



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: Early Years Community Advisory Committee (EYCAC)

Meeting Date: **January 08, 2021**

A meeting of the **Early Years Community Advisory Committee** convened on **January 08, 2021** from **10:00a.m.** to **11:25a.m.** in a **Virtual Zoom Meeting**, with **Trustee Co-Chair: Jennifer Story**, **Community Co-Chairs: Pam McArthur and Jill Oakes** presiding.

Attendance:

Jennifer Story (Trustee Co-Chair), Pam McArthur (Community Co-Chair/ Runnymede Adventure Club), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College), Shiromie Ganesh (Heart Beatz Child Care), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Dan MacLean (Trustee), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Laurie Ruscica (Toronto Public Library), Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children's Services), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandylion Daycare), and Lorrie Weddell (NYAD - Donwood)

Also present were TDSB Staff: Joanne Davis (Manager and Policy Advisor, EarlyON Centres), Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Karen Guthrie (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Liz Hoang (Child Care Services Manager), Nadejda Lekosky (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), and Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal)

Regrets:

Jeff deFreitas (PLASP Child Care Services) and Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care)

Part A: Recommendations

No recommendation.

Part B: For Information Only

- An update was provided by Cynthia Grundmann, Senior Policy Advisor/Manager, Early Years and Child Care Services who shared the following information:
 - All EarlyON programming continues to be offered virtually in alignment with the City of Toronto requirements. Parent workers are doing a fantastic job and feedback has been positive. Families continue to share how much they appreciate the quality of work, connections and engagement opportunities TDSB is offering through virtual EarlyON programming.
 - Extended Day Programs (EDP) enrollment is currently low with approximately 50% capacity and significant vacancies across sites. EDP did not operate the week following the holiday break and will not operate until the Provincial Government and Toronto Public Health officials allow BASP to reopen.
 - There are approximately 20 Emergency Child Care Centres (ECC) operating in TDSB buildings to help support families and front-line workers requiring care during program closures.
 - February is Kindergarten Registration month in TDSB. Families have the option of registering their child online using the Online Registration System (OLR) or via a virtual (Zoom/Google Meet) face-to-face meeting with their local school (by appointment).
- The Child Care Services team provided information on the Before- and After-School Program Survey of Interest for 2021-22. Families in 53 schools with children enrolled in grades JK to 6 will receive communication about this planning process and the online survey. The survey will be available for families between January 18th to February 28th to determine if there is sufficient interest to develop a new BASP program in schools that currently don't have one in place.
- Toronto Public Library provided links to library resources to share with the early years community.

TPL LINKS:

[TPL website](#)

[TPL website for birth-5 years](#)

[TPL website for children 6-12 years](#)

[BLOG: 9 Ways to Use the Library from Home](#)

[Live & Online Programs](#)

[TPL Kids Crowdcast Channel](#)

[TPL YouTube Channel](#)

[NEW! Digital Access Card](#)

Part C: Ongoing Matters

- Cynthia and the Child Care Services team will follow up with Peter Singh, Executive Officer, to discuss the Wi-Fi issue in emergency child care centres. The requirements for online screening and connecting with families in a virtual environment is of critical importance to child care operators, and as such so is stable Wi-Fi internet service.

Report Submitted by: Cynthia Grundmann

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