Name of Committee: Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee (CUSCAC)

Meeting Date: **February 11, 2025**

Notes

Attendance via Zoom Meeting:

Sara Ehrhardt, Ward 15 Trustee (Co-Chair); **Judy Gargaro**, Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra (Co-Chair); **Susan Fletcher**, SPACE; **Nicolas Hurtado**, North Toronto Soccer Club Nitros/Kicks; **Dennis Keshinro**, Belka Enrichment; **Heather Mitchell**, Community Sport Collective; **Adib Razavi,** Strong Play Canada; **Patrick Rutledge**, Big League Book Club; **Andres Tucci Clarke**, Sistema Toronto Academy; **Alex Viliansky**, Felix Swim School; **Graham Welsh**, Toronto Sports Social Club; **Jonathan Wood**, Toronto Accessible Sports Council.

Also present were: **Debbie King**, Ward 7 Trustee; **Maia Puccetti**, Executive Officer, Facilities and Planning; **Monday Gala**, Superintendent of Education, FOS21; **Roni Felsen**, Superintendent of Education, Secondary Programs and eLearning; **Namita Aggarwal**, Senior Manager, Continuing Education; **Charmaine Turner**, Program Officer, Focus on Youth; **Jonathan Grove**, Senior Manager, Operations, Maintenance and Community Use; **Shirley Adderley**, Regional Manager, Central Services; **Ndaba Njobo**, Manager, Facility Issues and System Liaison; **Ugonma Ekeanyanwu**, Facility Permitting Coordinator; **Jenesse James**, Executive Assistant, Facilities and Planning.

The following guests participated by electronic means: Roy Underhill, Friends of Learn4Life; Sandy Alava, Heritage Childcare; Jared Westreich, Friends of Learn4Life; Melvin John, GTA 19-Women's Cricket Association; Abdel Elmaadaw, TIRF; Susan Orellana, Jack of Sports Foundation; Joanne McBride, Parkdale Jr and Sr PS Community Member; Shawn Earle, Sistema Toronto Academy; Adrian Dannel, Community Member; Fernanda Pisani, CTS Community Swim;

Regrets:

Zakir Patel, Ward 19 Trustee; Dave McNee, Quantum Sports and Learning Association; Jessica Murphy, LiftED; Edmund Wang, Scarborough Mandarin Parents Association.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS
Call to Order / Quorum / Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands	The meeting was called to order by Judy Gargaro at 8:01 a.m.	
Approval of Agenda	The agenda as amended was approved.	Susan Fletcher Jonathan Wood
Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2025	The minutes were approved.	Heather Mitchell Alex Viliansky
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	Nil	
Delegations	Nil	
Focus on Youth (FOY) update on 2025 Summer Programming	The Ministry has committed $3 million in funding for the Focus on Youth summer program, maintaining the same budget as previous years. Additional funding will be allocated through other channels, as outlined in Ministry memos. Community agencies are expected to apply for student placements by the end of February, although direct communication with the Ministry will be limited due to the provincial election. There are approximately 32 community agencies participating as program partners across the city which will be employing over 600 students this summer in	

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	various job opportunities and training. Efforts have been made to enhance assistance by integrating additional communication and support through program monitors. This year, there will be an increase in caretaking student placements and a focus on aligning these students with summer school programming. Applications for community agencies to participate will be available by the end of February, and outreach will target students through multiple channels, including Caring and Safe Schools, guidance counselors, and Alternative Schools, to ensure broad participation across various student groups. This year, the Focus on Youth program is prioritizing placements for students of varying abilities, ensuring proper wraparound support for successful outcomes. Students in the Focus on Youth program receive professional development, certifications, and skills like financial literacy, leadership, and public speaking to enhance their employability. Additionally, there are other summer programs like the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and Specialist High Skills Major Program, which offer specific training in skilled	

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	trades and vocational fields, providing further opportunities without relying on Focus on Youth funding. Staff will return at the November 2025 CUSCAC meeting to report on the success of the summer 2025 programming. A link was provided for the 2024 Summer Programming Report.	

<u>Permit Unit Update</u>
• Update on ongoing items
  ○ Can rates the City pays for permits be shared? (Finance and TLC information required)
 	
  ○ Permit rate increases: staff report to be presented and discussed at the Feb. 12, 2025, Planning and Priorities Committee meeting.
	• TLC is in active discussions with the City on this topic. Staff will take this back and a timeline will be shared once TLC is at liberty to release more details.
	
	• Staff's first recommendation is to conduct a fiscal review and validate cost recovery, with the goal of analyzing total income and measuring the success of cost recovery efforts. A report will be presented in January 2026 to assess the 2024-2025 fiscal year, followed by another in January 2027 to evaluate progress towards cost recovery. This process aims to prevent future issues and provide regular updates to ensure necessary adjustments are made to achieve cost recovery. The Community Co-Chair suggests
		Action Items:

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	tracking the number of groups that stop using or reduce their space usage after fee increases, as sharing this data with CUSCAC will help them better advise Facilities Staff and Trustees on net cost recovery for community use of schools. The second recommendation focuses on pool fees, with increases spread out over six months (September 25/26, March 26/27) based on feedback from the Permit Fee Working Group. The goal is to bring fees closer to a reasonable market rate, with comparisons to the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and the City of Toronto showing that the proposed new rates are competitive. The plan aims to move closer to cost recovery. The third recommendation focuses on permit fee increases, with two options presented and a preferred 10% increase. The goal was initially to separately charge caretaking fees, but this proved complex, with some permit holders facing drastic fee hikes. Instead, the recommendation suggests applying a 10% increase to the existing blended rate and working toward a separate caretaking charge for weekend permits in the future. While this increase won't achieve full cost recovery, it would be a step toward better	

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	clarity and eventual separation of fees after a fiscal review. The Community Co-Chair plans to note at standing committee that the issue of caretaking charges has been a longstanding challenge, and if cost recovery is to be fully achieved, there is a risk of significant fee increases that could negatively impact community use. To address this, the Co-Chair suggests continuing with a fees working group, as the current approach is a temporary solution that does not fully resolve the issue. The increases for the second and third recommendations are proposed to start April 1. It is convenient to make changes in eBase in March and September so as not to incur extra costs from eBase. The fourth and final recommendation involves creating a special higher subsidy rate for Local Neighbourhood Support Program (LNSP) permit holders at 80% (higher than the current A1 subsidy rate of 60%). This aims to highlight the value of the LNSP program to the TDSB and the community. The recommendation balances the need for permit holders to contribute while offering the highest subsidy available, addressing concerns raised by LNSP permit holders about high charges potentially impacting the	

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	programs. Staff reiterated that they see the values of community use of schools to the school community and neighbourhood.	
Committee Goal Related 2024/25: • Review of Committee policy and procedures • Budget matters • How can we be more strategic about CUS?	• No updates - waiting for direction from TDSB • Deferred until after Permit Fee increases passed by Board • Deferred until committee review above completed	
<u>Outstanding Action Items</u> • Pools Working Group Update ○ Maintenance Schedule and Renewal Project integration	• There is concern from groups about the upcoming permit fee increases, although they acknowledge that the TDSB pool rates are low compared to other institutions. The groups request consideration for deferring the increase from March to September to provide more time for planning and avoid further financial strain. Additionally, they seek information on	**Action Items:**

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○ Update from TDSB Pool Committee ○ Update on TLC audit report; TDSB audit • Exterior Facilities Working Group Update ○ Cricket fields (TLC) • Communication and Website Working Group Update	any potential summer facility closures due to repairs or capital projects. Concerns were raised about cold pool temperatures; staff will look into this and report at next meeting. • No Updates • Deferred to April 2025 • Deferred to March 2025 • Deferred to March 2025	
CUSCAC Membership (Agenda amended at committee to include this item)	Andres Tucci Clarke is leaving Sistema Toronto Academy, but the organisation would like to continue their participation on CUSCAC as the Year A: Children category member. A motion was put forward to have Shawn Earle replace Andres Tucci Clarke.	Moved by: Andres Tucci Clarke Seconded by: Susan Fletcher **Motion carried.**

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Trustee Update	The Trustee highlighted that proposed permit fee increases are affecting other areas of programming that operate on a cost recovery model, including the Learn4Life program. Budget continues to be discussed, with staffing discussions planned for early March. Advocacy for the TDSB budget continues. Board Chair Neethan Shan presented to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, and there are updates on capital funding, with TDSB having been excluded from provincial funding announcements for new schools. TDSB policy consultations on Dealing with Abuse and Neglect of Students Policy (P045) and Learning Opportunities Index Policy (P067) are currently open for comments. Clayton La Touche started in the role as Director of the Toronto District School Board on February 10, 2025. The school calendar for 2025-26 is being discussed, along with reviews of special education programs. Public consultations will be available.	

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Other Business	Joanne McBride, a parent in the Parkdale Jr/Sr PS community, brought forward concerns over the City of Toronto's exclusive lease rights to the gyms. Staff will follow up. SPACE sent a report to all Party leaders that includes the need to support community use of space and only the Green Party responded with an affirmation of the Report.	
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.	
Adjournment	Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10:02 a.m.	Susan Fletcher Andres Tucci Clarke