

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

**Meeting Date: January 27, 2023**

**Notes:**

---

**Attendance: via Zoom:**

Patricia Chorney Rubin (Community Co-Chair/ George Brown College), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Michelle Dutra (Woodgreen Child Care), Nicola Maguire (LEF), Pam McArthur (Runnymede Adventure Club), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandyllion Daycare), Rosemary Stiglic (PLASP Child Care Services), and Amy Van Camp (Toronto Children's Services).

Also present were: Trustee Matias de Dovitiis (Ward 4), Audley Salmon (Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity), Lynn Strangway (Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 3 and Early Years), Stefanie De Jesus (Research Coordinator, Research and Development), Kim Fritz, (Manager, TDSB EarlyON Child and Family Centres), Trustee Dennis Hastings (Ward 1), Liz Hoang (Interim Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Nadejda Lekosky (Interim Child Care Services Manager), and Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years/English Literacy).

**Regrets:**

Trustee Malika Ghous (Trustee Co-Chair, Ward 18) and Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care).

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
Welcome/Introductions/ Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands		
Call to Order / 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 approved.</li> <li>• Moved: Patrina Stathopoulos</li> <li>• Seconded: Irena Setnik</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes- October 14, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minutes were approved.</li> <li>• Moved: Pam McArthur</li> <li>• Seconded: Jill Oakes</li> </ul>	
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed - No Conflicts were declared</li> </ul>	
Co-Chair Report	<p><b>Communication items (Co-Chairs'- Patricia Chorney Rubin and Jill Oakes):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Van Camp, Toronto Children's Services (TCS) was welcomed to the committee as a new representative. Amy is replacing Ann Marie Schiraldi.</li> <li>• Michelle Dutra (Woodgreen Child Care) was welcomed to the committee as a new representative. Michelle is replacing Stephanie Nickle.</li> </ul> <p><b>Severe Weather Conditions Survey Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Co-Chairs and members would like to understand the results of the survey that TDSB Child Care Services</li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>provided child care operators in January 2023 and how this information will be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board is reviewing TDSB Severe Weather: Schools and Administrative Office/Sites -Operational Procedure PR519 <a href="https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/101/242.pdf">https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/101/242.pdf</a></li> <li>• TDSB reached out to child care partners to better understand their perspectives.</li> <li>• Child Care Services shared a survey with child care partners to seek feedback about operations when schools are closed due to severe weather conditions. There were two questions on the survey. First, if schools were closed due to severe weather conditions, would child cares operate their program if the school site was deemed safe for operations? Second, if schools were closed due to severe weather conditions, would child cares operate their program if snow/ice clearing could not be completed prior to 7:00 a.m.?</li> <li>• CCS received 190 responses and of those over 70% indicated they would not operate their programs if sites were deemed safe for operations. Over 90% indicated that they would not operate if schools were closed due to severe weather conditions, and snow/ice clearing could not be completed prior to 7:00 a.m. Child Care Services team has provided this information to senior team members and will further discuss these results.</li> </ul> <p><b>Members discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members shared that when TDSB decides to announce that the schools will be closed due to severe weather conditions for the safety of children, families, and staff this decision</li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>may impact child care operators. Child care operators need to follow their policies, procedures, and liability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liz shared that further conversations will be taking place when reflecting on TDSB practices. Child care is an important piece in schools and in communities and the TDSB aims to support child care operations whenever possible.</li> <li>Members share that it's very challenging for operators to operate in these situations. If it's not safe for children to go to school, then how can it be safe for child care operators?</li> <li>Audley Salmon, Associate Director of Learning Transformation and Equity shared that the most challenging decision is whether to close schools or not. Consultations take place with other school boards when making this decision. Further discussions with facilities and principal associations are taking place.</li> <li>A member agreed that the messaging from the school board impacts the decisions child care operators make in deciding whether to open or close. Communication, delivery, and messaging must be streamlined.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wi-Fi Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Co-Chairs and members would like an update from the October 15, 2021, EYCAC meeting regarding the funding opportunity from the Ministry of Education in developing and having a more secure Wi-Fi infrastructure in schools.</li> <li>The City of Toronto is providing iPads to some child care centres that are part of a grant for professional development; however, child care centres require Wi-Fi for this use. It is very difficult to operate technology without</li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>access. Amy Van Camp, (TCS) shared she will take back this information and connect with Nadie and Liz.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child care operators would like to receive communication on what the process is to receive Wi-Fi and the costs.</li> <li>• Audley will connect with Peter Singh for an update on providing access to Wi-Fi services to third-party/independent child care staff operating child care programs in TDSB schools/sites and if there are security factors.</li> <li>• Nadie, shared there is a process that the child care operators can follow to have their own Wi-Fi installed by an external service provider. Child care operators must work through TDSB Facility Services as there are specific tasks that must be completed by Board staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Post Secondary Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Chair Patricia shared post-secondary registration of ECE students across GTA is trending downward.</li> <li>• There is a workforce staffing crisis in ECE programs. Some child care centres have closed classrooms due to the program not being able to operate due to staff shortages.</li> <li>• How can post-secondary increase registration numbers in ECE programs? Most post-secondary are trying to increase apprenticeship. However, applications are trending down.</li> <li>• The sector is going to need thousands of educators in the next 3 to 4 years due to expansion. Province estimates it could be short 8,500 registered ECEs by 2026. This is going to have an impact for all child care operators including TDSB.</li> <li>• What can post-secondary programs do to increase enrollment? Members from across the community, colleges</li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>and post-secondary are meeting with Ministry of Education to discuss and provide feedback. There are 3 big items: To support a wage grid and have a public announcement, the province invests in a public service announcement/ social campaign to raise the value of ECEs, and for the province to look at benefits and pension plans across the sector to improve the work environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional development for staff often takes place in the evening due to the lack of supply coverage during the day. There is limited access to supply staff for relief.</li> <li>• ECEs are leaving work environments due to poor working conditions and low wages after 3 years. This is hurting the sector. Future students are not entering the field and those that are in the field are leaving. Precarious work/split shifts are an issue.</li> <li>• Most students who go into the ECE program are from high school. Who are the influencers in high school? (Guidance counselors, family members, and peers). What are some of the things to engage future students? What information is needed for guidance counselors from post-secondary?</li> </ul>	
TDSB Staff Updates	<p><b>Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity and Lynn Strangway, Executive Superintendent Learning Centre 3</b></p> <p><b>Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audley shared an update about Extended Day Program (EDP) and CWELCC. A report was presented to Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee on January 23, 2023, to inform Trustees that the Board will not go forward with</li> </ul>	


ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>licensing EDP for 2022-23 school year. The Board considered the operational requirements and financial implications and impacts of converting and operating EDP as a licensed child care program. There are concerns with respect to funding and budgetary pressures that would be created through a licensed model. It would further increase EDP's current operating deficit. TDSB remains committed to supporting children and families and recognize that for some families, access and affordability remain a challenge. The Board will have the opportunity to revisit this for future years and will continue to consult with TCS and Ministry of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member shared that families in receipt of fee subsidy are also entitled to a reduction of their parental contribution. The \$12 per day minimum does not apply to families in receipt of a fee subsidy.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Umbrella Agreement</b></p> <p>Audley shared an update on the child care Umbrella Agreement between TDSB and the City of Toronto, under TCS. On December 7, 2022, the Board passed a motion that outlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TDSB has a \$40.4m deficit for 2022-23</li> <li>Under the Umbrella Agreement the TDSB is paid \$6.50 per sq/ft, which is significantly less than the cost recovery rate of \$14.38 per sq/ft</li> <li>In order to account for this difference, the TDSB has subsidized child care occupancy through funds that are meant for K-12 students</li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Director be authorized to re-negotiate the terms of the child care Umbrella Agreement with the City of Toronto, under TCS to ensure the Board is made financially whole</li> </ul> <p>TDSB has recently received notice that due to their financial position, the City of Toronto is unable to pay the cost recovery rate and the Umbrella Agreement will be terminated January 1, 2024.</p> <p>Liz shared that information about this motion was shared through the Child Care Services team to those child care programs with leases under the child care umbrella agreement. An update and next steps will be shared soon.</p> <p>Amy shared that TCS will work with Province to leverage existing funding allocation with CWELCC funding to offset the impact of potential increased occupancy costs and financial risk to child care centres. TCS will ensure that occupancy costs are included for consideration and future changes to the provincial funding formula for child care.</p> <p><b>Liz Hoang, Interim Senior Policy Advisor/ Manager Early Years (Child Care, EarlyON, Extended Day Program), Nadejda Lekosky, Interim Manager, Child Care Services, and Kim Fritz, Manager, TDSB EarlyON Child and Family Centres shared the following updates:</b></p> <p><b>EarlyON Update</b></p> <p>Kim shared that TDSB has recently been approved by TCS to</p>	



ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>develop two new programs through the <u>EarlyON Innovation Grant: Reimagining Early Years Programming for Black Children and Families</u>. This grant provides one-time funding, ending December 31, 2023, to support the EarlyON sector in developing more targeted culturally safe, and responsive programming for Black children and families. Across the sector, and in TDSB, many programs report low attendance of Black children and families, and difficulties reaching the Black community. EarlyON locations in schools can be a barrier to some families due to historic systemic racism.</p> <p>Through this program, the EarlyON team has developed a partnership with Early Childhood Development Initiative, a Black mandate service provider who will co-lead community consultation and program implementation. The team is also connecting with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement to seek opportunities to collaborate.</p> <p>The work through this grant will support the TDSB commitment to equity, specifically its work to dismantle systemic anti-Black racism and to support Black student achievement. Agencies participating in the grant will have the opportunity to meet regularly throughout the process to report, share and reflect. TDSB EarlyON is looking forward to learning how we can improve our services and apply lessons to all our programs.</p> <p><b>Child Care/ Before-and After-School Programs (BASP) Update</b></p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p><b>BASP Planning</b></p> <p>Nadie shared the annual process of (BASP) surveying schools without a program will take place during the month of February, in line with Kindergarten Registration Month. It is hoped that CWELCC will have a positive impact and garner interest at schools where viable numbers have not been achieved.</p> <p><b>BASP Expansion</b></p> <p>In the coming weeks, Child Care Services will be engaging with child care operators around expansions and space changes for September 2023. Please connect with the school principal to begin these conversations. Child Care Services will communicate with Principals. If operators need support to begin the space request process, please reach out to Early Years Coordinator's Leslie Murray and Karen Guthrie.</p> <p><b>Anastasia Poulis, Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years, English/Literacy and Stefanie De Jesus, Research Coordinator, Research and Development</b> shared the following updates:</p> <p><b>Pandemic Impacts on TDSB Kindergarten Children and Pedagogical Approaches to Support Them</b></p> <p>Anastasia and Stefanie shared a presentation on how the pandemic impacted the youngest learners in terms of formal schooling and the mitigating factors around supporting students at</p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>the earliest level.</p>  <p>Pandemic Impacts on Kindergarten Chi</p> <p>As part of TDSB’s commitment to the success of children through strengthening early education and care, to support the Pandemic Recovery Plan, and to affirm the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Board resolved at the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on March 3, 2022, that understanding and responding to the needs of Kindergarten children are important. As a result, Stefanie and Anastasia presented this research to PSSC in November 2022.</p> <p>Understanding the Impacts of the Pandemic on TDSB’s Youngest Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief review of Ontario/Canadian research</li> <li>• Focus groups with Kindergarten teachers and Designated Early Childhood Educators</li> <li>• Brief, online perceptual survey of school-based and central educators and administrators with experience and understanding in Kindergarten and early childhood development</li> <li>• Re-examining past Pandemic Parent Check-in Surveys</li> </ul> <p>Research Identified the Following Pandemic Impacts on Young Children:</p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social emotional learning</li> <li>• Self-regulation and Independence</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• School attendance and punctuality</li> <li>• Literacy, Mathematics and General Knowledge</li> <li>• Physical development</li> </ul> <p>Honouring Skills, Knowledge and Experiences Gained Among Children Throughout the Pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fluency with technology</li> <li>• Connections between family and classroom experiences</li> <li>• Expansion and expression of student interests</li> <li>• Increased opportunities to learn in rich contexts</li> </ul> <p>Mitigating the Impacts of the Pandemic on Young Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with the Urban Indigenous Education Centre and The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement</li> <li>• <a href="#">Family and Caregiver website on early literacy</a></li> <li>• A focus on Play and resources to support opportunities for joy and wonder and nurture social emotional learning</li> <li>• Leveraging digital tools through the Kindergarten iPad Initiative</li> <li>• Affirming, validating students' passions, lived experiences, and identities in the classroom and in learning experiences throughout the day</li> <li>• Learning through exploration, play, and inquiry both in the classroom and the outdoors</li> <li>• Anchoring learning in responsive relationships with students, families, and community</li> </ul>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>Anastasia shared that play is vital and TDSB recognizes that part of the pandemic recovery plan is that all students thrive in optimal conditions around play and inquiry from kindergarten to Grade 12 pedagogical approach.</p> <p>A member shared that having play-based environments in shared spaces supports delivering how learning happens which is a fundamental part of programming and curriculum delivery. Child care operators would support seeing spaces more conducive to play-based learning.</p> <p><b>Professional Learning Opportunity for Child Care partners</b></p> <p>Anastasia shared that on January 13, 2023 there was system-wide professional learning for DECEs with a focus on supporting the implementation of the Ministry of Education's <i>Effective Early Reading Instruction: A teacher's guide in the Kindergarten classroom</i>.</p> <p>Early Years will be providing a half-day virtual professional learning on this topic to child care educators in February. Further information will be provided by the Child Care Services team soon.</p> <p><b>Kindergarten Registration for September 2023</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth</a></p> <p>Anastasia shared registration for all TDSB English Kindergarten programs begins February 1st, 2023. Communication around</p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>kindergarten registration to the system began in December 2022 and throughout January 2023 in terms of information for principals. There is a Kindergarten Registration Committee that meets from September and includes representatives from Child Care Services, EarlyON, and EDP team.</p> <p>The Kindergarten Registration Operational Procedure PR696 has been updated to include the importance around connections and partnerships with Child Cares and EarlyONs to support the transition to kindergarten. This can be found in section 6.6. <a href="https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1175.pdf">https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1175.pdf</a> In Appendix A of PR696 information involving child care staff, EarlyON Parent Worker (if on site) in preparing for kindergarten registration is provided.</p> <p>Members shared that more conversations with principals and teachers are needed regarding sharing space (indoor/outdoor) with child care operators to support children.</p> <p>For September 2023 entry into an Early French Immersion Program, the deadline to apply was November 25, 2022. TDSB is looking to align our processes for families so that registration is not at different times of the year. A member shared that TDSB French Immersion posters are advertised in some schools that don't offer the program making it very confusing for families. Also, the different registration dates for English and French programs are confusing families. Anastasia will discuss with Angela Caccamo,</p>	

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
	<p>Centrally Assigned Principal, French Language Programs.</p> <p><b>A Day in the Life of Kindergarten</b> video will be released during Kindergarten Registration month in February 2023 through social media: Twitter and Instagram. Students were asked questions about kindergarten. Real authentic perspectives from a student's point of view.</p> <p>Members shared they look forward to the social media campaign and video of children's voices.</p>	
Other Business:	Members would like to discuss curriculum within Early Years and BASP programs reflecting anti-racism, diversity, and equity at a future meeting.	
TDBS Community Advisory Committees webpage: EYCAC webpage:	<p><a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees/Early-Years-Community-Advisory-Committee">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees/Early-Years-Community-Advisory-Committee</a></p>	
Next Meeting Date	<b>March 24, 2023</b> , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom	
<b>Adjournment</b>	January 27, 2023, at 12:07 p.m. Moved by Jill Oakes	