



**Early Years Advisory Committee
Minutes
Location: 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012
Time: 9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Farrell, Anne (First Stage CCC); Gershon, Gerri (Trustee, Ward 13); Caplan, Esther (Adventure Place, Early Years Action Group - North Quad); Cole, Martha (Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services); Frois, Frank (Centre for E.C.E); Mastracci, Stephanie (Growing Up Healthy Downtown); Mazurek, Joanna (Macaulay Child Development); McArthur, Pam (Runnymede Adventure Club); McCarthy, Cindy (Terry Tan Child Centre); Oakes, Jill (YMCA); Slezak-Kawa, Susan (Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition); Smith, Kim (Earl Haig Community Day Care); Stadius, Tara (Toronto Public Library, Children & Youth Advocacy Unit); Wong, Jessica (WoodGreen Community Services);

Chan, Shirley (TDSB); Chang, GenLing (TDSB); Chow, Haley (TDSB); Hayhurst, Tracy (TDSB); Lampert, Barbara (TDSB); Torres, Fidelia (TDSB); Hawkins, Lise (TDSB)

REGRETS:

Handy, Nancy (Community Living Toronto); Lee, David (Toronto Children’s Services); Welch, Nicole (Toronto Public Health, East Early Years Team);

GUESTS:

RECORDER: Manalo, John (TDSB, Parent and Community Engagement)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Welcome and Introductions	Meeting was called to order by Trustee Gershon and Anne Farrell at 9:15 a.m. All members were welcomed by the co-chairs Gerri Gershon and Anne Farrell.	
Approval of Quorum (11)	Quorum was achieved with an attendance of 14 voting members out of 21.	
Approval of Agenda of Sept. 28, 2012 and Minutes of April 13, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Frank and seconded by Cindy. The agenda was approved. ▪ A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Cindy and seconded by Susan with additional amendments to those in attendance. The minutes were approved. 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
<p>Thank you to past Community Co-chair</p> <p>Selection of new Community Co-Chair</p>	<p>Anne has resigned from the co-chair due to a secondment. She was thanked for her contributions and leadership to the Early Years Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Nominations and elections were discussed. New co-chair to be confirmed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Interested members should email Shirley Chan or Fidelia Torres</p>
<p>FDK Reply letter from Minister Broten</p>	<p>A copy of Minister Broten's reply to the EYAC letter outlining the committee's concerns regarding the impact of FDK on child cares was distributed. The response letter reiterated previously announced levels of funding and the opportunity for input on sector changes through the feedback process for the <i>Modernizing Child Care in Ontario</i> Ministry of Education's Discussion Paper. The committee felt it was still helpful to have sent the correspondence as it shows TDSB and EYAC's early years partners are raising a common concern for Toronto.</p>	
<p>TDSB Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ontario Public School Boards Association response paper to the Modernizing Child Care in Ontario discussion paper was shared with the committee for their reference. <p>FDK and FDK <i>Before and After School Program</i> Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TDSB has now 190 schools providing Full-Day Kindergarten. Of those, 64 schools have an FDK <i>Before and After School Programs</i>, with 62 being served through a third-party operator and 2 TDSB board-operated FDK <i>Before and After School Program</i> pilots one at Parkdale Jr. & Sr. PS (West) and one at Cedar Drive JPS (East). ▪ The licensing of the 62 FDK <i>Before and After School Programs</i> was an intense process. There were challenges at some sites and in a few cases approvals were not completed until the September long weekend. TDSB continues to work with the City and Ministry to find ways to make the process more efficient. The hope is to start the licensing process earlier this year due to the volume of programs, however there will still be challenges regarding access to spaces, due to the high number of construction projects with completion dates in the spring or summer. <p>TDSB FDK <i>Before and After School Program</i> Pilots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Cedar Drive and Parkdale FDK <i>Before and After School Program</i> pilots are running with numbers around twenty. ▪ Both programs have a two ECE (one a.m. and one p.m.) cross over model in one FDK classroom, this staff provides programming for the FDK <i>Before and After School Program</i> and half of the regular day school program. Each program also has ECA (Early Childhood Assistant) support for the <i>FDK Before and After School Program</i>. 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>Supporting Early Years at TDSB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen Ling Chang (Chief Academic Officer, Teaching and Learning), Tracy Hayhurst (Central Coordinating Principal, Teaching and Learning), and Lise Hawkins (Program Coordinator, Early Years) were introduced. • They provided an overview of the support for Full-Day Kindergarten programs receives by the Early Years Department’s Instructional Leaders as well as other departments supporting the Board’s Early Years Strategy, such as Literacy and Numeracy, and Special Education and French as needed. <p>French:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee discussed the challenges in recruiting French speaking Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) for the current and upcoming FDK Phases. Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College) shared that only Francophone post secondary institutions can train educators in French. Bilingual students can be trained and certified as ECEs within English programs and then choose to work in a French program but currently there aren’t enough bilingual students to meet the FDK demand. <p>Special Education supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concern was shared regarding children with special needs registering in kindergarten and not feeling welcome or being told that children might not be ready for kindergarten. The committee was reminded of Cindy Burley’s presentation in the spring and the work with TDSB/City around transitioning children with special needs. Parents are encouraged to contact the Special Education department if they have concerns. <p>Understanding Shared Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that best practices regarding “shared space” arrangements from FDK Phase One to Three schools be documented and/or shared in some way with schools and operators. The Ministry has distributed a document which includes links to resources from various boards. It pulls ideas collected from across the province and it includes reference to the Working Together documents from the TDSB. • Instructional Leaders and Child Care Services Managers have been working together to support sites as issues arise. A meeting is being organized between Instructional Leaders, Toronto Children Services Consultants and TDSB Child Care Managers to support working together in shared classrooms. <p>Retirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Lampert’s retirement was announced, she will be retiring at the end of November and this was her last meeting with EYAC. • The committee thanked Barb, her work and commitment has been greatly appreciated and she will be missed. 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Follow up Items from last meeting *Focus areas of EYAC for school year	Possible topics for discussion this year included: - Shared space; - Sharing best practices; - Accommodating construction and issues related to facilities; - Mandate of group and whether it serves as an advisory or more of a network.	- send feedback on areas of discussion to Fidelia Torres
Other Updates and Information Sharing	Call Centre: Discussion regarding contact for site during the summer or breaks when the Principal is not in the building. Should operators provide contact information to Call Centre? Construction: When construction projects occur in the summer, alternate space is identified, however can operators be more involved in the process prior to the summer, so that they can prepare their families and give input into new location?	- A speaker will be invited to the next meeting to speak to these two items.
Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings	Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings in 2012-2013: Nov 23, 2012; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to change 22 Feb 2013 to 8 Feb 2013; • Proposal to change 19 April 2013 to 12 April 2013; • Proposal to change 14 June 2013 to 31 May 2013. These new dates we approved by the group.	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Gerri Gershon and Anne Farrell at 11:00 AM	

Next Meeting: Friday, 23 November 2012