

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

Meeting Date: October 14, 2022

Notes:

Attendance: via Zoom:

Patricia Chorney Rubin (Community Co-Chair/ George Brown College), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Anne Farrell (Toronto Children's Services), Pam McArthur (Runnymede Adventure Club), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), and Rosemary Stiglic (PLASP Child Care Services).

Also present were: Audley Salmon (Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity), Liz Hoang (Interim Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Nadejda Lekosky (Interim Child Care Services Manager), and Shareen Young Cummings (Early Years Program Coordinator).

Regrets:

Trustee Manna Wong (Co-Chair, Ward 20), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Shiromie Ganesh (Heart Beatz Childcare), Nicola Maguire (LEF), Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years/English Literacy), Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children's Services), Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandylion Daycare), and Lynn Strangway (System Superintendent, Leadership Development, Employee Engagement and Continuous Improvement, and Early Years).

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: Pam McArthur • Seconded: Irena Setnik 	
Approval of Minutes- May 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes were approved. • Moved: Rosemary Stiglic • Seconded: Pam McArthur 	
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'- Patricia Chorney Rubin and Jill Oakes):</p> <p>EYCAC Annual Report 2021- 2022 The Co-Chairs provided an overview of the EYCAC Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Community Advisory Committee Co-Chairs' Message • EYCAC Mandate/Purpose • EYCAC Meeting Dates 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYCAC Committee Membership 2021-2022 <p>Every Community Advisory Committee is required to submit an Annual Report at the end of the year based on the Board's directives. This report reflects the work and accomplishments of the CAC during the prior school year. The Annual Report is co-written with the committee co-chairs.</p> <p>Self-Evaluation Feedback Tool 2021-2022</p> <p>The 2021/2022 CAC Self Evaluation was completed by EYCAC members on May 13, 2022. There were 9 members who completed the self evaluation questions and 5 members who provided comments. With 1 representing strongly agree and 5 representing strongly disagree the majority of the committee responses to the questions were represented with 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Date- The January 13th EYCAC meeting date has been changed to January 27th due to Elementary PD scheduled on the same day. <p>Terms of Reference (ToR)</p> <p>Co-chairs Jill and Patricia discussed with members that the ToR has been placed on hold due to the Board reviewing process of community advisory committees (CACs). Audley Salmon, Associate Director of Learning Transformation and Equity will connect with Michelle Munroe for an update regarding ToR and</p>	

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	<p>if the EYCAC working group (Jill Oakes, Patricia Chorney Rubin, Pam McArthur, Patrina Stathopoulos and Nicola Maguire) can move forward with updating the ToR. Members would like to understand the process and if Michelle could help guide and support the EYCAC working group with drafting the ToR.</p> <p>Anne Farrell, Toronto Children's Services Consultant provided a high-level overview with a focus on the Canada-Wide Early Learning & Child Care (CWELCC) September Town Hall slide deck, slides 5 & 6. Attached is the September 7th & 13th 2022 Town Hall slide deck.</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HCj6kFU3OTOMgkuoz5iMzmlhcUy3jHYt/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Anne discussed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWELCC -Affordable, Accessible, Inclusive, Quality Child Care for All. • What does affordability mean? The affordability funding will have Schedule 17.1 attached to the Service Agreement if the licensed child care operator or agency has opted in to CWELCC. Affordable funding will support rebates to families based on fees paid from April 1 – December 31/22, age eligibility. • The deadline for operators or agencies to opt-in/opt-out is November 1st, 2022. • There are provincial guidelines to help with the process. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators have been provided information through meetings and memorandum over the past months. • Toronto Children’s Service (TCS) is waiting for the 2023 Provincial guidelines and then will update the community. • The 2023 budget has launched and the 2023 budget will be CWELCC free when entering the 2023 projected revenues and expenses. • Operators should follow up with their District Consultant who work with CWELCC if they have any questions. <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More clarification on the funding in respect to the eligibility of school age children and the timing of age eligibility. • What public fee should be charged when a kindergarten child is placed as an underage school age child? Kindergarten or school age fee? Child is age eligible for rebate. • Is the underage school age child who is in kindergarten eligible for rebate until the end of the school year or until the end of the month that the child turn's six years? • What fee is charged to families when the child is in grade one, placed in a school age program and turns six years by December 31st? Kindergarten fee or school age fee? Child is age eligible for rebate. • Liz Hoang shared that the Ministry of Education shared information about eligibility funding criteria that it is based on age. A child may be eligible for funding until they turn 6 years of age. If a child is in a kindergarten Before-and After- 	

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	<p>School Program (BASP) and turns 6 years old in February, then the child will be eligible for funding until the end of the school year (June). However, if the kindergarten child turns 6 years old and is in a school age program then the child will be eligible for funding until the end of that month (February).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member asked if a child who is in a school age program and turns six in October then the child will be eligible for funding until the end of the month. Then November 1st the regular rate will apply. Child care operators need information to understand if children who are under 6 in a school age program to pay the school age rate or kindergarten rate? • There is an eligibility disconnect and child care operators and the community need more information regarding age/timing, rebate calculation, and fees. • CWELCC will provide greater access to families, improve affordability, enhance quality, and support inclusion. More families will be entering licensed child care programs. • How are child care operators going to be responsive to expansion and when programs are full? How will families have access to programs? What will be the impact of community needs? • A member shared programs are struggling to fill vacant positions with qualified educators. There is a staffing shortage to fill programs. • Workforce: staffing is a challenge, and some classrooms cannot operate. Centers are not able to operate at the license capacity. Operators are interviewing but not 	

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	<p>successful in securing qualified staff. Families are upset that child care programs cannot be accessed due to staff shortages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia shared that George Brown College and all post-secondary across GTA has flagged that the sector is in trouble, post-secondary registration of ECE students is trending downward. The current demand of ECEs is great; however, the number of graduates is lower within all post-secondary. There are not enough students registering in the ECE program. • Members shared that school principals and teachers need to share space with child care operators so families can have access to these programs. There needs to be a collaboration and an understanding with the school where child care programs are being offered to support children with the same common goal. In order to expand license child care programs and capacity the need of space needs to be addressed and a strategic plan in place. • Due to affordability, kindergarten expansion is projected. More kindergarten classrooms will need to be licensed. How will Toronto District School Board address potential expansion in kindergarten spaces to school principals and teachers to support child care operators and school partnerships in shared classrooms and shared safe space (gym and outdoor space). • When there is a kindergarten expansion due to affordability will there be a drop in school age placement if the school age space is more expensive than kindergarten space? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be a strategic plan going forward to support the sector where the school board, TCS and child care operators are working collaboratively to support the expansion in schools for 3.8 – 6 year olds. • Liz stated that each spring Child Care Services sends out communication regarding expansion and how the Board supports this process with child care operators. If any child care operator has any issues to please reach out to the Child Care Services team to help support and try to help solve problems or issues with school administrators. • Jill shared that a number of school boards have licensed every single room for child care. If there is a need for child care or if there is a license capacity then a room is licensed. Teachers are aware that the classroom is licensed for child care. • Liz has asked Jill if she could share more information and is open to conversation and dialogue. The Board looks for spaces that can provide longevity and safety within the space for BASPs. The Board has not opted to licensing all school classrooms as the goal is to provide a consistent space and minimize child care class relocations. • Members shared that they would like an update on the Discussion Guide document that Karen Guthrie, Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services shared at the May 13, 2022, EYCAC meeting. • Child care operators raised a concern that a child care space will be secured through a lower public fee and then parent may not utilize the space full time. This may occur due to the affordability of the space and the parent will 	

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	<p>purchase the space and only use it as needed. Operators are asking TCS to offer guidance as to how the policy and procedures should be revised to ensure all full-time spaces are fully utilized, five days/week. The increase in access due to affordability will require expansion but there needs to be an understanding that the space is to support full time care. Operators are wondering if CWELCC Policies and Procedures recognize part-time care and full-time care with priority to full-time care only as a way to ensure families have access to full-time care. The sector doesn't want spaces to sit unused even though the space has been purchased by public fee-paying parents, i.e. child in care 2 or 3 days a week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne will bring back questions raised by members to TCS. • A member shared that child care operators support ECE student placements but it seems that some go off to other programs, further education, and other career opportunities. 	
TDSB Staff Updates	<p>Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Learning Transformation and Equity</p> <p>Audley welcomed EYCAC members to this important discussion. As the Senior Resource Person (SRP) for EYCAC, listening to today's discussion regarding the expansion process gives us the opportunity to discuss together as a group the challenges and ask important questions. The Board is having daily discussions with TCS and the Ministry of Education. Some questions the Board is reflecting is how to move forward with</p>	

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	<p>TDSB Extended Day Programs? What does licensing look like? The Board needs to consider the financial implications and overall impact. What are the actual cost expenditures? How to ensure that all families have access to affordable child care within our communities? The Board needs to have clarity on what to expect. Once the Board decides then staff will forward a recommendation to Trustees.</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>Liz shared that TDSB EarlyON programs are now operating at full capacity and at full operating hours to help serve families. Parent Workers are working closely with families, community agencies and schools to build and re-establish connections. Some of the main focuses are supporting connections, linking families with community support agencies, and building a foundation for smooth transitions to school.</p> <p>EDP update</p> <p>Liz shared that TDSB Extended Day Program has opened up at 4 new school locations, (O'Connor PS, Taylor Creek PS, Cedarvale CS, Shoreham Public Sports and Wellness</p>	

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	<p>Academy). EDP now serves over 700 students in 22 school locations.</p> <p>Child Care/BASP Update</p> <p>Nadie shared to support our duty for BASP under the Ministry of Education Act, TDSB maintains a vendor of records list. This is a list of pre-qualified licensed BASP operators who may be selected to operate new BASPs at k-6 schools where interest and viability have been identified. Those who meet the criteria and are successful in the application process will be added to this list and considered as opportunities arise. Opportunities to apply will be available within the next month and the Child Care Services team will be sending details for this to all child care operators in TDSB.</p> <p>Shareen Young Cummings, Program Coordinator, Early Years shared the following update and Anastasia Poulis, Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years, English/Literacy sends her regrets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shareen, shared the current and draft working document of the Developmental History Form (DHF) PR512 with members. The DHF is provided to families and caregivers when they register children from kindergarten to grade two. Any new child who is new to TDSB will be invited to complete the DHF. The purpose of the form is to get a deeper understanding of the child, the family and to be able 	

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	<p>to inform instruction. The Early Years team is reviewing the current form, gathering feedback, and working on revising the current form to better align with the kindergarten program, the early years policy, and to support a smooth transition to school for all learners while honouring the identity and the lived experiences of families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years team has consulted with principals and educators to understand how revisions to the DHF can better support the transition to school and to consider ways to invite families to share information in the context of meaningful relationships. • Schools must recognize and respect the fact that families may not be ready to share as they enter the school system. As such, we need to consider future and ongoing opportunities to invite families to share information about their child. Also, removing the checking boxes so it is not limiting and have the open space for families/caregivers to share information. • Shareen, provided members some of the revisions they were reviewing. The Early Years also consulted with various TDSB Departments to support revisions to the document. • Members shared that they like the revisions being presented and the openness of inviting families to share or not to share. Members provided Shareen some feedback regarding the structure of two questions. A member shared that at the end of the questionnaire the need to have an open-ended question where families could provide additional information they may like to share about the child. 	

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	<p>Allowing the opportunity for more information the family may feel would be of value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member asked would the DHF be shared with child care operators? • A member stated that this is an opportunity to expand on policies, procedures, and expansion to share information with child care operators. • Audley shared that the sharing of information of the child can be helpful. Sharing of forms that contain data and privacy issues will need to be consulted with legal. However, working towards the opportunity to have conversations and the level of transitions between child care and the school needs to be engaged. • Members shared that Anastasia shared with members at the May 13 2022 meeting that as children transition to school it is understood that schools must be ready for children, rather than children being ready for school. Shareen said this is part of the Early Learning and Care policy (P022) and educators need to be responsive to early learners and implement a smooth transition in welcoming them to school. • Members asked how can child care operators help communicate this message? Child Care Services team will continue to provide messaging when they share information to child care operators and will meet with TCS about messaging and language. 	

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Other Business:	<p>Liz Hoang acknowledged Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.</p> <p>This year in Ontario, Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day will take place on October 18, 2022.</p> <p>On behalf of the TDSB, the Board would like to acknowledge and celebrate the CCWs and ECEs on this committee, and throughout our Board. In addition to the amazing work that happens each day in programs, the Board wants to commend this committee for their extremely valued partnerships, sage advice, and commitment to making TDSB schools better. Often the work behind the scenes goes unnoticed but this is not the case. The Board truly appreciates everything that you do with and for us. Please visit TDSB website on Tuesday, October 18th to see the Appreciation Day message.</p> <p>https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Home/ctl/Details/mid/42863/itemId/25</p>	
Community Advisory Committees webpage: EYCAC webpage:	<p>https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees</p> <p>https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees/Early-Years-Community-Advisory-Committee</p>	
Next Meeting Date	January 27, 2023 , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom	
Adjournment	October 14, 2022, at 12:05 p.m. Moved by Jill Oakes	

Community Advisory Committees