

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

Meeting Date: March 21st, 2025

Notes:

Attendance: via Zoom:

Patricia Chorney Rubin, (Community Co-Chair/ George Brown College); Jill Oakes, (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care); Michelle Dutra, (Woodgreen Child Care); Anh Lam, (Woodgreen Child Care); Pam McArthur, (Runnymede Adventure Club); Kim Rogers, (Sunshine Child Care); Irena Setnik, (Silver Creek Pre-School); Patrina Stathopoulos, (Dandylion Daycare); Rosemary Stiglic, (PLASP Child Care Services); and Amy Van Camp, (Toronto Children's Services).

Also present were: Trustee Deborah Williams, (Trustee Co-Chair, Ward 10); Cynthia Moffatt, (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services); Liz Hoang, (Child Care Services Manager); and Denise Humphreys, (System Superintendent, Student Achievement and Pathways).

Regrets:

Nicola Maguire, (LEF).

Community Advisory Committees

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION |
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| | Welcome/Introductions/ Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands | |
| Call to Order / Quorum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum confirmed. | |
| Approval of Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was approved. Moved: Rosemary Stiglic Seconded: Patrina Stathopoulos | |
| Approval of Minutes- January 24, 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes were approved. Moved: Patrina Stathopoulos Seconded: Rosemary Stiglic | |
| Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed - No Conflicts were declared | |
| Co-Chair Report | <p>Communication items (Co-Chairs' Patricia Chorney Rubin & Jill Oakes):</p> <p>CAC Review Update</p> <p>Patricia reviewed the January 24th EYCAC meeting discussion about the TDSB CAC review. EYCAC members recommended that EYCAC should continue in its current structure and continue to be a formal Board CAC. Child care should be top of mind in policy and professional practice and to continue to advocate for growth and development is important. EYCAC appreciates the partnership with TDSB. Currently, all CACs will continue in their current structure until the scheduled Board Organization meeting takes place in November 2025.</p> <p>Announcement</p> <p>Jill announced after more than 10 years she is stepping over from her current role as EYCAC Community Co-chair to a member role in the fall of 2025-2026. It has been a rewarding experience.</p> | |

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| Trustee Co-Chair Report Update | <p>Trustee Co-Chair Deborah Williams, Ward 10 shared the following updates:</p> <p>CAC Review Update</p> <p>Following the EYCAC meeting on January 24, 2025, there was clarification from staff which was shared with the Trustee Co-Chairs of Community Advisory Committees (CACs) that:</p> <p><i>"Over the coming months, staff will engage in a thorough review of the current CAC (Community Advisory Committee) framework and collaborate with CAC members to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Assess whether the existing CAC model effectively addresses their needs.</i> <i>Evaluate alternative models that may better align with the objectives and scope of CAC activities.</i> <i>Identify the most suitable model for the CAC, which may include retaining the current structure.</i> <i>Develop and present a comprehensive report to the Board summarizing the CAC's recommendations.</i> <p><i>Throughout this process, CACs will maintain their ongoing activities until the committee renewal scheduled for the 2025 Board Organizational Meeting."</i></p> <p>Considering that clarification, the EYCAC recommendations were referred back to staff at the PSSC meeting (February 5, 2025). Trustee co-chair believes the revision of EYCAC terms of reference will be helpful in informing how EYCAC moves forward.</p> <p>Heritage Month</p> <p>The TDSB is proud to recognize Greek Heritage Month (GHM) during the month of March. 2025 marks 10 years of recognizing GHM at the TDSB! Our theme for this year is:</p> <p>Odyssey - A Decade of Celebrating Greek Heritage Month Οδύσσεια - Μία Δεκαετία Εορτασμού του Μήνα Ελληνικής Κληρονομιάς</p> | |

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| | <p>All TDSB community members are welcome to attend the following Greek Heritage Month events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHM Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, March 1 from 10:00am to 11:00am • Donview Middle School (20 Evermede Drive, North York, ON) • TDSB Greek Heritage Walks Students take a walk through the history of Greektown <i>CityNews – March 20, 2025</i> Students from the Toronto District School Board are getting to know local history one step at a time on a walking tour of Greektown, as they learned about the community's cultural heritage and identity. • GHM Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, April 5 from 1:30pm to 3:00p.m. • Greek Community of Toronto (30 Thorncliffe Park Drive, East York, ON) • This afternoon of music, dance, and photo displays will include entertainment from TDSB students and community members. Light refreshments will be provided. • Annual Greek Independence Day Parade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, April 6 at 1:00pm • Meeting place on the field at Kapapamahchakwew – Wandering Spirit School (16 Phin Avenue, Toronto, ON) <p>TDSB Budget 2025-2026</p> <p>The TDSB's annual operating budget is approximately \$3.4 billion and we are committed to using these resources as responsibly and effectively as possible. However, the funding provided by the government does not fully meet the needs of students in Toronto.</p> | |

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| | <p>School-based staff allocation is a key component of the TDSB's budget process, with approximately 65% of the Board's budget spent on school-based staffing costs. Every year, staff allocation is guided by a number of factors including student enrolment, collective agreements, class sizes caps and averages, and the TDSB's commitment to equity, student achievement and well-being.</p> <p>TDSB Budget - Quick Facts In Focus</p> <p>Schedule for TDSB 2025-2026 Budget Development:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Type of Meeting</th><th>Purpose</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>March 4, 2025</td><td>Special FBEC</td><td>▪ School Based Staffing 2025-26</td></tr> <tr> <td>March 26, 2025</td><td>Regular FBEC</td><td>▪ Presentation of balance budget plan ▪ Update on Core Ed Funding (if available)</td></tr> <tr> <td>April 30, 2025</td><td>Regular FBEC</td><td>▪ Update on Operating Budget based on Core Ed Funding 25-26 ▪ Presentation of draft capital budget</td></tr> <tr> <td>May 15, 2025</td><td>Special FBEC</td><td>▪ Update on Operating Budget Plan</td></tr> <tr> <td>June 4, 2025</td><td>Regular FBEC</td><td>▪ Approval of 25-26 Operating and Capital Budgets</td></tr> <tr> <td>June 28, 2025</td><td>Board</td><td>▪ Approval of 25-26 Operating and Capital Budgets</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Delegations: Special Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) meetings are scheduled for April 28 and April 29, 2025, to hear delegations. For more information about the Delegation Process - Addressing a Committee Delegation Process - Addressing a Committee</p> | Date | Type of Meeting | Purpose | March 4, 2025 | Special FBEC | ▪ School Based Staffing 2025-26 | March 26, 2025 | Regular FBEC | ▪ Presentation of balance budget plan ▪ Update on Core Ed Funding (if available) | April 30, 2025 | Regular FBEC | ▪ Update on Operating Budget based on Core Ed Funding 25-26 ▪ Presentation of draft capital budget | May 15, 2025 | Special FBEC | ▪ Update on Operating Budget Plan | June 4, 2025 | Regular FBEC | ▪ Approval of 25-26 Operating and Capital Budgets | June 28, 2025 | Board | ▪ Approval of 25-26 Operating and Capital Budgets | |
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| | <p>Budget Town Halls: TDSB Trustees will be holding four Budget Town Halls to ensure that families, students, and community members have the opportunity to hear more about the 2025-2026 budget, ask questions, and share feedback. Please find the dates and details below:</p> <p>Downtown Budget Town Hall Date: April 15, 2025 Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Location: In-Person details will be shared soon)</p> <p>East Toronto Budget Town Hall (6:30pm In-Person, details will be shared soon)</p> <p>West Toronto Budget Town Hall (6:30pm In-Person, details will be shared soon)</p> <p>Central Budget Town Hall (6:30pm Hybrid in the TDSB Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street Toronto, Ontario M2N 5N8 - details will be shared soon)</p> <p>News News: Stacey Cline Sworn In as Ward 11 Trustee Toronto District School Board TDSB welcomes Stacey Cline as the new public school Trustee for Don Valley West, officially taking office on March 18, 2025.</p> <p>TDSB Excellence Awards Nominations for the TDSB Excellence Awards 2025 are now open! Nominations can come from staff, students, parents/caregivers or community members. The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.</p> | |

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| | <p>Members discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member commented with the current budget challenges that TDSB is encountering the child care sector does not have enough human resources, technology, tools, and supports for students in programs with special needs exceptionalities and varying abilities. How does the child care sector come together to support the communities, families, children that we all serve facing the same challenges? | |
| <p>TDSB Staff Updates (Senior Resource Person)</p> | <p>Cynthia Moffatt, Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services shared the following updates:</p> <p>On behalf of TDSB staff and the entire EYCAC committee thank you Jill for your continued leadership on this committee and in the sector. We look forward to having you continue as a member, and working with you as a critical child care and BASP partner in TDSB.</p> <p>Before- and After-School Program (BASP) Update</p> <p>Annual BASP surveying has concluded. The Child Care Services team is working on reviewing the results and exploring registrations at 7 schools. Determinations will be completed by the end of April and a full list of all BASPs for 2025-26 will be posted on our website by May 1, 2025.</p> <p>BASP Expansion</p> <p>TDSB recognizes at this time of year BASP partners are beginning to plan for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. The Child Care Services team sent an eblast to BASP partners asking to please connect with the Child Care Services team and their school Principal if they would like to pursue potential expansions.</p> | |

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| | <p>Please connect with EY Coordinators Nadejda.Lekosky@tdsb.on.ca for schools in LC1 and Leslie.Murray@tdsb.on.ca for schools in LC 2.</p> <p>EarlyON</p> <p>TDSB EarlyON programs are partnering with Lumenus and George Hull Centre for Children and families to access additional Mental Health supports. Funding for this three year project is provided provincially under Supporting Mental Health Across the EarlyON Sector Grant. Funding was awarded to EarlyON-Lumenus Mental Health Initiative and George Hull Centre for Children and Families. Mental Health support kits were provided by EarlyON-Luminus Mental Health Initiative Team to each EarlyON program. Opportunities are available for staff to consult directly with a trained professional on Mental Health concerns related to families and for personal support through George Hull Centre for Children and Families. Weekly newsletters with resources will be sent to staff and can be shared with families.</p> | |
| Other Business: | <p>Members discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post secondary colleges across the system, province, and country are impacted by enrollment pressures due to the reduction of enrollment of international students and the current federal policies. Canada's brand as a destination for post-secondary internationally is now being considered a barrier. • Child care operators are anxious about expanding but there is a lack of qualified staff. Some members have shared they are not able to move forward due to possible negative financial impact. • Challenges of precarious work/split shifts for staffing persist in the sector. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues with work permits and work visas for international students are also an issue. Challenges with not having enough full-time work and hours was discussed. Downward trend over the years for ECE applicant pool and declining enrollment targets for post-secondary programs. Online course programs and field placement began in 2025 at George Brown College for ECE program to capture more students. TCS will provide more updates, communication, information on kindergarten, school age, and middle childhood at the May meeting. TCS shared information on programs with kindergarten and school age in schools and opportunities to expand outside of TCS expansion window. For BASP programs wanting to expand to they need to submit license revisions for approval for Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding for 2025. For infant, toddler, preschool programs, it's expected programs go through expansion window. There is a significant increase in fees when a child leaves kindergarten to go to school age program. This is a problem for families. <p>Co-Chairs reminded members of the three priorities for 2024-2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working and collaborating to support children with exceptionalities. Practices and collaboration around inclusion and shared resources between school and BASP. Supporting better transitions to kindergarten. Expansion – Look to collaborate in professional learning opportunities for educators who are in kindergarten programs during the day and BASP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will continue to discuss current inventories and leverage opportunities for priorities #2 and #3. For priority #2 documenting the | |

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| | <p>practices that are happening. Staff shared for #3 the Boards intentional directives and funding from the Ministry of Education is associated with Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM 155), Diagnostic Assessment in Support of Student Learning. The Ministry has directed funding for specific professional learning. Staff can provide an update for the May meeting with specific PL priorities and information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will focus on priority #1 due to the significance for 2025-2026. How will children continue to be supported regardless of time of the day? To discuss supporting children with exceptionalities and the transition between instructional day and in child care. Extra support that may be needed. Who from TDSB staff could be part of the conversation? Network contacts to be included in the conversation. • Members to provide specific critical questions to Cynthia and Denise so they may help identify the appropriate TDSB staff who may support good practice across the system, resources, and messaging. Members to collect ideas and document best practices that work and identify barriers. • Nancy Hendy (TCS) oversees Every Child Belongs and works with resource consultants who go into the BASP and work with operators to build capacity to support staff in working with children with needs. • Group discussion – Co-chairs will meet with a small group of members to engage in the work as an initial step to meet with Nancy Hendy and Amy Van Camp to understand child care perspectives, stories, experiences, barriers, policies, procedures, practices, information sharing, and current work. • A member asked if child care operator be included in the discussion or share their experience with the Centrally Assigned Principal or Executive Superintendent for Special Education? • Family/caregiver makes the decision to share information about the child. • Action item: Any members interested in joining the conversation prior to May, please email Jill or Patricia. Jill and Patricia will speak with Nancy Hendy and Amy Van Camp (TCS). | |

Community Advisory Committees

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| | <p>Agenda items for May 23rd, 2025, meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working and collaborating to support children with exceptionalities. Practices and collaboration around inclusion and shared resources between school and BASP. (Jill, Patricia, Irena, Rosemary, and Patrina) to update members on documenting best practices and identifying barriers). 2. Supporting better transitions to kindergarten. (Continue to discuss). 3. Expansion – Look to collaborate in professional learning opportunities for educators who are in kindergarten programs during the day and BASP. (Continue to discuss). <p>Terms of Reference (ToR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current ToR is outdated. Cynthia will provide Jill and Patricia information when she receives the template from Michelle Monroe. • Action item: Claudette to schedule a meeting with Cynthia, Jill, and Patricia to review current ToR template, procedure, and specific terms. Co-chairs to begin draft ToR and provide update at the May meeting. | |
| TDBS Community Advisory Committees Web page and EYCAC Web page: | https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees/Early-Years-Community-Advisory-Committee | |
| Next Meeting Date | May 23, 2025 , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom | |
| Adjournment | March 21, 2025, at 11:40 a.m. | |