

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

Meeting Date: October 15, 2021

A meeting of the Early Years Community Advisory Committee convened on October 15, 2021 from 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. in a Virtual Zoom Meeting, with Community Co-Chairs: Pam McArthur and Jill Oakes presiding.

Attendance: via Zoom:

Pam McArthur (Community Co-Chair/ Runnymede Adventure Club), Jill Oakes (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care), Anne Farrell (Toronto Children's Services), Anabela Ferreira (Woodgreen Child Care), Shiromie Ganesh (Heart Beatz Child Care), Dan MacLean (Trustee), Stephanie Nickle (Woodgreen Child Care), Kim Rogers (Sunshine Child Care), Irena Setnik (Silver Creek Pre-School), Patrina Stathopoulos (Dandylion Daycare), Rosemary Stiglic (PLASP Child Care Services), and Lorrie Weddell (NYAD - Donwood).

Also present were: Michelle Aarts (Trustee), Kim Fritz (EarlyOn Manager), Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services), Karen Guthrie (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Nadejda Lekosky (Child Care Services Manager-Interim), Leslie Murray (Early Years Coordinator, Child Care Services), Susie Surette (Early Years Coordinator, EDP), Shelley Wakefield (Early Years Coordinator-Interim, EDP), and Shareen Young Cummings (Early Years Coordinator).

Regrets:

Diane Banks (Toronto Public Library), Patricia Chorney Rubin (George Brown College), Nicola Maguire (LEF), Anastasia Poulis (Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years/English Literacy), Ann Marie Schiraldi (Toronto Children's Services), and Jennifer Story (Trustee Co-Chair).

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS
Welcome/Introductions		
Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands	<p>"We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples."</p>	
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum confirmed 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agenda was passed. Moved: Patrina Stathopoulos • Seconded: Jill Oakes 	
Approval of Minutes- May 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes were accepted as presented: Moved: Patrina Stathopoulos • Seconded: Kim Rogers 	
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed - No Conflicts were declared 	
Co-Chairs' Report	<p>Communication items (Co-Chairs'- Jill Oakes and Pam McArthur):</p> <p><u>EYCAC Annual Report 2020- 2021</u></p> <p>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 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYCAC Mandate/Purpose • EYCAC Meeting Dates • EYCAC Committee Membership 2020-2021 <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>Some areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Stiglic, VP of Operations, PLASP Child Care Services was welcomed to the committee as a new representative. Rosemary is replacing Jeff deFreitas who has retired. 	
Kindergarten iPad roll out	<p>Shareen Young Cummings, Early Years Coordinator on behalf of Anastasia Poulis, Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years, English/Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPads were purchased to support virtual learning. • The iPads are being returned to TDSB where they will be refurbished, cleaned, and repurposed. • TDSB will be distributing the iPads to kindergarten classrooms across TDSB schools in a phased approach. First phase will consist of all TDSB kindergarten classrooms in the 52 Intervention Schools. • Within the 52 intervention schools the intervention team supports educators in these schools. • First phase, kindergarten classrooms within the intervention schools will receive five iPads per class in English, French Immersion, and diagnostic kindergarten classrooms. Based on 	

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	<p>the number of returned iPads, other schools will be entering this program in future roll-out phases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be three half days of professional learning with one educator team per school. Professional learning will be with the Early Years team in collaboration with other internal departments (The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, ESL, and Special Education). Also, Apple will be supporting the technical pieces of the use of the iPad. • The focus with educators who participate in the professional learning would be to transform learning through iPads for creation rather than consumption. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capture the Learning ○ Make Learning Accessible ○ Flexible Learning ○ Document the Learning through pedagogical documentation differentiation ○ Differentiate the Learning ○ Collaborate and Learn with families and community • Inquiry Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How might iPads increase student engagement and motivation in the learning process? ○ How might iPads help develop early literacy skills? ○ How might iPads promote student agency? ○ How might iPads support the development of global competencies? ○ How might iPads encourage the co-construction of assessment, instruction, and next steps in student learning? ○ How might iPads create opportunities for ELL students in the early years? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How might iPads impact teacher efficacy in the Kindergarten program? ● How might educators leverage digital tools in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ affirm positive racial identities ○ foster meaningful family and community relationships and partnerships ○ liberate assessment ● Educators who attend the professional learning will go back to their classrooms and engage with the tool then will be asked to come back with a sample of student learning for the next session. ● In Year One, TDSB in Partnership with Apple will focus on: <p><u>TDSB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pedagogical Documentation ○ Assessment and Assessment Bias ○ Family and Community Relationships ○ Assessment Liberation <p><u>Apple</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building Educator Capacity and Fluency with iPads ○ Built-in iPad Tools and Features including Assistive Technology ○ iOS Apps (Keynote, Clips, iMovie) <p>Why this assessment for this child at this time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How will digital fluency nurture student autonomy and advocacy? ● How will digital fluency support educator instructional decisions for early literacy? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will digital fluency help to rebuild, restore, and revitalize relationships with families and communities? • A question was asked: If Shareen and Anastasia could provide a list of the 52 intervention schools to child care operators. Shareen responded that Early Years will be working with child care partners and EDP partners to provide communication and see how this program can be extended into other settings and have continuity in the program. • A question was asked: What type of communication will be provided to parents and families? Shareen stated communication will be provided by the Principals of schools to families. • Shareen explained that the iPads are to highlight the student's voice and focus on pedagogical documentation. Student's will document their own learning. • There will be further discussion in terms of engaging EDP with training and application as there is limited capacity and funds for training. There is going to be overlap across the 52 schools and EDP programs. • More reflection once project is rolled out. <p>1st module is to take place in November.</p>	
<p>TDSB Staff Updates (Senior Resource Person)</p>	<p>Cynthia Grundmann, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Early Years and Child Care Services</p> <p><u>PR734 update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR734 COVID -19 Vaccination Procedure for Employees, Trustees and Other Individuals was released on September 14th, 2021. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Services sent an email on September 15th to all child care partners following the release of PR734. Another email was sent to all licensed Child Care, Before-and After-School Programs (BASP), 3rd party EarlyON Child and Family Centres, and authorized recreational and skill-building partner programs on October 14th, 2021. • Child Care Services will follow up with implementation details and roll out on how vaccination confirmation information will be collected. • On page 3, section 5.0 under Application and Scope, the Procedure list non-TDSB staff groups for whom this procedure applies to and therefore are required to comply. Staff in these programs who work in both exclusive and shared spaces in schools will need to meet TDSB's mandatory vaccine requirements. • TDSB is in the process of finalizing its interim implementation details for non-TDSB staff, including how vaccination confirmation information will be collected. • On November 1st, 2021, PR734 will be in effect. • Cynthia, asked members if there was any feedback or questions on the implementation process from child care partners, 3rd party, or authorized recreational partners regarding proof of vaccination or FIPPA to bring back to the team who is leading this procedure? Prompting questions included: Should child care staff show confirmation of vaccine status to the Principal of their school? What would collecting vaccine information from child care staff involve? What are the concerns/challenges from operators at this time? • Some child care operators stated they have already collected 	

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	<p>and documented proof of vaccination from their staff. A member asked if child care operators can sign an attestation form instead of showing staff's confidential documentation confirming staff's information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further questions included: Do all child care partners have similar documentation and processes in place? Who would be responsible for collecting information? • Trustee Aarts stated that the Ministry of Education has outlined some requirements for how reporting will take place for permit holders and placed the responsibility for collecting the data and reporting through the permits office. • It was noted however that multiple child care operators are on leases, not permits. • Child care staff are employees of the child care organization not TDSB. Some child care operators prefer not to share a list of names with staff's vaccination status with the Principal. There are privacy and confidentiality concerns when sharing information with a non-employer. • The Ministry of Education is connecting with child care operators. Child care operators are submitting information indicating number of the people who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. • There seems to be an overlap of the collection of data and may be unnecessary. • There are also approved medical exemptions that need to be factored in. • Respecting individual organizations policies when navigating multiple requirements, etc. is a challenge. • A member suggested for child care operators sign off using a 	

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	<p>TDSB COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation form to protect the confidentiality of their staff and not provide documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked, if it's the individual's responsibility to disclose vaccination status regardless of organization, or is it the organization's responsibility? • Visitor policy discussions in TDSB continue– Key questions informing this work include: How do we define visitors across the entire board? What does this look like? What are the parameters? More information will be coming out soon. • With the TDSB visitor policy, parameters are in alignment with Toronto Public Health. Individuals who have direct contact with staff or students at a TDSB workplace for longer than 15 minutes must show proof of vaccination status. • EarlyON parents and caregivers do not have an affiliation. Therefore, they will likely be considered visitors and will have to comply with the forthcoming Visitor Policy. • Cynthia will bring back suggestions, questions, and information from EYCAC members to Craig Snider, Associate Director, Business Operations and Service Excellence, and the Business Operations team. • If EYCAC members have any questions regarding PR734 please connect with Nadie Lekosky at Nadejda.Lekosky@tdsb.on.ca or Cynthia Grundmann at Cynthia.Grundmann@tdsb.on.ca <p><u>Wi-Fi update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Services wanted to share that in September 2021 the Information Technology and Communications department asked Child Care Services for a list of child care partners in TDSB 	

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	<p>schools. The list was submitted to the Ministry of Education as part of the application process. EDU released an opportunity for full funding in developing and having a more secure Wi-Fi infrastructure in schools. The application turnaround time was fast, and every school board had to submit an application in order to participate in and be considered for this opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Services has not received an update on the application but wanted to inform child care operators that the Ministry is taking a more system approach to supporting Wi-Fi access in schools given all the challenges that have been discussed at this committee prior to COVID-19, and the additional impacts resulting from COVID-19 in terms of screening and Wi-Fi requirements. This would be addressing the Wi-Fi building infrastructure issues in all schools and areas for a more stable and stronger Wi-Fi access. Child care operators will still need to follow the process previously shared with EYCAC to get access to this Wi-Fi in schools. • Nadie Lekosky will reach out to IT department to see if there is an update and will provide at the next scheduled EYCAC meeting on January 14, 2022 or before. • Cynthia will gather information details and follow-up on the specific grant opportunity <i>Connectivity at Schools Program (CASP)</i> from the Ministry of Education. <p><u>General Staff update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cynthia officially welcomed both Kim Fritz, Manager for EarlyON Child and Family Centres and Nadie Lekosky, Interim Manager for Child Care Services, Early Years. 	

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Re-opening Dialogue	<p>Cynthia Grundmann and EYCAC members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open dialogue opportunity to hear how reopening experiences have been with staff and community in TDSB schools around the new normal for child care operators concerning health & safety, shared spaces, operations, staffing, ECE programs, capacities, rebuilding and recovering. • The parents and children have been happy and excited to be with friends and their educators again once programs reopened. • A renewed appreciation of child care staff and their dedication to children and families has been a positive outcome. • A member stated that it would have been appreciated if there was a dialogue between the Principal and child care operators with the re-organization in schools. Child care operators had to move children to other rooms and make sure the cohort stayed together/cohesive. • Despite the hustle and bustle of a new school year and continued COVID-19 protocols, families were ecstatic that child care was provided for enrolled children. • Having staff healthy and be able to return to work is critical. • Everyone is trying hard to balance the changes both professionally and personally. • Acquiring supply staff or looking into agencies for supply staff has been a challenge. Staff shortages and retention. Child care operators are experiencing staffing shortages. Staff shortage is a province-wide issue. • Priorities have changed to health and safety. • Staff have expressed anxieties with their return, in particular as it 	

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	<p>relates to sharing space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff familiarize with COVID-19 Operational Guidelines when changes occur. • Staff, children, and families have been compliant for the most part. • The need to address and promote RECE profession because there is a larger shortage of staff than normally seen due to COVID-19. This is concerning and programs may be affected due to lower enrollment numbers. • Burnout of staff as they have not stopped and are in full PPE. • The anxiety of staff not knowing if their team teacher vaccination status. • A staff member shared there is confusion concerning requirements, guidelines, and regulations. Misinformation in social media regarding vaccinations and the impact of staffing challenges. • Some licensed child care operators have informed staff and visitors that vaccinations are mandatory in the child care centre. Some staff have left and are refusing to work due to vaccination requirements. • A member stated that their child care centre lost 7 staff over the past 18 months for a variety of reasons. • Some staff are leaving to find a different career path altogether. • New, younger staff are very concerned about COVID-19 vaccinations. • Members would like to know where things are at the college level and what the pre-service enrollment is for this school year? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the most part, it has been a positive return in reopening. • More clarity will be needed in PR734. 	
Other Business	<p>Cynthia Grundmann acknowledged Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator appreciate day.</p> <p>This year in Ontario, Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator appreciation day will take place on October 21, 2021.</p> <p>To this amazing group of Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators whose commitment, dedication, and valuable contributions in programs, children, families, and communities navigated during these challenging times. In many cases, they put aside their own fears and anxieties to look after children. There is a renewed deep appreciation for the amazing and important work that CCWs and ECEs do across TDSB, the city, and all of early years. Congratulations and a heartfelt acknowledgement as we celebrate and appreciate the sector and the staff who have been an absolute champion. Thank you.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 14, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 15, 2021 at 11:36 a.m. 	