

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

Meeting Date: January 14, 2022

Notes

Attendance: via Zoom:

Pam McArthur (Community Co-Chair/ Runnymede Adventure Club), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children’s Services), Nicola Maguire (LEF), and Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandy Lion Daycare).

Also present were: Trustee Manna Wong (Co-Chair, Ward 20), Mandeep Gabhi (Research and Information Analyst), Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Karen Guthrie (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Nadejda Lekosky (Child Care Services Manager-Interim), Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years/English Literacy), Amie Presley (Research Co-ordinator), and Jacqueline Spence (System Superintendent, Equity and Early Years).

Regrets:

Trustee David Smith (Ward 17), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), and Diane Banks (Toronto Public Library).

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS
Welcome/Introductions		
Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands	<p>"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples."</p>	
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum confirmed. 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agenda was passed with switch of items 8. and 9, so Student Census will begin at 10:30am, followed by Staff Update at approx. 11:30am. • Moved: Stephanie Nickle • Seconded: Kim Rogers 	
Approval of Minutes- October 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes were accepted with track changes/red indicators to be removed. • Moved: Anabela Ferreira • Seconded: Kim Rogers 	
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'-Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill introduced Trustee's Manna Wong (Trustee Co-Chair, 	

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	<p>Ward 20) and David Smith (Ward 17) as EYCAC representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation to Trustee Jennifer Story (Ward 15), Trustee Dan MacLean (Ward 2) and Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (Ward 11) was shared for their contribution. Thank you for your time with EYCAC. • Child care operators are interested in how reporting of positive COVID-19 cases will be managed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disclosure of close contacts and how screening will work for the operators, as it effects the management of groupings? ○ If a child with symptoms arrives at child care, are they sent back to the school office? Schools must make the call regarding a sick child and avoid sending them to the child care. This needs to be confirmed with the Principals, teachers, and joint health and safety committee. • TPH sessions fill up quickly – educators need to register as soon as possible. • City screening rules appear to be very fluid, reminder was given to refresh browser; directly operated City programs will recommend self-isolation for 5 days for the cohort until comment from TPH direction – policy to apply to both 0-3.8 and 4-12. • Rules for 4-12 are not clear regarding screening rules, so child care operators are awaiting updates from City Consultants. 	

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<p>TDSB Student Census 2022 (Research Dept.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandeep Gabi (Research and Information Analyst) and Amie Presley (Research Co-ordinator) presented the TDSB Student Census 2022 slides, as provided to the committee along with the agenda. • The TDSB Student Census is a confidential and voluntary survey • 50+ consultations have been conducted, including all CACs. • Student Census, Spring 2022 administration is tentative. • Census for students in GR 4-12 to be completed by students online at school and Census for students in K-GR 3 to be completed by the student's parent/guardian. • Schools receive reports after data collection cycle. The intention is to share this information with the community groups/members to review results as well. • Some current Census questions will be removed or updated in the 2022 Census. • What Student Census questions/areas can we potentially explore or enhance to include important early years information/experiences? <p>Membership discussion highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow/transition experience of students from school to child care. • Parent vs student completion of survey for JK-3.... implications? • Demographic questions etc. will look slightly different with 	

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	<p>parents responding. It is not a full parent engagement survey only engagement with JK-3 parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardians experiences in early learning and child care, such as positive/negative experiences. Giving the opportunity for parents/guardians to express their feedback/experiences. • Enrolment for before- and after-school programs (BASP) - What does access look like for various demographic/economic/cultural groups? • JK-3 student voice should be included and heard; maybe something where child/parent do together...worded appropriately. • Availability of child care? - Where/what kind is preferred for after school care? • How do early years experiences transfer to/impact well-being; how emotional development is supported and shared with parents; e.g., children going into BASP, what are the relationship pieces e.g., what is the experience of those children with a different outlook on being involved in extra-curricular activities? • What gaps are missing in the document that would be helpful to child care and early years stakeholders? • Reflecting on access and how access is tied to some equity challenges. <p>Use of Student Census Data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being that we are largest School Board in Canada, this data can be used to change policy for many stakeholders, 	

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	<p>internal and external.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sharing agreement with Toronto Public Health - there are now questions regarding community violence. • Sharing agreement with University of Toronto, York University, University of Guelph, and City of Toronto. • Within the TDSB, the policy review process e.g., Specialized Programs - data used to show low number of racialized students enrolled due to barriers and Special Education KIP programs – few students with Special Needs were actually enrolled. • TDSB shares the information with Community members. • Amie is happy to work through the data with EYCAC as requested after the data is collected. • More input is welcome. What information would be helpful to you as a CAC, as stakeholders, etc.? • Amie welcomes more feedback/ideas by email. Please email: research@tdsb.on.ca. • Update: In an effort to further represent Early Years in the survey, Research has provided the following shared google doc. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c2zUFGk_1FbBGjvOzpuelhMvp5ez5yGOwQ2_GxkEmws/edit?usp=sharing • Survey topics are attached to this google doc to support your review and feedback. • Research has asked that members please suggest any ideas or information needs related to the topics in the google doc by the end of January. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the final survey is ready, Research will distribute it to all the CAC's so they can see the final version and the rationale for revisions. 	
Staff Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cynthia Grundmann, Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services and Nadejda Lekosky, Interim Manager, Child Care Services shared the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Child Care for eligible families started this past Monday, with close to 50 sites across the City, including 28 in TDSB schools. Looks like greater access this time around and we were able to offer free Wi-Fi again. Principals, facility teams, and community worked hard to ensure the smooth availability. A member stated, there were a lot of calls, parents figured the first week out, so attendance is ramping up during the second week as parents want to take advantage. Rapid Antigen Test kits – Child care operators will get them through the schools. The Ministry will send child care allocations directly to schools. Please speak with Principals. N95 (optional) masks – TDSB Health and Safety staff say that child cares can borrow from the schools until their allotment arrives, then replenish the schools. *Update since meeting - Child care operators will not be receiving masks directly and will receive them through the schools. Schools will report how many masks child cares receives. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directive from Ministry is that masks are acceptable if they are medical/surgical level 3 mask, N95, or KN95. EYCAC members believes staff will go to the medical masks because N95s are not as comfortable. Cynthia verbally shared the TDSB system message sent out January 13th regarding masking expectations, and N95 access through the Principals. One mask per day. Reach out to Child Care Services team if child care operators have further challenges. • Level 2 mask with 3 layers is no longer supported. • Cynthia shared that the Ministry and City have recommended that EarlyON Centres continue in a virtual capacity only at this time. TDSB is supporting this recommendation. Virtual availability continues until further notification from Toronto Public Health, Ministry of Education and the City. • EDP – programs are reopening on Monday January 17th, offering same capacities as prior to closure. <p>EYCAC Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is time to update the ToR based on the mandatory review cycle for CAC ToR but also to reflect our work and the work of the committee moving forward. How and when do we want to start this process? -- We want it to be an effective and efficient process. The nature of our work has changed, membership has changed, thus updating it to take into account those around the table makes sense. Would we like to have at least a draft ready for October 	<p>Claudette Fava to send out the EYCAC Terms of Reference to members with a feedback mechanism.</p>

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	<p>2022 meeting? Do we want to have a sub-committee/working group? Would we like to start on it next meeting, as we know it can be a lengthy process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was shared that the last ToR review process involved Colleen and that the ToR is very child care heavy. Working group method has worked in the past. • The Terms of Reference is from 2016. As the staff lead, Cynthia thinks it is important to address this issue and ensure EYCAC is in compliance with CAC mandatory review requirements. Initial ideas or themes will be gathered prior to and shared at next meeting. After this the Committee can consider next steps. • It was acknowledged that membership has changed, and possibly non-child care is not as represented as it could be. Topics raised over recent past have been primarily child care focused. A member noted it might be a good idea to pull members from broader EY stakeholder groups. • There is an opportunity to ensure the Terms of Reference and Membership/partnership reflect more closely the mandate and interest of the Committee which is broader than the child care sector. 	
Other Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Patricia Chorney Rubin shared that post-secondary enrollments for ECEs are down. It is a 'perfect storm' in that there is a staffing crisis in the ECE sector. There are a number of reasons including lower pay, lack of benefits, yet frontline in the pandemic, less placement/co-op opportunities for students, etc.. Vulnerable centres are hit as they lose staff to larger, unionized opportunities, with 	

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	security and pensions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a huge issue for the 3rd party operators and will likely continue as the pandemic continues. 	
Next Meeting Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 25, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 14, 2022 at 11:51 a.m. Moved by Pam. 	