

Name of Committee: Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee (CUSCAC)

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Notes

Attendance via Zoom Meeting:

Sara Ehrhardt, Ward 15 Trustee (Co-Chair); **Judy Gargaro**, Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra (Co-Chair); **Shawn Earle**, Sistema Toronto Academy; **Susan Fletcher**, SPACE; **Nicolas Hurtado**, North Toronto Soccer Club Nitros/Kicks; **Dennis Keshinro**, Belka Enrichment; **Dave McNee**, Quantum Sports and Learning Association; **Heather Mitchell**, Community Sport Collective; **Jessica Murphy**, LiftED; **Adib Razavi**, Strong Play Canada; **Patrick Rutledge**, Big League Book Club; **Alex Viliansky**, Felix Swim School; **Graham Welsh**, Toronto Sports Social Club; **Jonathan Wood**, Toronto Accessible Sports Council.

Also present were: **Dennis Hastings**, Ward 1 Trustee; **Maia Puccetti**, Executive Officer, Facilities and Planning; **Jonathan Grove**, Senior Manager, Operations, Maintenance and Community Use; **Shirley Adderley**, Regional Manager, Central Services; **Ndaba Njobo**, Manager, Facility Issues and System Liaison; **Ugonma Ekeanyanwu**, Facility Permitting Coordinator; **Salin John**, Facility Permitting Team Leader; **Jenesse James**, Executive Assistant, Facilities and Planning.

The following guests participated by electronic means: Carmen Grisola, Community Member; Fernanda Pisani, CTS Community Swim; Jared Westreich, Friends of Learn4Life; Roy Underhill, Friends of Learn4Life; Susan Orellana, Jack of Sports Foundation; Sandy Alava, Heritage Childcare; Abdel Elmaadaw, TIRF; Melvin John, GTA 19-Women's Cricket Association; Joanne McBride, Parkdale Pickleball;

Regrets:

Zakir Patel, Ward 19 Trustee; Edmund Wang, Scarborough Mandarin Parents Association; Monday Gala, Superintendent of Education, FOS21.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS
Call to Order / Quorum / Acknowledgement	The meeting was called to order by Judy Gargaro at	

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of Traditional Lands	8:02 a.m.	
Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved.	Alex Viliansky Jonathan Wood
Approval of Minutes: March 4, 2025	The minutes as amended were approved.	Graham Welsh Heather Mitchell
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	Nil	
Delegations	Nil	
<u>Permit Unit Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on ongoing items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update was provided on recent activities within the Permit Unit. The previous week was identified as the busiest period to date, driven by the need to process permit applications for the Federal election. Within approximately one week, over 400 applications were reviewed, resulting in the approval of 347 permits. <p>Additionally, turf fields reopened on April 1, and preparations are in progress for the reopening of the grass fields on May 15. It was noted that there are some construction closures.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues of block booking particularly as it relates to City Parks and Rec Programs/ community groups with multiple bookings and eliminating space for other groups Learn4Life permit charges (relating to Continuing Ed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TLC is working on reviewing the block booking issue that was identified to staff as this is an example of a larger issue. It is hoped that this discussion can be used as a model. <p>The issue of block booking was further discussed, particularly where the City or larger sports organizations book multiple sites without utilizing them. This results in limited access for other community groups since the blocks render spaces unavailable despite being unused. The matter has been identified as systemic and not limited to one school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities staff met with Cont. Ed. regarding the Learn4Life program, specifically focusing on how fees are determined. It was noted that while there is some connection to permit fees, additional costs borne by the TDSB, such as instructor salaries governed by collective agreements and use of dedicated space, make the Learn4Life program distinct from other community or school permits. Programs are currently offered at standalone sites such as Mimico and Overland, where facilities are not used for curricular educational purposes. This leads to higher operational 	<p>Action Item: Staff will follow up with Continuing Education to ensure their presence at</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees Working Group • Can rates the City pays for permits be shared? (Finance and TLC information required) 	<p>costs for the Board due to the program's structure and location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred to June 2025 • Deferred to June 2025 	<p>the next CUSCAC meeting.</p>
<p>Committee Goal Related 2024/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Committee policy and procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Trustee motion b) What is the ask c) Process of consultation d) Deadline: end of June 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is undergoing a review prompted by a Trustee motion to assess the effectiveness and relevance of its current advisory structure. Voting members were provided a rubric and examples of alternative committee models. Feedback indicated a strong preference to retain the existing advisory format, as it best supports the committee's mandate and operations. The committee now has until the end of June to submit a report confirming this and recommending any necessary updates to its terms of reference. The survey will be extended until April 14 to maximize voting committee participation. Committee feedback will be finalized via email, with a possible meeting of voting members. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget matters: Fees working group to address caretaking charges and further potential increases. How can we be more strategic about CUS? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred until June 2025. Deferred until committee review above has been completed. 	
<p><u>Outstanding Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pools Working Group Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any changes to Maintenance and Renewal Project integration Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised regarding the financial sustainability of community pool permit holders due to recent fee increases and the potential addition of caretaking fees. Clarification was requested on whether caretaking fees would be implemented in the future. Staff confirmed that while caretaking fees might be discussed as part of future cost recovery strategies, no decisions would be made without consultation. A report scheduled for January 2026 will provide an update on the implementation and impact of current permit fees, including any developments related to caretaking costs. <p>The discussion also highlighted the importance of</p>	<p>Action Items:</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update from TDSB Pool Committee ○ Pool condition Assessment (TLC/TDSB audit) • Exterior Facilities Working Group Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket fields (TLC) • Communication and Website Working Group Update (on hiatus and will address issues as they arise) 	<p>advocacy for sustainable community use of schools. Although CUSCAC cannot engage in advocacy directly, its members—including community organizations and coalitions—are encouraged to begin advocacy efforts immediately. It was noted that such advocacy could target multiple Ministries beyond Education, including those related to culture and sport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates, but there will be future discussions about pool temperatures as per the passed motion at the last Board Meeting • Update deferred to May 2025 meeting • No update, but a concern was raised about the condition and overuse of artificial turf fields, especially given recent heavy rain and unclear permitting of user groups. • Unless a pressing issue arises, deferred until Fees Working Group has completed its work. 	

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Trustee Update	<p>The TDSB is facing a projected \$70 million budget deficit for the upcoming year, similar in scale to previous years. A key concern is the lack of clarity around provincial funding, which is needed before the Board can determine how to balance the budget. A special meeting is scheduled for May 15 to discuss potential options, but this leaves a very short window if funding announcements don't arrive until late April.</p> <p>The budget pressures stem from a mix of factors: some costs are fully within the TDSB's control (about \$50 million), such as pools and permit fees, while others—like special education or continuing education—are only partially within the Board's control. Additionally, there are unfunded liabilities outside the Board's control, such as statutory benefits and legacy salary benchmarks. Altogether, these pressures amount to \$112 million.</p> <p>The situation is being described as more serious than in previous years. Although the TDSB's structural deficit is partly tied to unique, pre-amalgamation issues, it also reflects broader provincial trends of</p>	

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	chronic underfunding and failure to match inflation. Public consultations are underway through the month of April, and stakeholders are being encouraged to advocate for improved provincial support.	
Other Business	<p>The Self Evaluation and Annual Report will be discussed at the May Meeting.</p> <p>Co-Chair Gargaro will not be able to attend the June meeting so a community Co-Chair will need to be identified for this meeting.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.	
Adjournment	Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.	<p>Heather Mitchell</p> <p>Nicholas Hurtado</p>