

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

**Meeting Date**: Tuesday, March 9, 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.

| **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), **Narni Santos** (The Learning Enrichment Foundation), **Jonathan Wood** (Toronto Accessible Sports Council).  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), **Meenu Jhamb** (Administrative Assistant). |
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| Guests: | **Elizabeth Lukie** (Hutt Piano Class), **Doug Blair** (North Toronto Soccer Club), **Terrance Philips** (Phillips Basketball Academy), **Marisa Chiu** (Interim Executive Officer, Finance). |
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| Regrets: | **Dennis Keshinro** (Belka Enrichment Centre), **Sam Glazer** (Congregation Beth Haminyan), **Ralph Nigro** (TSAA), **Sharon Beason** (Canadian Parents for French), **Tina Androutsos** (Executive Assistant, TDSB) |

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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 Co-Chair Judy Gargaro at 8:05 a.m. |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | * Agenda approved. |  |
| **Approval of Minutes**  **9 February 2021** | * Minutes were approved with amendments. |  |
| **Conflict of Interest Declaration** | * Nil |  |
| **Delegations** | * Nil |  |
| **Permit Unit Update** | * Ndaba Njobo advised that Board is still waiting for direction from Toronto Public Health (TPH) about when indoor permits can resume. It is anticipated that the decision to resume will be made by mid or end of April; but this is not confirmed. Regarding Spring camps, permit applications have been received, but are not being processed until TPH and the Board provide the approval for resumption of community use. The Permit Unit has opened for summer requests, but everything depends on both TPH & Board’s decision as to how summer activities are going to be conducted. * Local Neighbourhood Support Program (LNSP) –Board’s decision has not changed LNSP permits will still be offered at 44 schools as in previous years as long as there is no extra cost for the Board. Staff confirmed they have LNSP requests for Spring Break which is in April. staff are waiting for the decision to proceed with approvals. * Staff were asked whether permits for summer should be submitted as a new permit as there is no option for renewals in e-Base? Ndaba Njobo confirmed that applications should be submitted as new requests and staff will prioritize permit holders for renewals. Staff were then asked if a permit group declines their previous permit due to COVID concerns would they lose their renewal rights or could a placeholder save their position for that location, day and time once the group is comfortable returning? Ndaba Njobo confirmed the Permit Unit will use 2018-19 as the year for considering renewal rights and any group declining to temporarily return will not loose renewal rights if another group uses their time before community use returns to ‘normal’. * Staff were asked if the budget for community schools has been impacted by Community Use budget cuts? Staff confirmed that Community Use of School (CUS) funding comes under the Grant for Student Needs (GSN) and it is based on student enrolment. The final amount will only be known to TDSB once the Ministry receives the Board’s enrolment numbers. * Trustee Aartssuggested that there is the potential for funding cuts as the Province has asked all school boards to budget for coming school year as if pandemic did not happen and it has given no commitment for extra funding (no virtual school, no extra cleaning). When asked whether the additional caretakers were hired for 2 years Jonathan Grove confirmed that the additional Covid-related caretakers were funded for one-year (until end of August this year); Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) specific for Covid have not been determined. * When asked if the staged reopening is still a working plan Jonathan Grove shared that plans are still at proposal stage and waiting for directions from TPH.   The Board will initially start with weekend permits first and see how it impacts day-to-day school operations.   * Trustee Mammoliti noted the funding numbers for Focus On Youth (FOY) and former PSI (Priority Schools Initiative) grants. Trustee Mammoliti was referring to 2019 ($580K) and 2018 ($320K) PSI funding that was used to support custodian (rather security) and maintenance (rather than technology) costs for FOY programs. The Provincial government cancelled PSI funding in 2019. Without the PSI funding it is challenging for some non-profit programmers who participate in FOY to offer free or low-cost programs in our schools.   You can view "Trustee\_Questions\_Feb 22-24 2021.pdf" at:  <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:95888789-371b-4f85-90a6-cf69e6a2e591>  The TDSB will not receive ongoing funding for these expenditures, resulting ins a significant negative impact on programming. | lth |
| **Outstanding Action Items** | * **Pools Working Group Update** – York Region has opened their pools as of February 22, 2021. Alex Viliansky to send summary to staff so they can use it when discussing reopening with TPH. * **Baseball Working Group Update** - Deferred * **Website Update** – Executive Officer Maia Puccetti told the Committee that the final Terms of Reference was approved at the last Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) of January 13th, 2021 and the Committee was assured that it will be updated on the TDSB website. The Committee wondered if it would have the opportunity to advise or comment on what is posted on our webpage. Members were asked to check the website and forward any suggestions to either Judy Gargaro, Trustee Aarts or Maia Puccetti. * **Onboarding for New Committee Members** – Deferred – but will include the Community Advisory Committee Handbook, historical context about CUSCAC as to how CUSCAC came in picture (shared with the group in the meeting). Members agreed that acronyms should also be included.   **FOCUS ON YOUTH**   * Marisa Chiu provided brief update on 2021 Focus on Youth (FOY) program. The Board receives $3.08 million which is same as 2019 (however this is a combination of 50% from provincial and 50% federal, each of which have separate funding criteria). Major focus is mental health, training and student hiring with virtual-only employment. Preliminary budget has been firmed up and sent to Ministry.  At this time there is no allocation for permits in the preliminary 2021 FOY budget and there are no in-person programmes scheduled.   Before 2019, majority of the permits for Focus on Youth were funded through Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) funding. $2.6 M was allocated each year annually from the PSI funding, part of which was used for Focus on Youth Program permits, that funding was reduced to $1.6 M in 2019 and then it was eliminated in 2020. * Members were concerned that Covid protocols are going to be enacted for next several months, programs that many are running rely on Focus on Youth for many years are at a difficult spot as to whether there will be an opportunity to run in school programs. What would be the implication for running summer programs? * Marisa Chiu – Based on our discussion with Ministry liaison regarding Focus on Youth programs, there is an indication that all the programs would be delivered virtually, none of the other board have assumed that in person programs are going to be delivered and TDSB also has assumed that. If there are any changes to the pandemic situation, FOYT 2021 programming may be modified accordingly. * Members stressed the fact that lead time has always been an issue and it would be appreciated if we are given enough time in the event things change. Smaller organizations who rely on Focus on Youth funding would love to have some certainty around when we are going to be informed, so we can inform parents in time about our programs. Parents make their decision around Jan-Feb and when we only get to know about permit space (Focus on Youth) in March/April it does not give sufficient notice to recruit participants.  It was noted that past reduced permit fees allowed for the expansion of programming into at-risk communities; without subsidized permits a number of smaller programs will likely be unable to operate.  As further discussion touched on the fact that the former PSI program was intended to work with FOY in helping organizations offer programs and jobs for youth, the committee decided to forward an additional motion to build upon our previous motion around FOY funding.  In addition, we decided to include PSI (or equivalent), CUS and FOY funding together in all future requests for funding as all three are considered integral in offering community programming.   **PSI & FOY Motion for restoring funding - There was a discussion and committee agreed to put forward a motion through PSSC as follows:**   * That the Chair write to the Provincial government to request the restoration of funding for community use of schools for disadvantaged communities to 2018 (or higher) level, 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 costs for free evening, weekend, March break, and summer permits * Cover costs for Board-directed outreach to support community programming * To support permits for Focus on Youth programming |  |
| **Trustee Report** | * Trustee Aarts shared some info about budgeting process – The Finance Committee met last week for the first round of budgeting process to discuss school-based staffing (Principals, Vice Principals, Teachers, Caretakers, Librarians, Lunchroom Supervisors). The staffing numbers are based on projected enrolments and our enrolment numbers are down quite a bit, partly due to the pandemic. The budgeting and funding process this year is a bit convoluted as the Board is being asked to budget as if there is no pandemic. First round of budget is focused on staffing so it can be reported to our Union partners these numbers usually change in September. Every request for switches from In Person to Virtual School or vice versa has been completed and staff were able to accommodate every request. Planning work for September has already started. * Trustee Aarts provided update on public facing resources – It has been asked that there be more user-friendly communication (electronic and otherwise). The Health and Safety website has been updated first. * The Board has started asymptomatic testing with a target of 5% as requested by the Province. There is a TDSB website where parents can find the hubs to pick up home tests. LHINs (Local Health Integration Health networks) are also distributing take home tests directly to schools so parents of children in those cohorts being sent home can swab their children at home. * Trustee Aarts shared that education workers finally made it on the priority list for vaccinations, however they 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 abuses. The data in the report are quite disturbing. Reporting is increasing, with increased reports of anti-Black, anti-Jewish and anti Indigenous abuse across the Board. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA)- related complaints were also part of this report. It is hoped the report will help address human rights inequities at the board and then push out into the greater community. |  |
| **Other Business** | The Committee will likely meet informally in April as there are concerns that a 2-month gaps between meetings at this time is too long. |  |
| **Adjournment** | * 10:00 a.m. |  |
| **Next Meeting Date** | * **11 May 2021**, **8:00 a.m. via Zoom** |  |

**Acronyms**

PSI – Provincial School Initiative

LNSP – Local School Neighbourhood Program

PPF – Priority partnership funding

GSN – Grant for Student Needs