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**Name of Committee: Early Years Community Advisory Committee (EYCAC)****Meeting Date: May 14, 2021**

A meeting of the Early Years Community Advisory Committee convened on May 14, 2021 from 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. in a Virtual Zoom Meeting, with Community Co-Chairs: Pam McArthur and Jill Oakes presiding.

**Attendance via Zoom:**

Pam McArthur (Community Co-Chair/ Runnymede Adventure Club), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Diane Banks (Toronto Public Library), Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College), Shiromie Ganesh (Heart Beatz Child Care), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Dan MacLean (Trustee), Nicola Maguire (LEF), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children's Services), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), and Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandyion Daycare)


Also present were TDSB Staff: Marisa Chiu (Executive Officer of Finance), Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Karen Guthrie (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Liz Hoang (Child Care Services Manager), Nadejda Lekosky (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years), Indushan Rajakulasingam (Business Analyst, IT Portfolio Management & Communications), and Peter Singh (Executive Officer, Information Technology/Information Management and Freedom of Information and Privacy)

Also present were Guests: Michelle Aarts (Trustee) and Robert Spencer (Parent and Community Member of ICCAC)

**Regrets:**

Rachel Chernois-Lin (Trustee), Jeff deFreitas (PLASP Child Care Services), Nancy Hendy (Toronto Children's Services), Jennifer Story (Trustee Co-Chair), and Lorrie Weddell (NYAD - Donwood)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION
Welcome/Introductions		
Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands	<p><b>"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples."</b></p>	
Confirmation of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quorum confirmed</li> </ul>	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agenda was passed.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Patricia Chorney Rubin Seconded: Patrina Stathopoulos</p>	
Approval of Minutes- March 12, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minutes were accepted as presented:</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Jill Oakes Seconded: Stephanie Nickle</p>	
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed - No Conflicts were declared</li> </ul>	
Co-Chairs' Report	<p><b>Communication items (Co-Chairs'- Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur):</b></p> <p><b>Some areas of focus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicola Maguire, Director of Early Years Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF) was welcomed to the committee as a new representative. Nicola is replacing Coleen McGrath.</li> <li>• Today is the last EYCAC meeting for 2021-2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Members shared triumphs and obstacles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staying connected while child care centres are currently closed has been important.</li> <li>• Child care operators are engaging staff with course training, compliance training, and diversity training.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing information, ongoing communication and staying connected with families through Google Classroom has and continues to be important.</li> <li>• What will be the new normal look like for child care centres when programs reopen after COVID-19?</li> <li>• How child care centres rebuild and recover?</li> <li>• How do child cares get back to pre-COVID-19 enrollment and what will operating capacities be?</li> <li>• What does expansion look like for child care centres?</li> <li>• TDSB staff shared that during the May 13, 2021 Toronto Child and Family Network (TCFN) meeting research data from Ontario Public Health and Strides was presented on the health and well-being of children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cynthia provided EYCAC members the presentation, information on the data collection survey and a link for a follow-up survey.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>TCFN_Neg impacts presentation_May 1:    New OPS 2 – Media Release v2.pdf    New OPS 2 – Info Advisory .pdf</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member shared that the data showed an increased level of children with feelings of anxiety, depression, and fatigue. Some thoughts to consider for children is to increase opportunities for socialization and provide supports to educators for children who have experienced depression and anxiety.</li> <li>• A member shared that outdoor physical experiences is important for children more than ever now.</li> <li>• Summer camp programs will need approval from Public Health Ontario, local health authorities and Ministry of Health/Education to operate. TDSB Extended Day Programs are planning for summer camp operations; however, need approval of Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education to operate.</li> <li>• The last day of class for elementary students was confirmed (June 29 and the last day of class for secondary students is June 28).</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Wi-Fi Access for child cares – Update</b></p>	<p><b>Peter Singh</b>, Executive Officer, Information Technology/Information Management and Freedom of Information and Privacy, <b>Indushan Rajakulasingam</b>, Business Analyst, IT Portfolio Management &amp; Communications, and <b>Marisa Chiu</b>, Executive Officer of Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter provided an update on Wi-Fi access needs for child care operators There are 333 child care centres in TDSB and of those, 180 operators may have more than one child care location.</li> <li>• The following information was received from the survey sent to the 333 child care centres: Out of 180 operators 109 responded, and 69 indicated an interest TDSB Wi-Fi service and would like to subscribe.</li> <li>• The provision of this service requires administrative responsibilities and is more complex than it seems. When a user ID is requested someone needs to validate that this is in fact the individual requesting the ID.</li> <li>• A TDSB staff member from IT then needs to trigger the process which involves enabling an ID on the TDSB system with the right permissions put in place around access. There are multiple TDSB staff working on the initial setup which is challenging.</li> <li>• Peter and different departments are looking into how TDSB is going to charge for the service to cover TDSB costs. Other issues requiring further discussion include: How is the user ID going to be maintained when a staff moves from one location to another? What happens when a staff leaves and a new staff ID is required? Each time any service data is added /modified TDSB resources are going to be needed to deliver that service.</li> <li>• It is important to note that at this time, if the site does not have Wi-Fi infrastructure, TDSB will not be installing Wi-Fi.</li> <li>• Indushan Rajakulasingam, Business Analyst has been assigned to work on this project with the Network Services Team. A next step will be to determine if staff are needed to confirm the infrastructure of the sites. IT will need to go to those locations where child cares are interested in this service.</li> <li>• Another next step is to analyze costs. How much will it cost to provide this service? What are the costs to implement automation, back end</li> </ul>	

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	<p>integrations systems for client services, property management, staff resources, etc.? What happens if the child care operator does not pay for Wi-Fi access? Discussions are taking place with different departments to understand this payment process. TDSB is looking at a pre-paid service model where operators pay for the service upfront. IT is also exploring and trying to understand all factors on how to minimize overall costs to both the Board and operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marisa Chiu, Executive Officer of Finance shared that the purpose of this initiative is to provide our child care operators with a cost efficient Wi-Fi solution. Revenue is not a consideration. The billing process could be a quarterly, semi-annually, or annually to reduce the amount of transactions and administrative requirements. There will be substantial labour initially when setting up the vendors for billing and dealing with changes to users accounts/IDs that may occur. These are some of the items that will take time from the finance team but are more than happy to accommodate this work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Members discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member shared that child care operators need for Wi-Fi access to support online screening process. What is the timeframe for the rollout?</li> <li>• Peter shared Wi-Fi service could be available this September if everything is in place. Free service cannot be provided. There are security risks and validating each ID for access is necessary.</li> <li>• TDSB staff shared Emergency Child Care (ECC) provisions of guest Wi-Fi access is only during the lockdown periods and a short-term solution that involves 23 programs. The unique nature and requirements of these programs is to essentially support student learning. ECC is able to provide access to Wi-Fi based on TDSB Director direction for the duration of their operation which is now extended to June.</li> <li>• During the last EYCAC meeting on March 12, 2021 there were two different issues: Providing third party temporary immediate access to Wi-Fi and longer-term ongoing Wi-Fi access needs. The processes are different.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would be the demand or how do the parameters look for summer camps?</li> <li>• Peter furthered clarified that TDSB is only looking at infrastructure that is in place not building new infrastructure for child care centres. There is no funding to facilitate new infrastructure.</li> <li>• A member wanted to confirm that exclusive space would not be included in wall to wall infrastructure. Peter confirmed that those areas are not included in the planning.</li> <li>• A member asked for those that are in an exclusive space or have classrooms that are not in the wall to wall infrastructure what would be the recommendation or how can operators get Wi-Fi in those areas to deal with emergencies and online screening?</li> <li>• Peter responded that operators should reach out to service providers like Rogers, Bell, and other telecommunications depending on their location.</li> <li>• There is a process that the child care operators need to follow when reaching out to service providers. Child care operators will need to work with TDSB Facility Services. External service providers are not allowed in TDSB buildings. A tenant request would be required through their facility team leader.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>TDSB Staff Updates (Senior Resource Person)</b></p>	<p><b>Cynthia Grundmann, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Early Years and Child Care Services</b></p> <p><b><u>Emergency Child Care (ECC) update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Child Care are currently operating at 23 sites in TDSB schools. These programs serve students in Grades K-6 whose parents/guardians are considered essential workers. TDSB recognizes the importance of this service and has committed to providing access to all licensed before- and after-school program spaces at the 23 sites where operators have been approved by Toronto Children’s Services (TCS) to implement these programs. At this time TDSB does not have any further information around when schools will reopen and</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Emergency Child Care services for eligible families will continue for the duration of the remote learning period and until face to face instruction returns. The TDSB will continue to offer free Wi-Fi for students accessing these programs in an effort to support their continued virtual learning.</p> <p><b><u>Permits update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At this time, the TDSB has not reached a decision on community access and summer permits. While TDSB has accepted summer permit applications, these will remain on hold until direction is provided from the Province and Toronto Public Health. TDSB is unsure of when we will receive this direction and are unable to provide timelines.</li> <li>• Last summer the TDSB limited the number of programs per school and only a small number of schools operated with more than one program. TDSB tentative plans include continuing with this practice but it will all depend on the direction we receive from TPH and the Ministry of Health.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TDSB School Calendar:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed 2021 holiday calendar was sent to child care partners on April 26th and the draft 2021-22 school year calendar will follow shortly. Both have been submitted to the Ministry of Education and are pending approval.</li> <li>• When TDSB plans its school-year calendar, there are a number of Provincial requirements and complex factors that must be considered (e.g., religious holidays, number of required instructional and PD days, collective agreement obligations, etc.). The Board does its best to make decisions that will support child care operations, and Child Care Services Team is always involved in these calendar discussions. December 31st is TDSBs New Year’s statutory holiday and as a result permits cannot be offered on this day. The Child Care Services Team has discussed this piece with TCS and understands they will be providing some supports to child cares that had planned to open on December 31. Thank you for understanding as TDSB meets various requirements and plan through this difficult and complex process.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toronto Children Services (TCS) shared that the budget process for licensed operators will not have any financial impact for the December 31st. More information will be provided once the Children’s Services budget cycle is finalized. Please speak to your consultant about specific changes at the program location level.</li> <li>• Before-and After-School Programs can operate summer programming until the first day of school instruction (September 9, 2021 TBC), including on professional learning and professional development days.</li> <li>• The last day of class for elementary students is June 29, 2021. The last elementary school PA Day is June 4, 2021. <a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Year-Calendar">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Year-Calendar</a></li> <li>• First day of classes for students is September 9, 2021</li> <li>• The last day of class for elementary students is June 30, 2022</li> </ul> <p><b><u>General Staff update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EYCAC formally recognizes Joanne Davis, Manager and Policy Advisor, EarlyON Centres, who will be retiring at the end of June 2021. Joanne has contributed many years of support and EYCAC wishes her a positive and fulfilling retirement. We thank Joanne for her dedicated service.</li> <li>• Liz Hoang, Child Care Services Manager, will be going on her four-over-five leave starting at the end of August 2021. EYCAC would like to thank her for all her support with this committee and specifically child care operations and third party partners. Wishing you a pleasant year off in whatever you decide to pursue during that time.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee Michelle Aarts, Co-Chair for Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee (CUSCAC) and Inner City Community Advisory Committee (ICCAC) is looking at the mandate of other committees specifically on equity through community and considering the overall impacts of poverty on student success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Spencer, a parent and community member of ICCAC discussed the equity distribution issues at the core of model</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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	<p>schools. Robert would appreciate if a representative from EYCAC could contribute to the discussion with ICCAC on public policy as it relates to child care in schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TDSB staff requested Trustee Aarts to summarize what specifically is needed from an EYCAC representative to share with all EYCAC members. A request for more information to be provided regarding the workgroup that the representative would be part of.</li> <li>• TDSB staff shared that TDSB plays a very important role in terms of service system planning and with the City and Ministry in relation to child care capital development and child care growth.</li> <li>• TCS shared that they work with their partners and planning around local expansions and system growth. There is a lot of data and information with Raising the Village: Improving the Outcomes for Toronto's Children and Families <a href="https://raisingthevillage.ca/">https://raisingthevillage.ca/</a></li> <li>• Trustee Aarts shared that when building more child care centres but not making it affordable for people in high needs communities it is an equity issue.</li> <li>• TDSB staff stated that Trustee Aarts should engage with TCS who have the legislated responsibility to plan, grow, and develop the system through a strong equity lens which they do already. Children's Services is the service system manager for early years programs, planning and services in Toronto.</li> <li>• TDSB staff wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing commitment to EYCAC. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to children, families, EYCAC, and TDSB in supporting our operations, requirements, directives, and guidelines. Thank you during this ever-changing and difficult landscape. Wishing everyone a safe, happy, healthy, and rejuvenating summer.</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 12:00p.m.	
<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBA from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom</li> </ul>	