

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

**Meeting Date**: Tuesday, April 18, 2023

A meeting of the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on **April 18, 2023,** from 8:03 a.m. to 10:01 a.m. via Zoom with Judy Gargaro presiding.

| **Attendance via Zoom**:  **Also present were TDSB Staff:** | **Judy Gargaro** (Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra, Co-Chair), **Debbie King** (Trustee, Co-Chair), **Heather Mitchell** (Toronto Sports Council), **Susan Fletcher** (SPACE), **Susan Orellana** (Jack of Sports Foundation, **Jonathan Wood** (Toronto Accessible Sports Council), **Alex Viliansky** (Felix Swim School), **Jessica Murphy** (Leacock Foundation), **Graham Welsh** (Toronto Sports Social Club) **Warren Kung** (Toronto Japanese School)  **Maia Puccetti** (Executive Officer, Facilities & Planning), **Jonathan Grove** (Senior Manager, Operations, Maintenance & Community Use), **Ndaba Njobo** (Facility Permitting Co-ordinator) **Ugonma Ekeanyanwu** (Facility Permitting Team Leader), **Meenu Jhamb** (Administrative Assistant) |
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| Regrets: | **Dennis Keshinro** (Belka Enrichment Centre), **Patrick Rutledge** (Big League Book Club), **Dave McNee** (Quantum Sports and Learning Association), |
| Guests: | **Wade Cameron** (NYAC), **Andres Tucci Clarke (**Sistema Toronto Academy), **Elizabeth Lukie** (Hutt Piano), **Nick Hurtado** (North Toronto Soccer Club)**, Terrence Phillips** (Phillips Basketball Academy), **Sam Glazer** (Congregation Beth Haminyan), **Shawn Goldmintz**, Water Babies, **Anthony Lewis (parent)** |

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATION/ MOTION** |
| **Call to Order / Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands / Welcome and Introductions / Approval of Quorum** | * The meeting was called to order by Judy Gargaro at 8:03 a.m. |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | * Agenda approved. | Alex Viliansky  Jonathan Wood |
| **Approval of Minutes**  **April 18, 2023** | * Minutes approved with revisions   + Grammatical correction on Page 7   + Hyperlinks in the report are not working. | Susan Fletcher  Jonathan Wood |
| **Conflict of Interest Declaration** | * Nil |  |
| **Delegations** | * Nil |  |
| **Permit Unit Update** | * **Permit Unit Updates**   + The permit department is currently working on processing summer permits. There are still a few maintenance issues to be dealt with. Permits for outdoor fields that use artificial turf have started as of April 1, 2023, and permits for grass fields to open from May 15, 2023. Pools are closed at a few sites due to summer maintenance. The list of sites closed due to summer maintenance is still being reviewed internally. The permit department has already started preparing for next school year, however, waiting for the caretaking allocation numbers to be finalized. * **Update on the Principal changes**   + The permit department consults with the principals via eBase regarding any new and renewal permits. For new principals, we provide information on the history of the permits and any other relevant information needed to support the permit request. An orientation meeting for Principals is currently being organized in August. It is our hope that all the new principals will join this meeting. The permit department is aiming to provide them with an update on the permit process, any new requirements, renewal, or anything that can be useful. With reference to the cancellation of the permit during the after school hours, the decision is usually taken just before the end of the day by the senior board staff, if it is a board-wide cancellation. In the case of all other permits, the permit department follows the board’s guidelines and procedures. The communication process related to cancellation is a combination of either through the eBase or the principal.   + **Question**: Is there a possibility of making the orientation program mandatory for the new principals? And can the orientation session be organized earlier than August?   + **Answer:** Staff suggested that the orientation in August is for newly promoted Principals, however, a message via email can be sent to the principals who are taking lateral transfers. In terms of making the session mandatory, this needs to be discussed internally before arriving at a decision. It is important to note that new Principals do not assume their new position until August (2nd week of August for Secondary Principals and 3 or the last week of August for Elementary schools). Staff further shared that there is a possibility of conducting 2-3 sessions starting from the 2nd week of August and up to 1st week of September. It was also recommended that running a statistical report to determine how many permits are going to be affected due to the change over of the principles would be beneficial. Staff feels that number of permits affected due to new principals is not huge in comparison to other factors such as maintenance, supply chain issues, and lead time for equipment to name a few. Staff to share numbers in the next meeting to discuss this further.   + **Question:** No academic staff in schools to support the after-school program   + **Answer** – When it involves students of the school, what happens between the 3-6 p.m. period is the responsibility of the principal under the Education Act. From the liability perspective. There is a requirement for one of the staff members to be available during this period (either the Principal, Vice-Principal, or a designated teacher). Executive Officer, Maia Puccetti will discuss this with the Risk Enterprise department to identify if any changes can be made, given how it is described in the Education Act.   + **Question:** What happens to the renewal permit applications submitted in June for the permits starting in the fall, if the principal’s response is not received by September?   + **Answer:** When the permit department is reviewing the permit request submitted in June for the permits starting in the Fall, an email is sent to the principal for their approval before they leave for their summer break. A follow-up email is sent in August when they return. Principals are given 5 days period to respond if the response is still not received until September. After the 5 days period, the Permit department processes the permit application, the permit is issued to the Permit holder, and the principal is notified that the permit has been granted under the renewal rights. The five-day period is applied to only to the renewal request for permits starting in the fall. * **Communication process for Permit Cancelation pre-6pm**   The decision for cancelations is usually taken centrally and is mostly taken just before 3 p.m. | **ACTION**: Staff to share permits affected due to change over of principals with this group in next meeting.  **ACTION**: M. Puccetti to discuss this with Risk Enterprise department. |
| **Outstanding Action Items** | * + **Question:** Upcoming renovations at Beverley PS will force the school to not be used for close to 3 months by permit holders. If there is a way to still use this school as the pools are going to be up and running.   + **Answer:** The staff does not have specific details about Beverly public school to be shared. However, staff has been reviewing maintenance permits to evaluate the data and determine if there is an opportunity to open a portion of the school that can still be used safely. This solely depends on the scope of the work being undertaken, such as asbestos abatement work or construction activity before any site is made available for permit use during the maintenance work. All permit holders are advised to contact the permit department in case of any questions related to the scope of maintenance work at any TDSB site.      * **Pools Working Group Update** * **Question:** The Working Group is seeking confirmation from staff as to whether it is possible for community groups to offer monetary assistance to the capital investment of TDSB pools to ensure their operation.   + **Answer:** Staff discussed this inquiry with Toronto Lands Corporation about the possible injection of community-offered funds for the purpose of continued pool operation, maintenance, and upgrades. However, TLC is already in correspondence with other external funders who are interested in the partnership. There is also a conversation going on with the City of Toronto (COT) as COT counts on TDSB swimming pools for the programs they offer. COT seems to be interested and there might be a change in agreement with the COT. TDSB also has the option to use school condition improvement funding to renew or replace existing pool components such as filtration or replace air handling units. These funds cannot be used for adding new elements such as making the pool accessible; TDSB does not have another source of funds to do make these latter improvements..   + **Question**: Who should be asked when there is a specific question related to permits at specific sites?   + **Answer:** Permit holders were advised that the first point of contact for any permit-related issues should be the permit department. The permit department is often in touch with senior TDSB staff to work out possible solutions for any nuances.   .   * **Exterior Facilities Working Group Update** - Nil      * **Communication and website Working Group Update** – Working group has not met in a short while. Judy and Alex to work together to schedule the next meeting. FYI - This group discusses interface and communication topics with eBase to make sure communication practices and procedures are aligned and everything is clear and intuitive in the program. TDSB communicates with eBase for the enhancement or changes that are to be made in eBase and eBase confirms the timing for the changes/enhancement to be implemented. * **Community Partnerships with the TDSB**   In response to the disturbing incident of community violence most recently, the Board has asked for an action plan to address issues of community and school violence. Some elements of this action plan were presented to the Board in early December. The report presented to the Board is a collaborative approach to school and community safety. It also presents Phase One of an action plan which intends to urgently address issues of school and community violence. This action plan includes interventions that are being implemented immediately. This document stands fluid and will be changing based on the feedback from local communities as well as from individuals who have been affected because of community violence. There are three parts that are related specifically to this group:  We have heard repeatedly from communities that there is a lack of available programs. We have been informed by many students that they have nothing to do after regular school hours and over the course of longer breaks from school such as March break.  The first part is school space, which relates to effective partnerships with grassroots agencies that have the ability to deliver this type of programming. With respect to school space, we lost PSI funding in 2019 which deeply impacted our communities. As part of that action item Chair of the Board, at the direction from the entire Board, sent a letter to MOE to reinstate the 2.5 million PSI funding, and the request was declined. To support this work, we found other avenues and engaged with partners who have a great relationship with communities and have been working with schools. We also used other resources that were available within TDSB such as connecting our Continuing Education Department, Teaching & Learning Engagement Department, and Caring and safe schools to partner with several agencies. There were several programs offered to specific communities on weekday afternoons (2-3 days after school hours), Saturdays, and during the March break. Thousands of students were served in the programs and these programs were staffed by TDSB students from Secondary schools. Students were paid $20 an hour to act as tutors, mentors, and program facilitators over the March Break period. The most valuable lesson that we have learned is that the people who are delivering the program understand the communities that they intend to serve, and they are connected to the students and the families who are part of their program. These agencies were provided funding to pay their student employees and to allow agencies to access nutrition programs, especially over the March Break because many students do not even have access to one hot meal a day. The program supported nutrition programs and also supported students with equipment such as Chromebooks, and iPads for tutoring. The money used for this program had a March 31st deadline which was extended eventually, and we were granted $1.8 million from MOE to continue this program until the end of this school year for programming after school hours. Trustees will receive an update on this programming in May.   * **Question**: Can this funding be used to bypass the permit fee if the program operator is offering a program to an underserved community in Toronto and to offset the cost of not having academic staff onsite? * **Answer:** If the program offered by the community partner involves some sort of academic tutoring, can connect with Jim and his executive assistant Melanie Pearce via email - jim.spyropooulos@tdsb.on.ca,Melanie.Pearce@tdsb.on.ca to discuss this further. * A comment was made that sometimes communities in need don’t always look like a community in need; The communities that everyone know about are not the only communities * **Accessibility Report**   + Staff will invite Richard Christie, Senior Manager of the Sustainability Team to provide an update to the committee in the May CUSCAC meeting. * **Mayoral Election** - Significant number of schools have been chosen for June 26, 2023, Mayoral election. The list is currently being reviewed with the senior team and the final list will be shared with this group once it gets firmed up. Permit holders are going to be notified if there is any effect on their permits on June 26th, 2023. * **Committee Goals for 2023**   + Trustee King and Judy developed an overarching goal and drafted the language. Judy is yet to send the summary of the goals for the committee’s review. The focus of this is to look at improving community access and use of space and once formalized will be presented to the board. | **ACTION:** Staff will invite Richard Christie to present Accessibility Report in the May meeting. |
| **Trustee Report** | * **Update on Budget Development**    + In the last meeting, the budget development process started with staffing allocation, At the last meeting, we did not know what the GSN amount would be, but we are working on numbers based on enrollment numbers and other factors that the Board is aware of. In the previous year, we had 93 aquatic instructors however, the reduced number of instructors for next year is 80 which was approved by the board, this number is based on the number of active pools as well as schools that are closed for maintenance.   + Apart from staffing allocations, there is also an ongoing conversation right now about the resources and the support that is needed and the financial position of the board. Board has depleted its reserves and is in deficit. A letter was sent to MOE for reimbursement of pandemic funding. The funds in question were spent on things such as extra staffing needs during the pandemic, and other pandemic costs incurred by the TDSB to deliver the programs and services that students require for academic success, safety, and well-being. The board is also relying on public support   + GSNs were released yesterday, and the staff is analyzing all of the components. The next budget meeting is on the 24th of April, TDSB will also be able to move forward with the usual process of developing a draft operational budget for discussion and consultation in May. * **Highlights of Bill 98**    + The government introduced a new bill yesterday, the bill is intended to increase accountability and transparency in the school system as well as improve how school board capital assets are managed.   + Additionally, the Ministry would require the province’s school boards to publicly report on the progress that reflects the province’s education priorities and strengthen rules around financial accountability and transparency of school board-controlled projects. * **Trustee Aarts comments on Bill-98.**   <https://www.instagram.com/p/CrJlPcAOr1S/>   * + Bill 98 came out of left field today and contains many changes that run counter to what school boards have been advocating for AND has a concerning lack of funding attached to regulatory requirements. An overall 2.7% doesn’t cover inflation let alone the cost of education.   + The Ministry has been asking Boards for years about how to “reduce red tape” but this bill has the potential to expand red tape and slow real work.   + The most significant barrier to building new schools and childcare or managing properties is the Ministry of Education (approval requirements and delays, lack of funding). The request from Boards was for the Ministry to lift the school closure moratorium and reduce delays on their end, not increase the amount of managers. Also legitimately concerned this government is trying to speed the sale of school properties to developers.   + Good, standardized testing, especially internationally certified testing, is useful but no one wants schools measured against the garbage put out by EQAO.   + Most of the Bill is not new, it just embeds existing best practices that school boards already implement as well as provincial requirements and policy memoranda (assessments, student achievement, strategic drivers, improvement plans, code of conduct). The one thing that would be new is that the Ministry could start tracking its own performance.   https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1002938/improving-accountability-and-transparency-in-ontario-schools  @ontario\_education   * **Celebrations at TDSB**   + Hispanic, Latin-America History, and Sikh Heritage Month at TDSB in April.   + April 7th CUSCAC meeting was moved to April 14th to accommodate Passover.   + Ramadan is being celebrated this month, beginning on March 20th, and will wrap up in April. Ramadan is very significant in the Islamic religion.   + For Ramadan, we have a duty to accommodate under the human rights policy, and as Muslims are fasting this month, there might be some adjustments required in the schedule to accommodate some of the activities that they do in the evening after sundown.   + Trustee King has asked If there are any adjustments that permit holders are making either in the actual programming or schedules due to the activities around Ramadan. Feedback can be sent to Trustee King via email at – [Debbie.king@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Debbie.king@tdsb.on.ca) * **(Multi-Year Strategic Plan)**   MYSP (Multi-Year Strategic Plan) – Judy attended the meeting, scheduled for the Community Advisory Co-chairs and their involvement in MYSP. This group has been asked to provide feedback on MYSP. Judy suggested discussing this in the June CUSCAC meeting. In June, MYSP, Annual Report, and Self Evaluation will be discussed, or any other permit-related issues that cannot wait until September. Judy will send the discussion questions and pillars to this group on MYSP in advance of the June meeting. Zoom breakout rooms will be created to discuss this in small groups. |  |
| **Other Business** |  |  |
| **Adjournment** | * 10:01 a.m. Motion to adjourn | Susan Fletcher |
| **Next Meeting Date** | **9 May 2023**, **8:00 a.m. via ZOOM**  **Join Zoom Meeting**  <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/97191936626?pwd=OTV0cWtWdEdkZG4xU042bWtWbTRjZz09>  Meeting ID: 971 9193 6626  Passcode: 944290 |  |

**Acronyms**

PSI – Provincial School Initiative FOY – Focus on Youth

LNSP – Local School Neighbourhood Program FBEC – Finance Board Enrolment Committee

PPF – Priority partnership funding GSN – Grant for Student Needs

PPC – Planning and Priority Committee PSSC – Program School Services Committee