

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

Meeting Date: March 24, 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), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Nicola Maguire (LEF), Pam McArthur (Runnymede Adventure Club), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandy Lion Daycare), Rosemary Stiglic (PLASP Child Care Services).

Also present were: Trustee Malika Ghous (Trustee Co-Chair, Ward 18), Trustee Matias de Dovitiis (Ward 4), Audley Salmon (Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity), Trustee Dennis Hastings (Ward 1), Liz Hoang (Interim Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Ronnie Lebi (Senior Manager, IT Operations), and Nadejda Lekosky (Interim Child Care Services Manager).

Regrets:

Lynn Strangway (Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 3 and Early Years), Amy Van Camp (Toronto Children's Services), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), and Peter Singh, Executive Officer, IT and IM Services.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION
Welcome/Introductions/ Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands		
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum confirmed. 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agenda was approved. • Moved: Trustee Malika Ghous • Seconded: Rosemary Stiglic 	
Approval of Minutes- January 27, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes were approved. • Moved: Patrina Stathopoulos • Seconded: Trustee Malika Ghous 	
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed - No Conflicts were declared 	
Wi-Fi Update	<p>Ronnie Lebi, Senior Manager, IT Operations shared the following Wi-Fi update on behalf of Peter Singh, Executive Officer, IT and IM Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronnie shared he is responsible for the infrastructure and operations that includes all servers, all access, telecom, and network services to all TDSB locations. • The initial proposal and request took place on March 22, 2019, from EYCAC members (how child care operators could access Internet and Wi-Fi in TDSB schools and costs?) • An assessment was provided of the monthly potential costs to child care operators who wished to access TDSB network. It would require a cost-recovery model in order to supply these services. TDSB/IT is not staffed or funded to provide services to child care operators. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT will need to update the previous tabulation to reflect newer costs/requirements. • Since the pandemic the Ministry of Education provided funding for Wi-Fi upgrades in TDSB schools. The objective is to update technology and upgrade wall to wall in all TDSB school sites. However, wall to wall upgrades is for TDSB programs in the building not the entire building. • IT has not installed any wireless equipment in dedicated child care spaces. • Not all child care locations received Wi-Fi equipment due to changes in floor plans and wireless access points. • IT is looking into and trying to understand what the actual utilization space is for child care programs? What the level of coverage is for child care programs? Which schools with child care programs would have coverage and those that would not? • Some child care programs inherit some Wi-Fi access points coverage in the space. However, some child care programs that have occupied space for years may not have Wi-Fi access coverage. • There is a model to charge back for access to the service. • However, there is no model to install the service in spaces that don't currently have Wi-Fi. • The cost may be high to install Wi-Fi for each wireless access point, so it is preferred to have one wireless access point in each room costing approximately \$1,400 in terms of hardware, plus the labor required to install that equipment from TDSB Facility Services. This would be approximately \$2,000 upfront investment for a classroom to install Wi-Fi access and then an ongoing access fee. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no project in place to build Wi-Fi infrastructure for child care spaces. There is no funding to install equipment in child care spaces that don't have Wi-Fi. • If EYCAC feels Wi-Fi is a service that should be provided to child care sites across the Board then EYCAC should recommend this to higher levels of the organization for approval. Funding would need to be in place from child care operators and/or a commitment from the Board as a whole. <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member stated that many programs are already in an existing shared space and the vast majority are Before- and After-School Programs (BASP). Most programs are in classrooms that already have Wi-Fi. • Ronnie stated if a child care program is in a shared space that has Wi-Fi then it would be possible to provide a monthly flat fee to access the Wi-Fi network. Due to the size of the organization and outdated floor plans and records IT will need to investigate and make sure it would be possible for interested child care operators to access Wi-Fi. • A member asked what would be the formal process? • Ronnie recommended that it would be best for the child care operators to speak to the school administrators to submit a request to IT Services to assess the child care space. • A member asked if school administrators are aware of this process? • Audley stated that a central communication would need to be sent to school administrators outlining the process for child 	

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	<p>care operators using shared space interested in requesting Wi-Fi access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member placed a tenant improvement request for Wi-Fi access and was told to map out drops. Most centres are in shared space. • A member shared in past years the child care centre that shares space in a school inquired about Wi-Fi access with the Principal of the school. They were asked to fill out a criminal reference check and complete a detailed application. They are listed as a third-party independent contractor so in case there is an issue IT is aware based on their application/information stating that the child care operator is not a TDSB employee but rather a third-party independent contractor. At the time of completing the Wi-Fi application there were no fees associated with access. • Ronnie shared that in that model there are hidden associated costs that are absorbed (police reference checks, employee services, IT costs, etc.). TDSB needs to ensure that costs are being covered as they impact schools and classes. TDSB are not funded to support and provide these services today in the current model. • Ronnie shared that there is currently no formalize process and one will need to be established. • Audley shared that Peter Singh discussed some of the challenges concerning costs and access to non TDSB employees. It would be best to discuss this further with Ronnie and/or Peter and Co-chairs/some EYCAC members offline to understand what may be feasible and then update everyone at the next EYCAC meeting in May. There is a significant financial 	

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	<p>application. Let's figure out how to address concerns to move forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz shared that TDSB recognizes that not all child care centres located in TDSB schools have Wi-Fi and opportunities are limited. Members and TDSB staff recognize there are challenges that have been expressed over the years. There have been some solutions for some child care operators and not for others. This committee has expressed frustration with process, timelines, tenant requests, etc. As new programs are being developed structures to get Wi-Fi are not always conducive to operations. EYCAC Wi-Fi working group (Jill, Patricia, Pam, Patrina) to meet with Audley, Peter, and Ronnie to continue Wi-Fi discussion and provide an update at the May EYCAC meeting. 	
Co-Chair Report	<p>Communication items (Co-Chairs'- Patricia Chorney Rubin and Jill Oakes):</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>During the review of the Board's Community Advisory Committees and until the new procedure is provided to CACs the ToR was placed on hold as recommendations will impact the drafting of the new ToR.</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <p>Why does EYCAC exist? What is the purpose?</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDSB CACs are established to provide the Board with community advice on areas of Board policy, program, educational issues, and community matters. • The CAC provides guidance and advice on matters that are relevant that effect the community. CAC comes together to meet with the Board to bring concerns or ideas, to propose priorities, to work together and ask for support. <p>What are EYCACs priorities and shared goals going forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wi-Fi access and operational needs. • Audley shared that by listening to those that work with children in our schools it helps inform the Board on how to move forward on issues. Some examples: The Board is currently discussing budget conversations and listening from community partners on the impact on decisions taking place. Having conversations with EYCAC members and child care service providers when it comes to shared space and relationships with Principals. What are some of the challenges and issues taking place? Listening to what is actually happening in child care centres in TDSB schools. The Board knows that it takes a partnership from community partners to serve students and provide support. • Liz shared through EYCAC there have been good conversations that have shaped the work in TDSB. There are success stories and challenges within the system that require to be addressed. Understanding the issues from child care operators and taking the feedback back to figure out how to help support or implement. • Nadie shared that during the pandemic EYCAC members and TDSB staff came together frequently, and it was helpful to 	

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	<p>understand what was happening on the ground level as everyone was isolated from one another. Supporting one another as information was fluid and pivoting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYCAC members have done important work together over the years especially during the pandemic. Members and TDSB staff problem solved together on many complicated issues and procedures. EYCAC members are efficient, effective, and committed. Members can rely on each other and bring things together. • Zoom allows a variety of people and groups together in a positive way to close gaps and talk about common approaches to the issues that are being faced. • A member shared that it would be of value to include Principals on EYCAC to participate and provide feedback in the conversations EYCAC members have on shared spaces concerning the challenges and successes in schools. • Audley shared that having several principals attend this committee is a great idea. • A member shared to have consistent messaging with administrators and to include child care operators. • Establish new working groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shared Space – Rosemary, Nicola, Liz, Nadie 2. Wi-Fi Access- Jill, Patricia, Pam, Patrina, Ronnie, Peter, and Audley 3. BASP Resources (updating TDSB public page) – Liz, Nadie, Jill, Patricia (guest) • Child care operators do not feel as a welcomed partner with shared space and expansion. To establish rules and communication to administrators, teachers, and child care operators. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update EYCAC members on Working Together: A Resource Tool for Principals and Supervisors / Child Care and Before and After School Programs in TDSB Schools document. When launching this document include EYCAC members, administrators, and others. • Having an annual joint meeting with Principals from different quadrants, child care operators, ECEs, teachers, and the community to come together to listen and share presentations on relationships, expectations, issues, working together, and engagement. • Members would like to discuss curriculum, policies, conversations within Early Years and BASP programs reflecting anti-racism, diversity, and equity. • Are there any issues that are unresolved? 	
TDSB Staff Updates	<p>Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity shared the following updates:</p> <p>Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)</p> <p>A report was presented to Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee on January 23, 2023, to inform the Trustees that the Board will not go forward with licensing EDP for 2022-23 school year. Staff will bring forward the report to Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee on March 29, 2023. This was in response to the following motion: <i>Be it resolved that the spring 2023 CWELCC staff report include an impact analysis and funding necessary to enrol in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and</i></p>	

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	<p>Child Care program. This is to reaffirm the decision that TDSB will not proceed with converting the Extended Day Program to a Licensed Child Care Program (a requirement to become eligible for the CWELCC system) at this time for September 2023-24 school year due to the anticipated financial implications and additional costs. TDSB will have the opportunity to revisit it for future years. The estimated initial cost of converting the EDP to a licensed child care program (e.g., new licensing costs, training development, etc.) is \$252,000. The TDSB's projected operating deficit for the 2023-24 school year under a licensed child care program would be \$582,000. In 2023, the Ministry of Education is taking a targeted funding approach towards identified communities, and TDSB is not sure whether it would be successful in receiving funds even if EDP was licensed. TCS has indicated that although there may not be CWELCC for all new programs, fee subsidies will still be available.</p> <p>EDP Report</p> <p>Staff will bring forward the report to Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee on May 15, 2023. This was in response to the following motion: <i>Be it resolved that the Director review the TDSB EDP (extended day program) against other extended day or before and after school programs, including models, staffing practices, costs, and programming best practices and report back to the Board in the April meeting cycle.</i> This report will be an assessment and analysis of EDP and its viability. The</p>	

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	<p>report will provide comparisons to other school boards that may run an EDP type of program.</p> <p>Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee meeting on March 29, 2023 - the Board will be discussing School-Based Staff Allocation 2023-2024 budget (approx. 65% of TDSB budget is spent on school-based staffing costs). The Board's forecasted deficit is \$61 million.</p> <p>The Umbrella Agreement</p> <p>Audley will connect with Craig Snider, Executive Officer, Business Services and provide an update at the next EYCAC meeting.</p> <p>Liz Hoang, Interim Senior Policy Advisor/ Manager Early Years (Child Care, EarlyON, Extended Day Program) and Nadejda Lekosky, Interim Manager, Child Care Services shared the following updates:</p> <p>EarlyON Update</p> <p>On April 1, TDSB in partnership with Early Child Development Initiative (ECDI) are creating two new EarlyON Child and Family Centres through TCS EarlyON Innovation Grant. The two programs are located at Oakridge JPS and Lord Roberts JPS. The program focusses on reimagining early years programming for Black families and children in communities that are underserved. This</p>	

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	<p>program aims to increase access to high-quality, culturally safe, and responsive programs for Black children (ages 0-6yrs) and their families. Each program will operate 2 days a week at each location, one weekday and on Saturday. The grant provides one-time funding, ending December 31, 2023. This will provide learning on how to improve services and apply to all EarlyON programs.</p> <p>Child Care/ Before-and After-School Programs (BASP) Update</p> <p>BASP Planning</p> <p>The annual BASP survey closed on February 28th with sufficient interest from 27 out of 59 schools. This was the highest ever response received. With only 4 Operators are on the preferred vendor list this was a challenge as there are 27 sites that would require a registration. TDSB Child Care Services team worked with Toronto Children’s Services (TCS) to help us identify other Operators who were suitable to help support taking on registrations. TCS has confirmed that in 2023 CWELCC funding will be directed in alignment with the new Provincial Access and Inclusion Framework, which directs funds based on a targeted approach for identified priority neighbourhoods (not all applicants will get CWELCC for new BASP even if they have it in their current programs).</p> <p>All vendors hosting the registrations recognize that these may not be viable if CWELCC is not available for their new programs but</p>	

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	<p>are willing to look at the viability and move forward if this is determined. We are planning for another Request for Service Qualification (RFSQ) this fall.</p> <p>Operator's will be hosting in person, and online registrations for families at the 27 schools at the end of March/beginning of April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member stated that agencies who were a preferred vendor in past should have a shorter process (such as a checklist) rather than starting the procedure all over again when applying for the (RFSQ). • A member stated that the City of Toronto already has most of the information required in the RFSQ, and that this process takes too long. • Nadie shared that the child care team will continue to share feedback with Business Services. • A member shared that the timeline was too tight. 	
Other Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of March 20th, Anastasia Poulis, Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years/ English Literacy has been seconded with the Ministry of Education in the position of Senior Manager. Staff are very excited for Anastasia. During her absence, Tammy Ross, Acting Centrally Assigned Principal and Mary Patrick, Acting Centrally Assigned Principal will be overseeing the work in Early Years. • Karen Guthrie, Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services will be retiring in May. Karen has been with TDSB for the last 5 years and 30 years in the child care sector. Karen has been an incredibly valuable member of the child care team and while 	

Community Advisory Committees

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	she will be missed dearly, staff wish her all the best in the next exciting chapter of her life.	
TDBS Community Advisory Committees webpage: EYCAC webpage:	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/Early-Years-Community-Advisory-Committee	
Next Meeting Date	May 31, 2023 , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom	
Adjournment	March 24, 2023, at 11:51 p.m. Moved by Jill Oakes	