



**Early Years Advisory Committee
Minutes**

Location: 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A

Date: Friday, February 21, 2014

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:

Chorney Rubin, Patricia (George Brown College, Ryerson Campus); Frois, Frank (Centre for E.C.E);

Mazurek, Joanna (Macaulay Child Development); McCarthy, Cindy (Terry Tan Child Centre); Motta, Gaby (Growing Up Healthy Downtown);

Pantos, Grace (Ideal Child Care); Perrella, Christie (Earl Haig Community Day Care);

Raaflaub-Oakes, Diana (Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation);

Siebert, Val (Kew Beach Day Care); Slezak-Kawa, Susan (Etobicoke Brighter Futures Coalition); Smith, Kim (Earl Haig Community Day Care);

Wong, Jessica (WoodGreen Community Services);

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chow, Haley (TDSB); Joliffe, May (TDSB); Russell-Rawlins, Colleen (Early Years Learning & Care);

Sischy, Ruth (TDSB); Torres, Fidelia (TDSB);

REGRETS:

Caplan, Esther (Adventure Place, Early Years Action Group - North Quad);

Costa, Colleen (Toronto Education Workers Local 4400 - CUPE); Daya, Zaheeda (Toronto Public Health, East Early Years Team);

Hendy, Nancy (Community Living Toronto); Mercer, Jane (Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care);

Leung, Kitty (Permits Department, Facilities); Shaw, Steve (Facilities Services);

Spreitzer, Donna (Jackman Community Daycare);

GUESTS:

Gentile, Monica (Ideal Child Care); Savinetti, Daniella (Ideal Child Care);

RECORDER: Manalo, John (Parent and Community Engagement)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Welcome and	Meeting was called to order by Pam McArthur at 10:20 a.m.	

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Introductions	<p>All members were welcomed by the co-chairs Trustee Gershon, Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur. Roundtable introductions were done.</p> <p>Welcome Colleen Russell-Rawlins.</p> <p>Farewell to Naseem Jamal, ICSG.</p>	
Approval of Quorum (11)	<p>Quorum was achieved with an attendance with 14 voting members out of 21 at this time of questioning at 10:20am.</p>	
Approval of Minutes of Dec. 6, 2013 and Agenda of February 21, 2014	<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 minutes was made first by Patricia and second by Grace. The agenda of February 6, 2014 were approved. 	
TDSB Update	<p>***MOTION: Staff updates for how many sites, how many children, in writing on a per meeting basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a followup to the motion, a database is being developed and a report was given out to members including a list of 13/14 school sites offering a FDK Before & After School Program. The list once finalized annually remains the same. Some of the data requested is not collected by the Ministry or the TDSB and may fluctuate. • Ruth Sischy updates on a workshop for managers of Parenting & Family Literacy Centres (PFLC) across the province. The recent conference was to promote early years health and well-being. Family literacy day was celebrated within family literacy centres. • The TDSB hosted a web chat focused on Full Day Kindergarten. It was our first integrated team web chat led by staff from PFLC, Early Years and Child Care. The web chat was well-subscribed by the community. 	<p>-Next update in the Fall of 2015</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional Learning for Kindergarten Teams Workshops are continuing face-to-face meetings and shared collaboration as a follow-up to Sheryl Robinson-Petrazzini's update. The focus is to build sound pedagogical skills to support the Early Years with principals, early childhood educators and teachers. There are ongoing professional learning opportunities available for FDK educator teams. Funding has been received by school boards to develop joint PD opportunities for schools and child care partners. The presentations EDU staff also shared they are working on an updated version of the Early Learning Framework (2013) that will focus on the implementation of the ELECT framework principles. Instructional leaders work with teachers and early childhood educators (kindergarten and Gr.1) to share best practices with their schools. ▪ May Joliffe updates: FDK phase 5 is progressing well with continued literacy programs. They support ongoing school sites with full implementation by September 2014 (Phase 5). ▪ Fidelia Torres: Working as a team within Early Years and care department Various TDSB departments address questions and issues regarding space surveys, leases, service agreements etc. Some changes to help streamline the process this year included digital submission of the space surveys. <p>Discussion: Members encourage joint PD amongst TDSB staff. Communication to participant schools and child-care providers could be clarified so principals are clear on who is to be involved and should be done earlier to make schedule arrangements. Staff will work with superintendents to make it clear to principals that child-care providers are at the table with school staff because as part of the team.</p>	
Permit costs	<p>Regrets: Guest Speakers Kitty Leung and Steve Shaw</p> <p>- Members emphasized that there are communication challenges around the timeliness of payment requests, changes in procedures within permit department or other information pieces that affect scheduling of child-care operations. While some child-care providers use cellphone and other social media tools for communications, It is requested from members that information be sent in advance from Permits the Department.</p>	<p>To be continued on the next agenda</p> <p>Staff will invite guest from Permits Department.</p>
Updates from Other Networks	Toronto Child and Family Network	

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	<p>The Aboriginal Advisory and Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aboriginal cultural competency training has been offered with Laurie Hermiston. <p>The Middle Childhood Work Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The group has completed the first phase of the Inventory of School Age Programs to assist in identifying gaps across Toronto in programming for children 6-12. It includes licensed child care as well as recreational programs. Also the group will be working on a strategy to promote awareness of the developmental importance of the 6-12 years. <p>The Municipal Approval Work Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The group supporting the licensing of FDK Before and After School Programs reviewed the 2013-14 process to continue working on improvements for the next Phase. <p>The Outcomes Workgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The group 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. <p>Early Years and Care working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training discussions <p>Middle Childhood Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ implementation is in process: Program Locator webtool for childcare, Before and After school programs; Intergovernmental meetings are planned around service strategies; <p>Early Years network at Municipal level</p> <p>Toronto coalition for Better Childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<p>Any committee member interested in joining the Outcome workgroup should self identify at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Standing Items for Discussion (as applicable):</p>	<p>Overview of the Child Care Modernization Act by Ministry of Education Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker for the presentation of Overview of the Child Care Modernization Act by Ministry of Education Staff 	<p>Staff will invite guest from Ministry of Education.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Child Care Modernization Act by Ministry of Education Staff • Shared Space – Best Practices • Facility Related Topics 	<p>Shared Space – Best Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p>Facility Related Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members in the committee raised concerns about changes to the Permits policies related to childcare. Some operators are being informed by the Permits department that they are allowed a maximum of two evening meetings a month and required to pay permits costs for any additional meetings. TDSB staff explained the Permits Procedures on the Child Care Resource Manual are being updated but changes have not been approved or implemented yet. Operators shared concerns about the potential financial impact on their operations of higher permit fees. The group agreed to invite a representative from the Permits department attend the next EYAC meeting. • Fidelia Torres: Exploration classroom where the Before and After are integrated. Best practices are being shared. At the “Raising the Bar” conference, there was TDSB presentation with lots of questions from participants. “Working together” Document is being developed to include examples of best practices. 	<p>Permit fees on next agenda. Staff will invite staff from Permits department.</p> <p>If anyone is interested in sharing best practices for a seamless day, please contact Lorraine McLeod Lmcleod2@toronto.ca.</p>
<p>Other Updates and Information Sharing</p>	<p>Other Updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Toronto: There were information tables set up at City Hall on <i>The Middle Childhood Strategy Implementation Plan, A Time for Action</i> and it was presented to Council for there awareness. 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. There is a need for leadership for Middle Years Strategy. • Toronto Children Services: • George Brown College: Looking at good practices for Early Years education. Requested that the TDSB join the planning committee for the “Raising the Bar” conference so that it happens annually. There are some struggles with leadership, sector rules, and comprehension with Child-care. Also, Members need to know what is working in breaking down barriers. Transportation is a continuing challenge. Teachers supervising and teachers teaching are different scenarios. Make parents understand their rights and feel welcome. • Members need ways to access information on child-care providers during times of emergency when parents are looking on the TDSB website. There is a banner on the TDSB website for system 	<p>In future, there is a banner on the TDSB website for system information updates.</p> <p>Staff is working on a contact database for emergency purposes.</p>

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	information updates regarding closures. There is also information updated via Twitter when it impacts multiple sites. Staff is working on developing a process for maintaining a current contact database for emergency purposes.	
Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings	<p>Due to the long weekend after May 16, the EYAC meeting in May will be rescheduled.</p> <p>Early Years Advisory Committee Future Meetings in 2013-2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ** Friday, 16 May 2014. will have to change to May 23 or May 30. <p>These new dates were approved by the group at the meeting.</p>	Committee assistant will send new meeting date to members once confirmed.
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Gerri Gershon at 11:25 a.m.	

Next Meeting: Friday, 23 or 30 May 2014