



**Early Years Advisory Committee
Minutes**
Location: 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013
Time: 9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Co-Chairs: McArthur, Pam (Runnymede Adventure Club); Oakes, Jill (YMCA);
 Members: Ali, Sophia (Growing Up Healthy Downtown); DaSilva, Guida (Toronto Public Library, Children & Youth Advocacy Unit);
 Frois, Frank (Centre for E.C.E); Hendy, Nancy (Community Living Toronto); Jamal, Naseem (Ideal Child Care); Jose, Faye (Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation);
 McCarthy, Cindy (Terry Tan Child Centre); McLeod, Lorraine (Toronto Childrens Service's); Mercer, Jane (Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care);
 Slezak-Kawa, Susan (Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition); Levy, Elaine (WoodGreen Community Services);

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chan, Shirley (TDSB); Hawkins, Lise (TDSB); Joliffe, May (TDSB); Torres, Fidelia (TDSB);

REGRETS:

Gershon, Gerri (Trustee, Ward 13);
 Hession-White, Phyllis (Elementary Teachers of Toronto); Siebert, Val (Kew Beach Day Care);
 Chow, Haley (TDSB); Hayhurst, Tracy (TDSB);

GUESTS:

Eum, Jenny (Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care);

RECORDER: Manalo, John (Parent and Community Engagement)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Welcome and Introductions	Meeting was called to order by Pam McArthur at 9:20 a.m. All members were welcomed by the co-chairs Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur	
Approval of Quorum (11)	Quorum was not met at this time of questioning, but the co-Chairs will wait a few minutes. The committee assistant informed the Chairs that the due to lack quorum, today's meeting can continue with the approval of the agenda and that the minutes can be approved when quorum is met, in accordance with the EYAC Operating Terms of Reference. Quorum was achieved with an attendance of 13 voting members out of 21 at 9:40am and decisions may be made.	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
Approval of Minutes of Nov. 23, 2012 and Agenda of Mar. 8, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The agenda was approved by consensus when quorum was not met. ▪ Once quorum was met, a motion to approve the minutes was made first by Susan and second by Frank. The minutes of Nov. 23, 2012 were approved. 	
TDSB Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) requested an update last week on EYAC; a presentation was given to Trustees of PSSC. Shirley Chan showed to EYAC the presentation (at PSSC) to EYAC members: She covered an overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDSB policy Daycare; There are 309 child care centres in TDSB schools and TDSB has a search site to help community members find the centres in Toronto schools; The City of Toronto is a partner with TDSB and funding also is given by Health and Safety; Approx 21% of children 0-9 years of age use licensed child care services; City of Toronto gives subsidy to child care; • Full-day kindergarten was implemented beginning in 2009, but technically 2013 was when child cares received the most enrolled registrants; 5 phases of implementation from 2010-2014; • There may be a survey to parents next year to understand Before-and-After-school programs and how to fund it. ▪ Discussion: Service Operators (SO) mentioned the following during the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal process for child-care service providers to serve younger children with special needs; documentation is required from doctors, SNAs, parents and consultants. • Communication is required among all parties involved to bring the issues forward, with understanding of the isolation of families. ▪ A teleconference with principals interested in becoming third-parties in child-care was done last week; Shirley showed the presentation that was given to principals: She covered an overview of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-Day Kindergarten: The City of Toronto has a committee to address the flow of the application process. FDK came from Ministry legislation. • Before-and-After school programs: The parent survey indicates an initial interest from the community in Before-and-After school programs; the TDSB will let the child-care service providers decide whether or not the registration numbers make it viable (management, space, safety, funding) to have the program. TDSB sends out letters in advance to determine if and where a site is offering a program so that families can be notified in advance. • Shared kindergarten rooms are part of room selection due to shared resources policies. ▪ Discussion: Service Operators (SO) mentioned the following during the discussion: 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License capacities in schools and communication with principals; decision making when adding new children in the programs when the program is full. • Report Card FDK - should there be a provincial standard; • ECE staffing continues with interviews with outcomes in April or May – 300 positions at the TDSB out of 6000 applicants; There is a long waiting list sometimes for children to enter a child-care centre while balancing the requirements of the city, TDSB, operators and community: The strongest voice is coming from the operators where they face the greater risk running a good program in accordance with TDSB and City of Toronto. • The rules around having two operators in the same site. • Some teachers do not understand the partnership with operators and do not want to share classroom resources, so how do operators handle this situation when the principals are busy. The operators were told to contact staff at head office if problems arise. 	
Middle Years Strategy Update by Toronto Children's Services (TCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lorraine McLeod (TCS) presented a strategy and intends to send the implementation plan to city council on May 23: Her presentation mentioned the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A strategy for children 6-12 age groups to be done in partnership with principals and city partners. ▪ Programming improves children's well-being, equity, access. About 54% of children spend their time in after-school programs and parents would like to have this instead of having their children at home. ▪ There are still issues with funding, newcomer accessibility, and arranging for space. ▪ There is a locator webpage being developed through Toronto Childrens' Services that operators can register their programs into the database and will stay current year-by-year. Toronto Park's has a database called "HIGH FIVE" to keep current the service operators that use their sites. The Public Library will be included in the database and in the discussions as the database develops. ▪ Coordinating local planning groups with operators and partners within the system; quality depends on sharing in best practices and research literature; The working group is being turned into an Implementation group; ▪ Discussion: Services operators shared goals to give to the Ministry such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication strategies, 6-12 year-old strategies, 4-5 year old strategies, and other government commitments that were made during election times. Make suggestions too. ▪ Make funding strategy suggestions to the governments. ▪ Encouragement is being made to become involved with working groups and similar networks to share suggestions and goals that the governments should know; ▪ To know there is a Middle Years Coalition Group at the City of Toronto would be helpful. There is a transition with incoming children and outgoing children with regards to subsidies and operators make their own policies on how to respond to community needs. There may be a requirement to reflect on 	To be continued – Service Operator policies on child admissions

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
	the role of service operators in these times of change.	
Updates from Other Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the last informal meeting, Faye Jose shared that the Advancing Quality Committee is working across the sector from 0-12 years old and early intervention for Special Education. ▪ School climate survey meeting to converse on positive school spaces: the two-phase rollout will occur with surveys for Grades 4-6 going out this year and surveys for Grades 7-12 going out for next year. Social school issues are addressed in the survey which includes special education and bullying. ▪ Senior Kindergarten needs programs for school-age learners. The next meeting is on May 6 – at Metro Hall Rm 303, for Early Years Network, 9:30pm -11pm. ▪ Toronto Public Library is working on a resource booklet and would like to have after-school programs, but is finding it difficult to bring the students to the library. ▪ Cindy McArthur shared a new policy around funding that is coming but nothing is official. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Invite Haley Chow (Shirley Chan) +Invite Patricia C. from George Brown (May Joliffe)
<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"> • May Joliffe mentioned at the last informal meeting that TDSB staff within the Early Years Department met with City of Toronto policymakers to understand the issues around the FDK instructors/ECEs needs and find a balance on best practices. • Facility staff is following up on care-taker requirements for shared spaces and the fees. • Monitoring systems (swipe-cards in certain sites) may be installed in some of the child-care centres and there may be a fee-sharing piece, and there is a working group formed with Caring and Safe Schools (Ted Libera) to have that conversation. • At the informal EYAC meeting in March, Steve Shaw updated the group on Facility Services: Permit application form generates a permit request and a caretaker request. • At the informal EYAC meeting in March, Kitty Leung updated the group on Permits: Child-care providers have a lease for either 6-months or 12-months under the Community Use of Board Facilities (Permits) Operational Procedure PR666 (which can be found on-line on www.tdsb.on.ca under the Board policies. In summary, child-care service providers may operate on statutory holidays and must have a permit; however on days, such as March break, a permit is not required for operators to be opened. • At the informal EYAC meeting in March, discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues were raised around the permit application forms and to make necessary changes to the application form; standard process for permit application. 	Discussion to continue on Monitoring system installation costs, Permit request forms,
Other Updates and Information Sharing	<p>Other Updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto Public Library had a successful launch party of their new resource guide on March 26 and copies were given to members. David Booth was the main speaker at the event. • The district child care advisory network meetings are on City of Toronto website; discussion includes 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
	licensing, centralized processes, shared space and other stakeholders' concerns.	
Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings	Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings in 2012-2013: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 May 2013. These new dates were approved by the group at the last meeting.	Planning for next year's meetings 2013-2014
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur at 11:30 AM	

Next Meeting: Friday, 31 May 2013