



**Early Years Advisory Committee
Minutes**

Location: 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A

Date: Friday, December 6, 2013

Time: 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Co-Chairs: McArthur, Pam (Runnymede Adventure Club); Oakes, Jill (YMCA); Gershon, Gerri (Trustee, Ward 13);

Members:

Ali, Sophia (Growing Up Healthy Downtown); Chorney Rubin, Patricia (George Brown College, Ryerson Campus);
Frois, Frank (Centre for E.C.E); Hendy, Nancy (Community Living Toronto); Levy, Elaine (WoodGreen Community Services);
Marcoux, Dan (NYAD Community Inc); Mazurek, Joanna (Macaulay Child Development); McCarthy, Cindy (Terry Tan Child Centre);
McLeod, Lorraine (Toronto Childrens Service's); Mercer, Jane (Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care); Gentile, Monica (Ideal Child Care);
Raaflaub-Oakes, Diana (Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation);

TDSB STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chan, Shirley (Superintendent); Chow, Haley (Real Estate); Joliffe, May (Early Years); Robinson-Petrazzini, Sheryl (Early Years); Torres, Fidelia (Early Years);

REGRETS:

Caplan, Esther (Adventure Place, Early Years Action Group - North Quad); Siebert, Val (Kew Beach Day Care);
Slezak-Kawa, Susan (Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition); Sischy, Ruth (TDSB); Leung, Kitty (Permits Department, Facilities);
Shaw, Steve (Facilities Services);

GUESTS:

Somani, Reena (Alderwood Action Afterschool Inc.);
Yeo, Heather (McKee McKids Enrichment Centre); Spreitzer, Donna (Jackman Community Daycare);

RECORDER: Manalo, John (Parent and Community Engagement)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Welcome and Introductions	Meeting was called to order by Pam McArthur at 10:18 a.m. All members were welcomed by the co-chairs Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur.	

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	Roundtable introductions were done.	
Approval of Quorum (11)	Quorum was achieved with attendance of 14 voting members out of 21 at the time of questioning at 10:15 a.m.	
Approval of Agenda of Dec. 6, 2013 and Minutes of Sept. 27, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The agenda was approved as amended. Moved first by Elaine; Moved seconded by Cindy. ▪ Once quorum was met, a motion to approve the agenda was made first by Lorraine and second by Jill. The agenda of December 6, 2013 was approved. ▪ Once quorum was met, a motion to approve the minutes was made first by Cindy and second by Elaine. The minutes of September 27, 2013 were approved. 	
TDSB Update	<p>May Joliffe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FDK Before-and-After (B & A) School Programs expanded from 64 last year to 144 schools this September. ▪ The City of Toronto has identified more than 20 schools with potential interest in an FDK B & A Programs. ▪ Phase1-5 sites will also be identified through surveying during kindergarten registration. ▪ Parents/guardians are currently paying \$29-\$35 for the FDK B & A programs. <p>EYAC request to Staff: To provide quarterly updates of the number of children and the number of sites for FDK B & A Programs, Phases 1 to 4 of FDK.</p> <p>Sheryl Robinson-Petrazzini:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten with Phase Four starting in September 2013; ▪ Professional learning is continuing for ECEs, Teachers and Principals ▪ Focus on relationships, integration, inquiry, the principles in ELECT ▪ TDSB staff worked very closely through the summer with Children’s Services and Municipal Approval Workgroup. 	-May Joliffe will return with B&A program choices for parents of 4/5 year-olds, numbers for Phases 1 to 4

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With the funding from the Ministry of Education TDSB is planning professional learning for FDK Before and After School Program Childcare and kindergarten staff. 	
<p>Updates from Other Networks</p>	<p>Toronto Child and Family Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Municipal Approval Workgroup, supporting the licensing of FDK Before and After School Programs, reviewed the 2013-14 process to continue working on improvements for the next Phase. ▪ The Outcomes Workgroup is completing a report on shared child and family outcomes for the Network. The workgroup has developed a framework that includes outcome statements that can apply to all sectors. Lorraine suggested one EYAC representative to join the group. ▪ The Working Together Group within the Toronto Catholic school board has a meeting Dec.11 at Metro Hall 2 p.m.-4 p.m., room 305. ▪ Early Years and Care working group: Training discussions. ▪ Middle childhood strategy implementation started: Program Locator web-tool for childcare, Before and After school programs; Intergovernmental meetings are planned around service strategies; Aboriginal cultural competency training with Laurie Hermiston; ▪ Early Years network at Municipal level is planning a symposium to advance discussions around service integration in the year 2014. ▪ Planned Event Jan.21, 2014, 3-7pm: to provide information for city councillors in the rotunda space of the city of Toronto. ▪ Toronto Coalition for Better Childcare: watched the city budget on Nov. 25. Province announces an increase of \$20 million flowing within childcare due to having more children in Toronto. No cuts to service level grants or subsidies and this extra money will be used to achieve the other tasks on the waiting list. October budget service review at city level has happened and deputations of Wage Subsidy to expand childcare system. They will follow the deputations into the year 2014. Parents need to call their councillors to move it through. ▪ Provincial new legislation – unlicensed childcare will be penalized on a complaints-basis. 	<p>Any committee member interested in joining the Outcome workgroup should self identify at the next meeting.</p> <p>Provincial legislation to continue on the agenda after learning more from the webinar on Dec.11 1-3pm accessible for everyone from the Ministry.</p>
<p>Standing Items for Discussion (as applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Space – Best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fidelia Torres: Exploration classroom where the B & A are integrated. Best practices are being shared at the “Raising the Bar” conference. “Working together” Document is being developed to include examples of best practices. ▪ If anyone is interested in sharing best practices for a seamless day, please contact Lorraine McLeod at Lmcleod2@toronto.ca. 	<p>Permit fees on next agenda</p>

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Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Related Topics 		
Other Updates and Information Sharing	Other Updates included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Toronto: <i>The Middle Childhood Strategy Implementation Plan, A Time for Action</i> was presented to Council. The plan focuses on increasing awareness of the developmental importance of middle childhood, the importance of service coordination, partnerships and accessibility as well as common quality standards and shared outcomes. • Toronto Children Services: Wage subsidy programs for reconfigured childcare services will be given to the province in a report. City of Toronto did successful parent summit on their thoughts and vision for childcare, and a survey went out for feedback on how funding could flow and their priorities for childcare (Support facilities, location). 	Requested that the TDSB join the planning committee for the “Raising the Bar” conference.
Guests: Special Education and FDK (Before and After)	<p>Cindy Burley was invited to answer questions on Special education and FDK.</p> <p>Q: What is the plan for children with Special Education programs where the day is shortened?</p> <p>A: The Special Education department does not make the decision about shortened days. This is a school management decision after careful thought of the principal and superintendent and in consultation with parent.</p> <p>Though mandatory attendance is not until grade one, child does have the "right to attend" if they register in a JK/SK program. There is a varied range of development in children. Where a school day is shortened the school would develop a transitional plan with timelines for extending the school day. Some special education programs may end earlier than some regular programs, due to the challenges of transportation and routing of buses. We must assist parents in understanding their rights and feeling welcome at school.</p>	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings	Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings in 2013-2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 21 February 2014 • Friday, 16 May 2014. These new dates were approved by the group at the meeting.	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Gerri Gershon at 12:00 p.m.	

Next Meeting: Friday, 21 February 2014