

UPSAC – COUNCIL MEETING – October 22, 2014

Location: Unionville Public School – library

Council members present: Diane Loveys, Christine Till, Tony Facciolo, Kristen Hansen, Janice Tomes, Olga Sen, Stephanie Kribs

Administrative staff members present: Helen Hart, Elizabeth Dyer, Shelley Jones, Tasleem Haidari

Attendees: Gary Crosby, Melody Smith-Ghaznavi, Laurel Johnson, Tami Horowitz

A. Opening and welcome – Diane Loveys

- Diane announced that Olga Sen has stepped forward to take on the Parent Engagement role

B. Administrative Updates – Helen Hart

- Helen shared information sent from the Board about supporting students after a violent incident in light of the events at Parliament Hill today in Ottawa. Strategies were discussed to help children deal with a violent incident and how to express their emotions. She emphasized that there were no risks to York region and that schools remain a safe place to be. No trips to Ottawa were planned at this time.
- Progress Reports will be coming home Nov. 12th and interviews will be held on Nov. 13th (evening) and Nov. 14th (day)
- Regarding school communications – UPS is working with “school connects” for reporting student absences, etc. A second phase of school communications is in development; this will allow parents to login to a portal to update personal information, etc.
- Regarding the School Improvement Plan (SIP) – the school leadership team has met to discuss the SIP. The plan is developed by this team, shared with parent portfolio leaders, and then sent to the Superintendent. Community members can read the SIP on the board website.

C. Teacher update - Elizabeth Dyer

- Please refer to teacher update report (posted on website). Many activities are planned!
- Terry Fox run was a success. The school received a 20 year participation award and raised close to \$5000.
- Several student performances (e.g. choir) are planned for the upcoming Remembrance Day assembly.

D. School Spending Recommendations – Helen Hart

- Cost sharing (for technology such as iPads and netbooks) and library are the two areas of focus for school spending. Helen reported that some books in the library date back to 1985. A major overhaul is needed in the library.
- The video portion for the gymnasium has been ordered.

E. Community Outreach Update – Stephanie Kribs

- Remembrance Day. Town of Unionville has been contacted. Two student representatives will attend the Remembrance Day ceremony on Main St. at the cenotaph.
- School has requested information about participating in the Santa Claus parade. We are currently awaiting a response from the city clarifying participation requirements.
- Jump Start charity has been chosen this year. This is a Canadian charity (run through Canadian Tire) focused on helping children in need to be able to participate in sports. The charity supports schools in lower socioeconomic areas to help purchase sporting equipment for students.
- Water conservation project (e.g. to help communities build wells) is another area of international focus for ‘community outreach’ for spring.
- A non-profit local community centre (Unionville Senior Community Centre) has been selected for community outreach during the spring academic term.
- UPS representatives have been in touch with the Town of Markham regarding participating in the upcoming Chinese Parade in Markham.
- Helen commented that UPS participated in the Markham Fair through submission of crafts created by students.

F. Healthy Schools Update - Diane Loveys

- International Walk to School Day was a success. Mr. Copsey lead a walk around the school on that day.
- The Markham Mayor attended as did Councilor Don Hamilton.
- Economist and Sun published a photo of the school.
- ‘Pedalheads’ organization was at the school last week. Students were able to participate in various activities related to helmet and bike safety. Helen commented on how professional and organized this group was.
- Diane encouraged people to continue to support their children biking to school.
- Mr. Copsey and Diane are making progress with other “healthy school” activities. For example, the team is working with administration, board, and city regarding active and safe routes. The team is continuing to monitor drop-off and pick-up at the school and will be sharing information with the parent community about safety options (e.g. posting “children at play” signs on lawn).
- Tony asked whether options will be shared with parents regarding where to park. Diane commented that parents will be asked to consider parking farther away from the school (e.g. TooGood pond) to promote walking. It was also

noted that drivers should take notice and adhere to parking signs around the school.

- Tami asked about the possibility of a “kiss’n’ride” program.
- There will be further communication to parents about the definitions of the signs posted around the school and other ways to constructively support active and safe routes to school.

G. Other business – Diane Loveys

- Parent sports night is in development with Mr. Copsey. No date has been set.
- Pizza/special lunch volunteer – Krystina McNulty has stepped up to help out with pizza lunch.
- Poster sales. There are approximately 100 posters left from the Fun Fair. Approx. \$2000 worth of posters sold; a profit of roughly \$800 was made related to poster sales. There was a discussion regarding selling the remaining 100 posters at a discounted rate of \$10. Attendees at the parent meeting were in agreement about selling the posters at a discount.
- *Seminar: Building confidence in your children*. Shelley reported that last year the seminar speaker was well received by several other schools. UPS is looking at booking the speaker for January 27th to present to UPS, Parkview and Ramer Wood.
- Stephanie asked whether babysitting will be an option at the parent seminar. Helen reported that this is likely.
- Gardens. Diane met with Suzanne F. who has been overseeing the gardens at UPS. Suzanne will be connecting with the eco-school team regarding the garden maintenance. There is usually a fall and spring clean-up. Volunteers will be needed for clean-up. There are two urns outside that will need some care. A donation box was suggested for the maintenance of these urns.

H. Approvals – Christine Till & Janice Tomes

- Janice has not adjusted financials from the Fun Fair. \$7846.58 was closing balance in June financials. Thus, no changes were made to the June financials for a motion to be made.
- Janice noted that \$9418.56 was raised (approximately) at the Fun Fair. Deductions (video expenses) need to be made of roughly \$6900, leaving roughly \$2500 profit. This amount will be added to the financials when finalized.
- Motion for approval of September minutes was made by Kristen Hansen and seconded by Stephanie Kribs.

I. Council roles and responsibilities:

- Portfolio Plan alignment with School Improvement Plan (SIP) Objectives. Diane reminded the group that goals developed by the council are meant to align with the SIP.

- Diane reminded portfolio leaders and council members to interface with other student councils / groups.
- Volunteers. Diane encouraged people to consider volunteering for school initiatives to achieve success with these events.
- Diane reported that updates to the calendar are always being made. Helen and Nicki can access the school calendar with ease. Parents are encouraged to visit the school website regularly to get updates.

J.

- Council was asked to discuss meeting norms in small groups. After a brief 'working session', each group presented ideas related to 'code of conduct' at council meetings.

Action Items:

1. In response to a discussion related to the dissemination of the monthly newsletter, Helen reported that the school can distribute a paper flyer in December to remind parents to check the school website regularly and at the beginning of each month.
2. Christine challenged council to bring a new parent to the next council meeting.

Next meeting: Monday November 17, 2014 @ 7:30pm