

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Attendance:

Council Members present (previous and current Council): Gary Crosby, JP Gagnon, Steve Gardner (Principal), Tess Georgakopoulos, Karen Harvey, Barbara Hockin, Lorrie-Anne Lauder, Cyrus Mavalwala, Zia McGarry, Pamela Nitert, Connie Prentice, Lesley Ruttan, Hilary Seppanen, Carol Takagi (Vice Principal), Tara Tomlinson, Karyn Toon, Wendy Wang, Earlene Worrall

Council Members absent (current Council): Noelle Hunt, Jeffrey Smith

Teacher Reps present: Will Stokes

Guests present: Karen Mitas, Deb Kline, Kim Pryor, Laurie Zukow

A. Introductions & Overview of Meeting

- Great to see so many new faces! (Both new to Council and new to the school).

B. Meeting Minutes – May 2007

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

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – May & June 2007, Overview of 2006/07

- Motion for approval of the May 31 financial statement made by Barbara Hockin and seconded by Karyn Toon. Financial statement approved.
- Motion for approval of the June 30 financial statement made by Connie Prentice and seconded by JP Gagnon. Financial statement approved.
- Financial overview for previous school year discussed, with revenue and expense items briefly explained for new Council members.
- Earlene raised concern about declining balance of available funds moving into each year (ie. entered 2005/06 school year with \$24,844, that dropped to \$13,649 for '06/07 and further declined to \$9,362 for this year). Suggests that we have less capacity for continued investment over time, or will need to ramp up fundraising at some point. Council agreed to attempt to quantify investment needs for this year, as we may require additional fundraising to cover everything. Must be cognizant of that upfront, when launching the monetary campaign (ie. can we safely commit to that being the sole fundraising effort for the year, as in past?)

D. Changeover of Council

- 2007/08 UPSAC executive established as follows:
 - Chair JP Gagnon
 - Vice Chair TBD
 - Treasurer Gary Crosby
 - Secretary Earlene Worrall
- Filling the Vice Chair position was deferred until new members gain familiarity with Council, since this commitment carries over into the next year as Chair. To be addressed in November meeting.

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- Action Team Co-ordinators appointed as follows:
 - Spirit Team/ House Colours Lesley Ruttan
 - With detailed transition and ongoing assistance from Karyn Toon.
 - Fundraising Committee Pamela Nitert
 - With assistance from Kim Pryor and Karen Mitas, as well as others TBC from Lorie-Anne's volunteer list
 - Discussion about effectiveness of monetary donation campaign, which generated \$11,955 last year (96% of prior year). Steve also briefly reviewed anticipated investment requirements to assess whether fundraising efforts will need to be intensified. Requirements to be summarized for next meeting.
 - Idea to establish a target so we have something for which to aim. Base target on itemized list of needs.
 - Community Outreach Co-ordinator Tess Georgakopoulos
 - Volunteer Co-ordinator Lorrie-Anne Lauder
 - Environmental Committee Connie Prentice
- Suggestion re pre-issuing updates electronically (beyond agenda and financials) in order to expedite meetings by focusing only on items requiring discussion.

E. Overview of Music Program at UPS – Will Stokes

- Fantastic accomplishments for the music program last year (ie. Arts Night, award-winning concert band).
- UPS owns 77 instruments, approximately a 1:3 ratio to music students - much better than most elementary schools (average closer to 1:6). Past objective has been to enhance stock of instruments for intermediate program, with considerable success.
- Objective this year is to upgrade the music room to assist in execution of primary program, particularly given the loss of Mrs. Dewberry's leadership in this area. Available Mac-based computer programs are accessible to non-music-specialist teachers. Have Mac books available, have the rooms (practice room and music room). Would ideally require 5 iMacs (software included) at cost of approx \$1500 each, but could manage with 2. Board cost-share applies.
- Mr. Stokes is also working with the primary teachers to assist in their music learning-curve and awareness of support available.

F. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Will integrate student eco-team (ie. those attending Eco-Camp next week) with the environmental committee. Kick-off meeting has been delayed to facilitate student participation.
- New eco-board has also been established to post environmental information, inform about events, etc.
- Oct 3 is walk-to-school day.
- 19 orders for bulbs, from which we get half the proceeds (equals \$395). Also some free bulbs for use at the school.

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G. School Update – Steve Gardner

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

Administrator's Report

Unionville Public School

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Steve Gardner & Carol Takagi

1. Grade 7's and 8's had a wonderful experience at Camp Muskoka and Pinecrest respectively. Thank you to our staff: Mr. Chin, Mr. Scagnetti, Mrs. Kattis, Mr. Norquay, Ms. Rocha.
2. A crossing guard is still needed for Kennedy Road and Bridle Trail and Main Street and Bridle Trail. Ms. Takagi and Mr. Gardner have inquired as to other support being put in place. Fire Department was contacted and they cannot provide the service. We met with an officer from the York Regional Police regarding the CAA School Safety Patrol Program and they outlined the program and training involved. A decision was made not to have grade 8's act as crossing guards. In contact with Paul Imrie from the Town's staffing services weekly inquiring about status of guard. As of this morning he has had 2 inquires about the positions. The Board is advertising on website.
 - Grade 8 students will be utilized on school grounds, ie. in bus loop, but not as crossing guards.
 - Note that a parent or school employee cannot cover this duty, the individual must be hired by the town of Markham.
 - Deb Kline will call town of Markham about lengthening the walk signal to facilitate safe crossing.
3. Thank you to Council for supporting Curriculum night. Received positive comments about format used. Appreciated staff being introduced.
4. Staffing - Ms. Dyer SSC is on medical leave until Term 2 (November 19th). Mrs. Susan Jackson will begin Monday, October 5th.
5. The inspection of play structures last year indicated deficiencies. In recognition of the potential for injury on and around structures Plant

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Services contracted repairs to structures and the surface around them, based on both priority items from the inspection. Repairs deemed priority 1 were cost shared with the board and school. The school's expected contribution to offset the repair costs is **\$3487.50**.

- a. Track ride was removed
 - b. Entrapment areas and string entanglement areas were corrected
 - c. Worn connectors replaced
 - d. Rope from climber replaced
 - e. Climber was removed from JK/SK yard because of distance from slide (school is in possession of monkey bars - will incur cost to have installed)
 - Parents stressed the importance of the monkey bars to the children's play enjoyment and skill development.
 - Suggestion that, rather than removing the monkey bars, the slide in question could have been removed (since there are two slides) and the top opening barricaded for safety.
 - f. Corkscrew climber repaired
 - g. Pea gravel topped up and roto tilled
6. EQAO results made public on September 19th. Please see attachment for results. UPS administration will make a formal presentation to school council during our November Council meeting (November 20th). The following outlines timelines for communication of EQAO results to community:
- UPS to receive Individual Student Reports the week of the 24th
 - ISR are to be distributed on Friday, October 5th
7. Picture day is set for October 5th - Looking to have alternate day for classes with students attending eco-conference.
8. October 23rd UPS Literacy Evening. Each division will have a focus. Literacy Team is currently organizing the evening with staff.

H. Meeting Adjourned 9:25 p.m.

Next meeting Oct 17.