyer

- Elizabeth Dyer shared a presentation highlighting various uses for the school's SmartBoard technology. Council members found it to be an engaging teaching tool.
- UPS currently has 3 SmartBoards, with a 4th on order for Special Ed.
- Intended to be hands-on for students, SmartBoards are an interactive technology particularly well-suited to Primary grades.
- Intent is to share the presentation with a broader group of parents as opportunities present themselves during the year. Tight leadtimes did

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not permit preparation on time for Curriculum Night, as had been suggested at the last Council meeting.

G. Music Program – Will Stokes

- Concert band will perform at three festivals during this school year, as well as staging performances at Markville Pops and UPS Arts Night in spring 2009, both events at Markham Theatre.
- The two iMacs purchased by Council last year are being used for recording, theory and composition in practice rooms.
- Asset management has been improved this year via the new electronic instrument sign-out procedure.
- Will shared with Council the needs for the 2008/09 music program.
- 42 of UPS's 82 instruments underwent repair over the summer (beyond regular maintenance, for the first time in ten years), in order to offset regular wear and tear. This work utilized virtually all of the "repair blanket P.O.". While fewer monthly repairs will be required given the significant overhaul, a repair budget must be established; Will estimates \$912.

H. Principal's Report / Budget Requests – Debbie Donsky

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Principal's Report—School Council, UPSAC

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1. Food and Celebration

Seeking parental input regarding food policy in the school on classroom food policies as well as school policies for food during celebrations and holidays while considering the following:

- Safe snacks and anaphylaxis
- Healthy eating habits
- Potential exists to create a committee to review practices around food and celebration, given concerns about allergy risks and promoting healthy eating habits. Interested parents should e-mail Debbie.
- The consensus is to request that teachers focus celebrations within snack time rather than taking away from teaching time.
- Additionally, home-baked food cannot be accepted. Parents should limit their contributions to packaged treats that are clearly labelled nut-free.
- A suggestion was made to celebrate with something other than food when parents/students wish to contribute something to the class (ie. special pencils).
- Hallowe'en celebrations are not prohibited.

2. Wish List

Teacher Release Days

Request: Teacher release days for sporting events, arts events and cultural events

Rationale: UPS participates in many events including sporting events, arts events and cultural events. Occasional teacher support allows our staff to take the students to these events.

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

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Media Literacy and Technology

Request: Listening Centres for Primary Classrooms
Television Set with DVD player
Digital Video Camera

Rationale: This year is the first full implementation year of our Media Literacy strand in the language curriculum. Through additional media literacy and technology supports, we hope to offer our students access to tools that will facilitate learning in this area.

Cost: Listening Centres for Primary Classrooms 5 @ \$125.00 = \$625.00
Television Set with DVD player approx \$1000.00
Digital Video Camera approx \$750.00

Physical Education

Request: Continue to build on new uniforms for our cross country and track teams

Rationale: Our students go to events wearing a variety of uniforms that have been purchased over the years. Last year a proposal was put forth to purchase new uniforms so our kids “look” like the team that they are. Shirts were purchased and a proposal to add to this has been made.

Cost: Cross Country Uniforms approx \$500.00

Library

Request: Continue to purchase new and engaging texts for our library to ensure that all curriculum areas are represented in our collection as well as a variety of genres and authors for our students to access.

Rationale: Last year, our librarian began to cull the library to ensure that all books in our collection were appropriate and had accurate information. This process will take time to improve. We would like to request continued support to provide these books for our students.

Cost: \$5000.00

Playground Repairs

Request: Request to include annual allotment of funds to support the playground.

Rationale: Last year we had close to \$3500.00 in repairs from the year previous and an additional \$1650.00 in repairs in the spring. These playgrounds were built many years ago and will continue to cost the school money to ensure that they are safe for students to use.

Cost: A fund of \$3000.00 per year allocated to playground repairs

Music Program

Request: Continued support for repairs of musical instruments

Music Program

Request: Request to increase the instrumental music repair P.O. for Concert Band instruments.

Rationale: Summer repairs were higher than anticipated: \$890.44 from 2007/2008 P.O. and \$1850.94 from 2008 / 2009 P.O. Instrument repair is vital for students to play successfully, and continued maintenance is an expensive but necessary part of a strong instrumental music culture.

Cost: Requesting \$912.00 for instrument repair, as new blanket P.O. or as increase to P.O. E480001464 to Jay L. Gemmill Woodwind & Brasswind Repair & Restoration.

Total Fundraising \$ Requested:

Teacher Release Days	\$3190.80
Media Literacy and Technology	\$2375.00
Physical Education	\$ 500.00
Library	\$5000.00
Playground Repairs	\$3000.00
Music Program	\$ 912.00

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TOTAL \$14 977.80

- Debbie will investigate Board technology cost-sharing, as it may apply to the required technology (TV, DVD player, digital video camera).
- Agreed that Council will vote next meeting re approval of budget requests (conditional upon adequate funds being raised). In preparation, Debbie will prioritize her requests and attach timing, while Gary will prepare ballots.

I. Fundraising Committee – Pamela Nitert

- Fundraising Committee met prior to Council to finalize plans for the Dance-a-thon. Council endorsed the Committee's recommendations regarding adding lighting, encouraging students to bring their own water rather than distributing bottled water this year, and holding off on buttons until the Silent Auction.
- Cookie dough brochures will arrive at the end of October, with product delivery for Dec 12. Cookie dough sales will again fund grade 8 graduation, but sales are being opened up to the entire school. More details will be forthcoming once Karen Harvey meets with the grad committee. Karen will investigate on-line ordering option.

J. Environmental Committee – Connie Prentice

- Connie is looking for assistance in the gardens. Bulb planting will take place Oct 27, and leaf removal could be accomplished the same day while the equipment is out.
- Suggestion to post yardwork checklist on the website and at the school door, since parents sometimes spend time at the school during the day and would be interested in helping (ie. particularly JK/SK parents when picking up or dropping off children mid-day).

K. Community Outreach Initiatives – Tess Georgakopoulos

- Terry Fox run raised over \$3800.

L. House Colours – Karen Mitas

- House Colour captains (grade 8) have been appointed and activity days set (one per month November to June).

M. Other Matters

- Unionville Business Association has invited UPS to their Remembrance Day ceremony, involving a parade and placing a wreath in front of Crosby arena. Agreement that we will participate. Debbie will request more details.

N. Meeting Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Next meeting November 18.