



**Name of Committee:** Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** 9 March 2021

A meeting of the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on 9 March 2021 from 8:05 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. via Zoom with Co-Chairs Michelle Aarts and Judy Gargaro presiding.

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**Attendance via Zoom:** **Michelle Aarts** (Trustee), **Judy Gargaro** (Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra), **Dan MacLean** (Trustee), **Christopher Mammoliti**, (Trustee), **Lynn Manning** (Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council), **Heather Mitchell** (Toronto Sports Council), **Patrick Rutledge** (Big League Book Club), **Susan Fletcher** (SPACE), **Alan Hrabinski** (Toronto Basketball Association), **Sara Somerset** (Jack of Sports), **Gerry Lang** (Citizens For Life Long Learning), **Graham Welsh** (Toronto Sports Social Club), **Dave McNee** (Quantum Sports and Learning Association), **Narni Santos** (The Learning Enrichment Foundation).

Also present were TDSB Staff: **Maia Puccetti** (Executive Officer, Facilities & Planning), **Ugonma Ekeanyanwu** (Acting Facility Permitting Team Leader), **Ndaba Njobo** (Facility Permitting Coordinator), **Shirley Adderley** (Manager, Facilities Issues & System Liaison), **Jonathan Grove** (Interim Senior Manager, Plant Operations), **Marisa Chiu** (Interim Executive Officer, Finance), **Meenu Jhamb** (Administrative Assistant).

**Guests:** **Elizabeth Lukie** (Hutt Piano Class), **Doug Blair** (North Toronto Soccer Club), **Terrance Philips** (Phillips Basketball Academy).

**Regrets:** **Dennis Keshinro** (Belka Enrichment Centre), **Sam Glazer** (Congregation Beth Haminyan), **Narni Santos** (The Learning Enrichment Foundation), **Ralph Nigro** (TSAA), **Sharon Beason** (Canadian Parents for French), **Tina Androutsos** (Executive Assistant, TDSB).

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## **Part A: Recommendations**

None

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

### Update on Permit Use

Staff advised that the Board is still reviewing when the indoor permits will be resumed, subject to direction from Toronto Public Health (TPH). There is a possibility that there could be a phased resumption of CUS permits by mid to late April. Permit requests for spring camps have been received. These will be reviewed and processed subject to further direction from TPH. Similarly, permit requests are also being received for summer camps and programs – these will be processed subject to direction from TPH and following the Board's direction regarding summer activities in schools.

Staff provided some clarification to the committee – given the interruption to the community use of schools due to the pandemic, staff will use 2018-19 as the year for considering renewal rights. If CUS permits can be issued in late April, permits will be issued first for weekend use, as part of a gradual return to weekends and evenings.

### Local Neighbourhood Support Programs (LNSP)

As in previous years, prior to the pandemic, the Board intends to accommodate LNSP Community Permits at 44 schools. The March Break LNSP requests have been moved to the April Break. Coordination and communication with the City's Parks Forestry and Recreation (PFR) and LNSP groups is underway.

### Budget Discussion

Staff clarified that funding for the Community Use of School comes through the Grant of Student Needs (GSN). The Ministry of Education typically provides Boards with the GSN in the spring. Trustee Aarts provided further information that the province has indicated that there will not be any additional pandemic-related funding. Staff confirmed that the additional funding provided to support enhanced cleaning was only for one year, to the end of August.

### Terms of Reference Update

The final Terms of Reference was approved at the last Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) on January 13th, 2021 and updates to the TDSB website completed.

## Onboarding for New Committee Members

The committee agreed to defer this item. Several committee members will collect historical information regarding the origins of CUSCAC and provide a link to the Community Advisory Handbook. The Co-chairs will also provide an acronym glossary used at the Board, as part of the onboarding package.

## Discussion regarding Focus on Youth funding

Staff provided a brief update regarding the 2021 Focus on Youth (FOY) program. TDSB will receive \$3.08 M., same amount as received in 2019 (50% from provincial and 50% federal). Major focus for 2021 will be mental health, training and student hiring. The preliminary budget has been firmed up and sent to Ministry. Currently, there is no allocation for permits in the preliminary 2021 FOY budget. Before 2019, most of the permits for FOY were funded through Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) funding. In the past, \$2.6 M. PSI funding was received annually with a portion was used to support Focus on Youth programs. That funding was reduced to \$1.6 M in 2019 and it has since been eliminated.

Further discussion regarding whether the 2021 FOY programs will be delivered virtually or in person, in schools. Staff indicated that at this time, based on discussions with the Ministry FOY liaison, all the programs would be delivered virtually. Many Boards in the province are expecting that FOY programs will be virtual. However, if there are changes to the pandemic situation, FOY 2021 programming may be modified accordingly. Committee members expressed concern that both the delivery agencies for FOY programming and parents need some clarification and certainty in order to plan for the summer.

Arising from this discussion, the committee reviewed whether to put forward a revised recommendation to the next PSSC (March 31, 2021) regarding Priority Schools Initiative and Focus on Youth. The committee was in support of submitting a revised recommendation, if there were no changes to the motion arising from the regular Board meeting of March 10. The committee agreed to the following revised recommendation:

That the TDSB Board Chair write to the Provincial government to request the renewal of the designated funding for community use of schools for disadvantaged communities, similar to the former Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) funding or equivalent, to support free and low-cost community programming in high needs neighbourhoods including but not limited to:

- Cover the costs for free evening, weekend, March Break, and summer permits
- Cover the costs for Board-directed outreach to support community programming

To support permits for Focus on Youth programming

**Trustee Update:**

Trustee Aarts shared some information about the budgeting process. The Finance Committee met to review the first-round school-based staffing. The staffing numbers are based on projected enrolments and our enrolment numbers are down, partly due to pandemic. 2021 – 2022 funding does not include any additional pandemic-related funding. First round of budget is focused on staffing so it can be reported to our Union partners. The staffing numbers usually change in September. Planning work for September has already started.

Trustee Aarts provided update on public-facing resources. Board has been tasked with providing more user-friendly communication. Health and Safety website has been updated. We have started with asymptomatic COVID testing. The TDSB website provides information of locations for the asymptomatic testing at schools. Some of these locations may not be at TDSB schools but locations identified as community hubs. Local health networks are also distributing take-home tests directly to schools.

Trustee Aarts shared that education workers are now on the priority list for vaccination however, they probably won't get vaccinated until June.

Trustee Aarts also shared that the Human Rights Office produced a report for TDSB for 2018-2019, based on cases reported/new strategies that are being used to address human rights issues.

**Part C: Ongoing Matters**

Continued development and communication to the permit users of the phased resumption of Community Use of Schools, subject to direction from Toronto Public Health.

**Report Submitted By:** Maia Puccetti