



**Early Years Advisory Committee
Minutes**

Location: 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A

Date: Friday, September 27, 2013

Time: 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Co-Chairs: McArthur, Pam (Runnymede Adventure Club); Oakes, Jill (YMCA); Gershon, Gerri (Trustee, Ward 13);
Members: Caplan, Esther (Adventure Place, Early Years Action Group - North Quad); Jose, Faye (Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation);
Levy, Elaine (WoodGreen Community Services); Locke, Neena (Red Apple Day Care (Overlea) at Blessed John XXIII);
Mazurek, Joanna (Macaulay Child Development); McCarthy, Cindy (Terry Tan Child Centre);
McLeod, Lorraine (Toronto Childrens Service's); Pantos, Grace (Ideal Child Care); Peddie, Mary (Toronto Childrens Service's);
Perrella, Christie (Earl Haig Community Day Care); Siebert, Val (Kew Beach Day Care);
Slezak-Kawa, Susan (Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition); Smith, Kim (Earl Haig Community Day Care)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Butcher, Beth (Teaching and Learning); Chan, Shirley (TDSB); Chang, Gen Ling (TDSB); Chow, Haley (TDSB);
Torres, Fidelia (TDSB); Robinson Petrazzini, Sheryl (TDSB);

REGRETS:

Ali, Sophia (Growing Up Healthy Downtown); Chorney Rubin, Patricia (George Brown College, Ryerson Campus);
Costa, Colleen (Toronto Education Workers Local 4400 - CUPE); Frois, Frank (Centre for E.C.E);
Grant, Shauna (Toronto Public Health, East Early Years Team); Hession-White, Phyllis (Elementary Teachers of Toronto);
Mercer, Jane (Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care); Motta, Gaby (Growing Up Healthy Downtown);
Munroe, Deirdre (Central Eglinton Children's Centre at Eglinton PS); Probst, Chris (Earl Haig Community Day Care);

GUESTS:

Paul Duncan (Safe Schools)
Abdul-Karim, Noor (GBC Student Placement at OCBCC); Edwin, Manuel (Northern Community Child Care);
Horvath, Lindsay (Lakeshore Community Childcare Centre (LCCC)); Mangat, Neshu (Ryerson Intern at OCBCC);
Powell, Alana (GBC Student Placement at OCBCC); Somani, Reena (Alderwood Action Afterschool Inc.);
Spreitzer, Donna (Jackman Community Daycare); Tjernstrom, Lisa (Lakeshore Community Childcare Centre (LCCC));
Wilmot, Elisa (Alderwood Action Afterschool Inc.);

RECORDER: Manalo, John (Parent and Community Engagement)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Welcome and Introductions	Meeting was called to order by Pam McArthur at 10:15 a.m. All members were welcomed by the co-chairs Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur and roundtable introductions were done.	
Approval of Quorum (11)	Quorum was achieved with an attendance with 11 voting members out of 21 at this time of questioning at 10:15am.	
Approval of Minutes May 31, 2013 and Agenda of Sept. 27, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The agenda was approved as amended. Moved first by Elaine; Moved seconded by Cindy. ▪ Once quorum was met, a motion to approve the agenda was made first by Lorraine and second by Jill. The agenda of September 27, 2013 were approved. ▪ Once quorum was met, a motion to approve the minutes was made first by Cindy and second by Nancy. The minutes of May 31, 2013 were approved. 	
TDSB Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten with Phase Four starting in September 2013; full implementation by September 2014 (Phase 5). There are ongoing professional learning opportunities available for FDK educator teams. Looking at Phase Five implementation. ▪ FDK Before-and-After School Programs expanded from 64 last year to 144 schools this September. ▪ TDSB staff worked very closely through the summer with Children's Services and Municipal Approval Workgroup. Various TDSB departments dealt with space surveys, leases, service agreements etc. Some changes to help streamline the process this year included digital submission of the space surveys. ▪ Jim Grieve announced at the Early Years Symposium (September 18 & 19) that the Early Learning and Care Implementation Branch is now called the Early Years Implementation Branch. The two-day Symposium included one day of presentations about deepening the understanding of child development, teamwork and partner leadership in the classroom. The second day focused on seamlessness between school and child care. The presentations highlighted the importance of creating seamlessness and integration through program continuity and adult relationships. EDU staff also shared they are working on an updated version of the Early Learning Framework (2013) that will focus on the implementation of the ELECT framework principles. ▪ Funding has been received by school boards to develop joint PD opportunities for schools and child 	

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	care partners.	
Updates from Other Networks	<p>Toronto Child and Family Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building on prior knowledge: we are also working with the Child and Family Network to revise the Working Together documents. They may be merged into one. ▪ November 22nd, TCS will be hosting the Raising the Bar conference at the BMO Centre. Registration is being finalized at the Humber website – City Wide Training Calendar. ▪ The Aboriginal Advisory and Planning Committee held a well attended conference with a focus on cultural competency on September 25th. ▪ The Middle Childhood group has completed the first phase of the Inventory of School Age Programs to assist in identifying gaps across Toronto in programming for children 6-12. It includes licensed child care as well as recreational programs. Also the group will be working on a strategy to promote awareness of the developmental importance of the 6-12 years. ▪ The Municipal Approval Workgroup supporting the licensing of FDK Before and After School Programs reviewed the 2013-14 process to continue working on improvements for the next Phase. ▪ The Outcomes Workgroup is completing a report on shared child and family outcomes for the Network. The workgroup has developed a framework that includes outcome statements that can apply to all sectors. Lorraine suggested one EYAC representative to join the group. 	Any committee member interested in joining the Outcome workgroup should self identify at the next meeting.
<p>Standing Items for Discussion (as applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Space – Best Practices • Facility Related Topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An observer shared a strategy used by a former superintendent to bring together all child care operators and family of schools to discuss FDK implementation and share success stories. • Committee members raised questions about what steps could be followed if board directions regarding FDK implementation and coordination with child care operators are not being followed at a specific site (i.e. staggered entry for children enrolled in the FDK Before and After). It was suggested they could contact their area Child Care Services Manager. It was agreed that when policy directive from the school board goes to principals, service providers would be copied on the communication to prevent loss of communication. • Members in the committee raised concerns about changes to the Permits policies related to childcare. Some operators are being informed by the Permits department that they are allowed a maximum of two evening meetings a month and required to pay permits costs for any additional 	<p>Permit fees on next agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If anyone is interested in sharing best practices for a seamless day, please contact

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	<p>meetings. TDSB staff explained the Permits Procedures on the Child Care Resource Manual are being updated but changes have not been approved or implemented yet. Operators shared concerns about the potential financial impact on their operations of higher permit fees. The group agreed to invite a representative from the Permits department attend the next EYAC meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some committee members shared concerns about the challenges of sharing classroom space with the FDK Before and After School Program. Difficulties regarding loss of flexibility for occasional relocations to accommodate parent-teacher interviews and also concerns about Operating Criteria inspections were raised. The importance for child care and school staff working together and the importance of principals' leadership during these times was highlighted, as well as the need to document and share best practices. • Questions regarding lack of alignment between modified schedules for children with special needs and FDK Before and After School hours were raised. The group requested to have Cindy Burley join the next meeting. 	<p>Lorraine McLeod Lmcleod2@toronto.ca.</p> <p>Invite Cindy Burley</p>
Other Updates and Information Sharing	<p>Other Updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Toronto: <i>The Middle Childhood Strategy Implementation Plan, A Time for Action</i> was presented to Council. The plan focuses on increasing awareness of the developmental importance of middle childhood, the importance of service coordination, partnerships and accessibility as well as common quality standards and shared outcomes. 	
Guest: Paul Duncan, Safe Schools Advisor	<p>Paul Duncan, Caring and Safe Schools Advisor, presented regarding the installation of new security systems at elementary sites.</p> <p>EDU provided funding to schools boards through the Safe Welcome Program that allowed TDSB to install security systems at most of its elementary schools. Since the funding had a short turnaround deadline of October 2013, most installations were done through the summer and did not allow for the traditional consultation process involving all site partners including child care.</p> <p>The direction provided to school principals by the Caring and Safe Schools department is to work collaboratively with their on-site child cares to find a long term solution that will provide monitored building access to child care families. At sites where the installation of a security system by the school has impacted access to the building for child care users, operators can request the installation of their own systems.</p>	

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	<p>He explained that the cost can vary depending on the type of equipment selected, age/condition of the building and work required. As per existing Facilities procedure when the need for a child care security system is initiated by the school, the cost of the installation will be shared by TDSB.</p> <p>The request process for interested operators is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with school principal 2. Principal to contact the Caring and Safe Schools Advisor for the area 3. Child Care in consultation with Advisor and school principal to decide on most suitable security system 4. Request a Facility Services Work Request Form (formerly Tenant Services Request Form) <p>Paul also shared that TDSB is moving away from swipe card and pin number systems since they present some security challenges due to lost cards or shared pin numbers. Existing systems will not be replaced but new installations will look at alternate systems. Operators and schools can work together with the Caring and Safe Schools Advisor to choose the security system that would work best for their program.</p>	<p>Committee members suggested it may be more helpful to provide a range rather than an average cost in the estimates.</p> <p>It was suggested to share this direction with TCS since most operators would be applying for funding of their portion through Health and Safety funds.</p>
<p>Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings</p>	<p>Due to the conflict with the event on November 22, the EYAC meeting in November will be rescheduled.</p> <p>Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings in 2013-2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 22 November 2013 tentatively changed to another date • Friday, 21 February 2014 • Friday, 16 May 2014. <p>These new dates were approved by the group at the meeting.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned by Gerri Gershon at 12:00 p.m.</p>	

Next Meeting: TBA