

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

Attendance:

Council Members present (previous and current Council): 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, Lesley Ruttan, Hilary Seppanen, Karyn Toon, Ruchi Vij, Jodi Wilson, Earlene Worrall

Council Members absent (current Council): Carol Takagi (Vice Principal)

Teacher Reps present: Scott Chin, Elizabeth Dyer

Guests present: Kristen Hansen, Diane Loveys, Jasmin Schiralli

A. Welcome

B. Meeting Minutes – Earlene Worrall – June 2008

- Motion for approval of the June minutes made by Gary Crosby and seconded by Hilary Seppanen. Minutes approved.

C. Financials – Gary Crosby – June 2008

- Motion for approval of the June financial statement made by Noelle Hunt and seconded by Pamela Nitert. Financials approved.

D. 2008/09 UPSAC Membership and Executive – JP Gagnon

- Great to see so much interest in Council; UPS enjoys a very supportive parent community. Again this year there were more nominations than spots available on Council.
- 28 parents expressed interest, then some voluntarily withdrew to reduce the number to the target of 16 (per the Constitution).
- In determining roles within Council, many returning members offered the benefit of their experience by repeating roles from last year.
- 2008/09 UPSAC membership and executive are confirmed as follows:

- Council Executive:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| ▪ Chair | JP Gagnon |
| ▪ Vice Chair | Hilary Seppanen |
| ▪ Treasurer | Gary Crosby |
| ▪ Secretary | Earlene Worrall |

- Action Team Co-ordinators:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Environmental Committee | Connie Prentice |
| ▪ Fundraising Committee | Pamela Nitert |
| ▪ House Colours | Karen Mitas |
| ▪ Community Outreach | Tess Georgakopoulos |
| ▪ Volunteer Co-ordinator | Lorrie-Anne Lauder |

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

o Council Members:

- Noor Al-Shaikh
- Catherine Hankins
- Karen Harvey
- Noelle Hunt
- Karyn Toon
- Ruchi Vij
- Jodi Wilson

- Earlene to post this list on the bulletin board. UPS parents are invited to contact UPSAC members with questions, concerns or suggestions.

E. Curriculum Night

- Curriculum Night on Oct 7 will begin at 6:30 pm with ½ hour of teacher introductions in the gym, followed by two classroom presentations.
- Debbie will consider expanding to three sessions next year in order to accommodate larger families.
- Suggestion made to incorporate a Smartboard demonstration within the introductions, to highlight the effective use made of Council dollars and motivate parents for the upcoming fundraising campaign. Debbie agreed to work with teachers to prepare this component.

F. Fundraising 2008/09 – Pamela Nitert

- Pamela and the Fundraising Committee have streamlined the fundraising program for this academic year.
- Upfront communication to parents will outline all Community Outreach and Fundraising initiatives taking place throughout the year, one of each in each term as follows:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Community Outreach	Terry Fox Run	Book Fair/Donations	Legacy Run
UPS Fundraising	Dance-a-thon	Cookie Dough (gr 8 grad)	Silent Auction Gala

- Dance-a-thon in development, potentially for Oct 29. Could consider combining with 7/8 dance already in the works; Debbie and Pamela to confirm. Pamela will post Council re outcome by e-mail.
- Suggestion to consolidate calendars for Council events (ie. House Colours, Fundraising, Community Outreach). Noelle will develop an online calendar.
- At next meeting, discuss school/Council website and opportunities for improvement (ie. teacher/class sites, teacher contact information, etc.) JP to include on October UPSAC agenda.

G. Principal's Report – Debbie Donsky

- Report follows, with discussion points inserted:

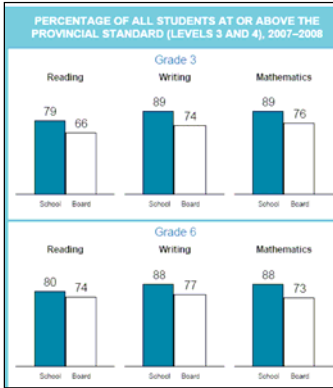
Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

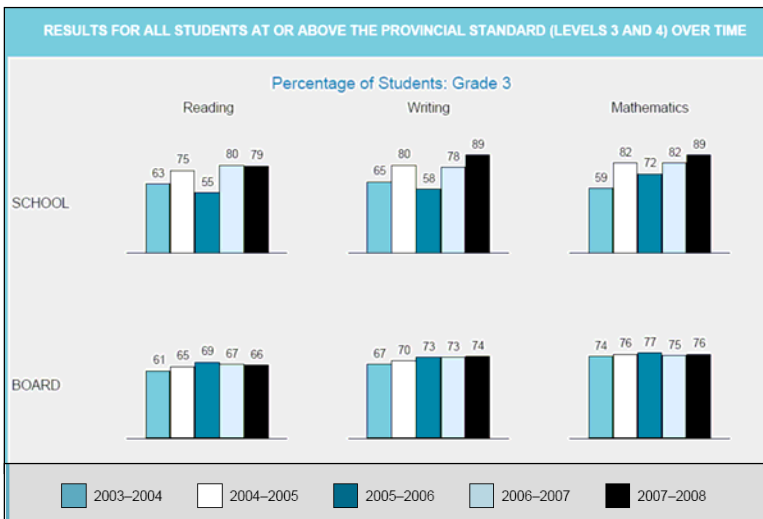
Principal's Report—School Council, UPSAC

Tuesday September 23, 2008

1. EQAO



These results indicate that UPS is consistently outdoing the board results in all divisions and all areas.



Over time we are seeing a steady increase in all three areas.

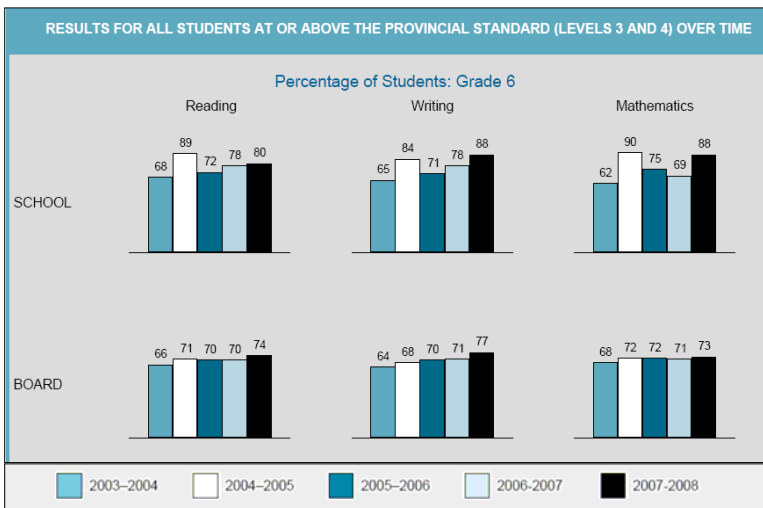
Grade 3

Reading down 1%

Writing up 11%

Math up 7%

We will continue to develop balanced literacy in all classrooms to meet the needs of all students.



Over time we are seeing a steady increase in all three areas.

Grade 6

Reading up 2%

Writing up 10%

Math up 19%

From Grades 3 to 6

Reading up 5%

Writing up 8%

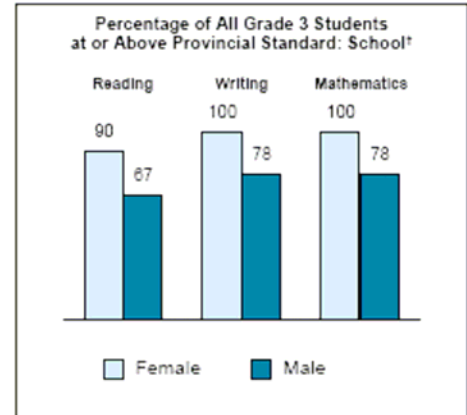
Math up 6%

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

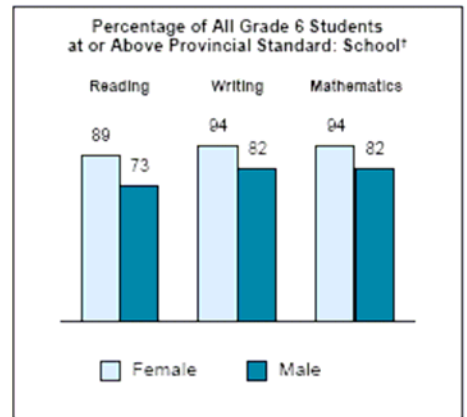
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

Results in Reading Disaggregated by Gender

Grade 3: School*						
Number of Students	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
	20	18	20	18	20	18
Level 4	35%	11%	40%	0%	15%	11%
Level 3	55%	56%	60%	78%	85%	67%
Level 2	10%	22%	0%	11%	0%	11%
Level 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NE1**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Participating Students	100%	89%	100%	89%	100%	89%
No Data	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Exempt	0%	11%	0%	11%	0%	11%
At or Above Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)†	90%	67%	100%	78%	100%	78%



Grade 6: School*						
Number of Students	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
	18	22	18	22	18	22
Level 4	17%	5%	39%	9%	33%	45%
Level 3	72%	68%	56%	73%	61%	36%
Level 2	6%	14%	0%	5%	0%	5%
Level 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
NE1**	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Participating Students	94%	86%	94%	86%	94%	86%
No Data	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Exempt	6%	14%	6%	14%	6%	14%
At or Above Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)†	89%	73%	94%	82%	94%	82%



We continue to have concerns regarding our boys and disengagement. We did an action research project investigating gender based guided reading groups which proved to be successful. We will continue to work towards innovative practices and purchasing literacy materials to support our boys.

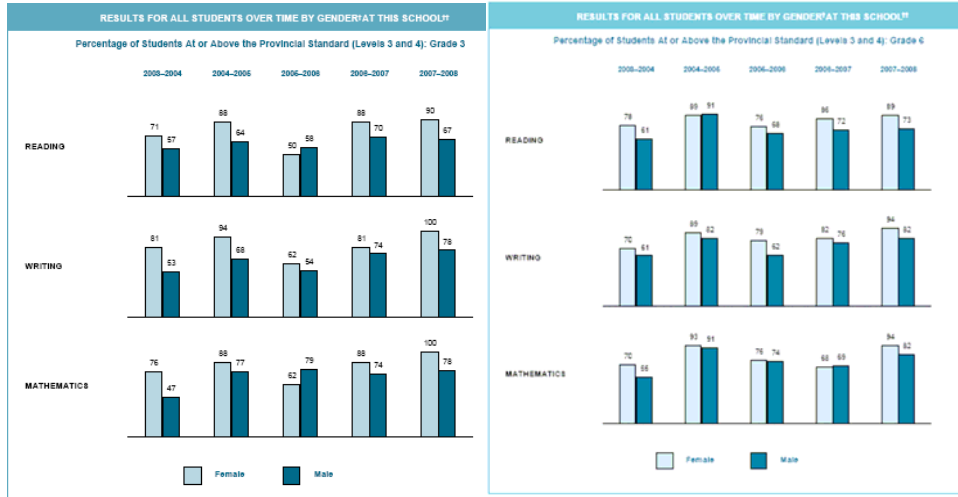
The good news with our boys is that there seems to be an increase in achievement in our junior grades and the gap narrows between boys and girls—showing an increase from grade 3 reading by 9%, writing an increase of 14% and mathematics an increase of 5%.

We must also celebrate the exemplary work of our girls with 90% at standard in reading, and 100% at standard in writing and mathematics in grade 3.

In grade 6, our girls are at 89% at standard in reading and 94% at standard in writing and mathematics.

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008



2. Organization

Class	Numbers	Class	Numbers
JK/SK <i>am</i> ASD	4 (1 JK/3 SK)	Grade 4	23
JK/SK <i>pm</i> ASD	3 (2 JK/1 SK)	Grade 4/5	21 (8 4s/13 5s)
JK/SK <i>am</i>	23 (10 JK/13 SK)	Grade 5	23
JK/SK <i>pm</i>	19 (9 JK/10 SK)	Grade 5/6	23 (12 5s/11 6s)
JK/SK M/W <i>Alt F</i>	20 (13 JK/7 SK)	Grade 6	25
JK/SK T/Th <i>Alt F</i>	19 (11 JK/8 SK)	J/I MID	9 (1 6/6 7s/2 8s)
Grade 1	20	J/I ASD	6 (2 7s/ 4 8s)
Grade 1/2	20 (14 1s/6 2s)	Grade 7	31
Grade 2	20	Grade 7/8	30 (11 7s/19 8s)
Grade 2/3	20 (7 2s/13 3s)	Grade 8	30
Grade 3/4	22 (15 3s/7 4s)		

- Council engaged in a passionate discussion around concerns over class placements for this academic year, with Debbie providing enlightenment regarding the process undertaken.
- There are many considerations when determining class placements, including classroom balance (ie. not all students requiring more assistance and not all independent learners grouped together, gender balance, etc.), social groupings, teacher allocations and individual teacher strengths.
- 38 new enrolments over the summer meant shifts had to be made to the carefully considered plan established at the end of the 2007/08 year.
- Debbie noted that special needs students get special consideration, so a few placement errors were corrected during the first week of school.
- While acknowledging that imbalance between grades within split classes is not ideal, Debbie emphasized that no other solution exists since alternate staffing models proposed were rejected by the Board. Parents raised concerns about small peer groups (ie. as few as 5 fellow students in the same grade) and the appropriate allocation of

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

classroom teaching time. Debbie and Scott both stressed that teachers are able to provide joint instruction, sometimes using different specific materials per the curriculum.

- In addition, steps are being taken to address issues particular to split classes. For example, there will be an alternate plan for grade 3s during French instruction in the 3 / 4 split class, and affected students will pair up with sister classes during EQAO testing (which applies only to grade 3 and 6 students).
- A question was raised around opportunities to improve communication (ie. parents were notified that night about classroom moves for 10 students the next morning). While understanding the desire for more lead time, Debbie noted that moves could not be resolved any sooner and timing was constrained by previously-scheduled picture day.
- Parents also suggested prior notification of classroom placements in order to reduce stress on the first day of school, perhaps by posting class lists during the last week of summer holidays. However, the Board prohibits such posting given privacy concerns. Schools that did post class lists were not following the Board directive.

3. Wish List

Teacher Release Days

Request for teacher release days for sporting events

15 days @ \$200.00/day=\$3000.00

Media Literacy

Listening Centres for Primary Classrooms 5 @ \$125.00 = \$625.00

Television Set with DVD player approx \$500.00

Digital Video Camera approx \$750.00

Physical Education

Cross Country Uniforms approx \$500.00

- Other phys ed items per Scott Chin: UPS banner for cross country meets, volleyball pads.
- Will Stokes will present requirements for the music program at next meeting.
- Debbie will confirm potential requirements for the library. Council members recalled a multi-year proposal presented last year, but the school budget also funds library books so it may be covered internally per Debbie.
- Playground maintenance is assumed to be an annual requirement.
- Debbie will finalize the “wish list” including cost projections and make formal budget requests at next UPSAC meeting.

Unionville Public School Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

H. Environmental Committee Update – Connie Prentice

- Walk to School Day Oct 8. Only apples will be served this year given allergen concerns.
- Connie is investigating the possibility of grant money for new bike racks.
- UPS is being honoured by the Board for environmental work.
Congratulations to Connie, the Environmental Committee, and the many volunteers who have made this accomplishment possible.

I. Community Outreach – Tess Georgakopoulos

- Terry Fox Run next week.
- Plan for Book Fair/Donate a Book to be confirmed for next meeting.

J. Other Business

- Proposal to begin meetings at 7:00 this year. Decision made to maintain a 7:30 start, as in past, since not all UPSAC members can accommodate the earlier time.

K. Meeting Adjourned 9:40 p.m.