



## Community Advisory Committees

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

Meeting Date: 13, November 2020

A meeting of the **Early Years Community Advisory Committee** convened on **November 13, 2020** from **10:00a.m.** to **12:00p.m.** in a **Virtual Zoom Meeting**, with **Trustee Co-Chair: Jennifer Story, Community Co-Chairs: Jill Oakes, Pam McArthur** presiding.

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### Attendance:

Jennifer Story (Trustee Co-Chair), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Pam McArthur (Community Co-Chair/ Runnymede Adventure Club), Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee), Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Dan MacLean (Trustee), Coleen McGrath (Learning Enrichment Foundation LEF), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), Laurie Ruscica (Toronto Public Library), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), and Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandy Lion Daycare)

Also present were TDSB Staff: Joanne Davis (Manager and Policy Advisor, EarlyON Centres), Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Sharon Hack (Child Care Services Manager), Liz Hoang (Child Care Services Manager), Nadejda Lekosky (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services)

Also present were: Alexander Brown (Chair /Trustee - Ward 12), Jeff deFreitas (PLASP Child Care Services), Shiromie Ganes (Heart Beatz Child Care - Cliffcrest) and Lorrie Weddell (NYAD - Donwood)

### Regrets:

Patty Donski (Toronto Public Library), Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal) and Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children's Services)

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### Part A: Recommendations

No recommendation.

## **Part B: For Information Only**

- An update on EYCAC membership was provided by Community Co-Chairs'- Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur. The following representatives are new members who have replaced past members: Jeff de Freitas (PLASP Child Care Services), Shiromie Ganesh (Heart Beatz Child Care), and Lorrie Weddell (NYAD - Donwood).
- An update and overview on the weekly meetings that took place over the summer was provided by Community Co-Chairs'- Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur who shared key areas discussed and addressed to support the planning and preparation for the successful reopening of child care programs in schools.
- Chair/Trustee Alexander Brown brought greetings to EYCAC and gave thanks on behalf of the Board for everyone's continued volunteer efforts.
- An update was provided by Cynthia Grundmann, Senior Policy Advisor/Manager, Early Years and Child Care Services who recognized that capacity and enrollment is a challenge for many before- and after-school programs. Cynthia shared the following information:
  - As of November 13, 2020: 60,321 students between JK to Gr. 8 have opted to attend virtual school and approximately 100,880 students between JK to Gr. 8 attending bricks and mortar schools.
  - Extended Day Programs have reopened all 18 programs. There are a significant number of vacancies however across these sites.
- An update was provided by Cynthia Grundmann regarding the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding opportunity through the Provincial and Federal Government. Cynthia shared that child care operators were invited to submit their requests for additional hand washing stations in alignment with eligibility criteria, which TDSB will submit as part of their application for COVID-related funding.
- Cynthia Grundmann shared the response that the City of Toronto, Children's Services submitted to its Economic and Community Development Committee regarding the regulatory changes being proposed and considered by the Ministry of Education under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA). TDSB also submitted a response to the proposed regulatory changes, and key areas of response and discussion were shared with members.

## **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

No ongoing matters to report.

Report Submitted by: Cynthia Grundmann