



## Community Advisory Committees

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

Meeting Date: **March 12, 2021**

A meeting of the **Early Years Community Advisory Committee** convened on **March 12, 2021** from **10:00a.m.** to **11:55a.m.** in a **Virtual Zoom Meeting**, with **Community Co-Chairs: Pam McArthur and Jill Oakes** presiding.

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### Attendance:

Pam McArthur (Community Co-Chair/ Runnymede Adventure Club), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Diane Banks (Toronto Public Library), Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College), Jeff deFreitas (PLASP Child Care Services), Shiromie Ganesh (Heart Beatz Child Care), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Dan MacLean (Trustee), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children's Services), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandy Lion Daycare), and Lorrie Weddell (NYAD - Donwood)

Also present were TDSB Staff: Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Karen Guthrie (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Liz Hoang (Child Care Services Manager), Nadejda Lekosky (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), and Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal)

### Regrets:

Coleen McGrath (LEF) and Jennifer Story (Trustee Co-Chair)

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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 representative is a new member who has replaced past members: Diane Banks, Manager, Children's Services, Service Development and Innovation for Toronto Public Library
- An update was provided by Cynthia Grundmann, Senior Policy Advisor/Manager, Early Years and Child Care Services who shared the following information:

- **Permits for Summer**

TDSB Plant Operations & Community Use noted that spring and summer permit applications are being received as of March 5, 2021 and will be parked until further direction. At this time, the TDSB has not reached a decision on community access and summer permits. This decision will be based on the advice and direction of the Province and Toronto Public Health. Spring and summer permit applications will not be processed until direction is provided and a decision is made. Child care operators are welcome to submit their applications but these will not be processed until we receive further direction.

- **CCEYA Changes for Authorized Recreation and Skill Building Programs**

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Ministry of Education announced the filing of the new and amended regulations under the Child Care and Early Years Act, which came into effect on March 8. TDSB is currently engaging with the City of Toronto regarding implementation opportunities as it relates to Authorized Rec programs operating before-school sessions. TDSB also is in the process of reviewing the implications for the board and its current early years system.

- **HEPA Filters**

TDSB is in the process of outfitting all schools with institutional grade HEPA filters, for every occupied classroom being used by the school, including portables and wellness rooms. This roll out is for school occupied classrooms and does not include exclusive child care or shared spaces that are not utilized by the school as school instructional classrooms during the core day. Child care operators however, were provided with an opportunity to order filters through the TDSB, with TDSB pricing, and subsequently work with facilities to plan for installation. For more information about the roll out of HEPA filters and ventilation in TDSB schools, please visit [Ventilation webpage](#).

A member shared that this should be standard as these are the same children in the school. Child Care Services team continues to work with Facilities team to review ongoing opportunities for improved health and safety measures for both school and child care programs.

- **COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream-Education Related**

The Child Care Services team shared that the Ministry of Education has recently approved the TDSB's COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream-Education Related application for child care handwashing stations. Staff from the Facilities Services team will be contacting those who applied and met the eligibility criteria to discuss next steps.

### **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

- Cynthia and the Child Care Services team have been communicating with Peter Singh, Executive Officer and Service IT team to discuss the Wi-Fi access issue for child care operators especially due to the increased internet needs of the past year.
- Peter Singh, Executive Officer and his team will provide an update on the process and information at the next EYCAC meeting on May 14, 2021. The ongoing Wi-Fi access needs is a process that Peter and the Service IT team will be able to help explain in more detail.
- Child care operators continue to express that there are two different issues- temporary immediate Wi-Fi access needs and long-term ongoing Wi-Fi access needs.
- Child care operators are asking for temporary immediate Wi-Fi access to support the online health screening process, to connect with families, communicate with public health, report serious occurrence, etc. Families communicate through online or text. Wi-Fi is the linkage to families and as important as another 'utility'.
- The Child Care Services team continues to communicate with Peter and the Service IT team to advocate that this is a priority and discuss how to move forward recognizing the reporting and screening requirements and that this is a fundamental need for all programs and students. The Child Care Services team will continue to provide updates.

Report Submitted by: Cynthia Grundmann