

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

**Meeting Date**: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

A meeting of the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on 9 November 2021 from 8:03 a.m. to 9:59 a.m. via Zoom with Co-Chairs Michelle Aarts and Judy Gargaro presiding.

| **Attendance via Zoom**: | **Michelle Aarts** (Trustee), **Judy Gargaro** (Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra), **Lynn Manning** (Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council), **Patrick Rutledge** (Big League Book Club), **Alan Hrabinski** (Toronto Basketball Association), **Sara Somerset** (Jack of Sports), **Graham Welsh** (Toronto Sports Social Club), **Sam Glazer** (Congregation Beth Haminyan), **Alex Viliansky** (Felix Swim School), **Susan Fletcher** (SPACE), **Dan MacLean** (Trustee), **Jonathan Wood** (Toronto Accessible Sports Council), **Katrina Estey** (The Learning Enrichment Foundation),.  Also present were TDSB Staff: **Maia Puccetti** (Executive Officer, Facilities & Planning), **Jonathan Grove** (Senior Manager, Plant Operations), **Ugonma Ekeanyanwu** (Acting Facility Permitting Team Leader), **Ndaba Njobo** (Facility Permitting Coordinator), **Tina Androutsos** (Executive Assistant, Facilities & Planning), **Meenu Jhamb** (Administrative Assistant). |
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| Guests: | **Terrance Philips** (Phillips Basketball Academy), **Katrina Estey** (The Learning Enrichment Foundation), **Mehran Khansari** (Independent Organizer), **Becca Lane** (North York Cosmos), **Adina Gamse** (Makom), **John Long** (Etobicoke Volleyball), **Nicole James** (Navy League Of Canada), **Sharon Beason** (Parents For French Community), **Pedram Molkara, Peter Chang** (System Superintendent Continuing Education), **Norbert Costa** (Centrally Assigned Principal, Continuing Education). |
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| Regrets: | **Dave McNee** (Quantum Sports and Learning Association), **Heather Mitchell** (Toronto Sports Council), **Dennis Keshinro** (Belka Enrichment Centre). |

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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 8:03 a.m. |  |
| **Approval of Agenda** | * Agenda approved. | Patrick Rutledge and Susan Fletcher |
| **Approval of Minutes**  **12 October 2021** | * Minutes were approved. | Lynn Manning and Patrick Rutledge |
| **Conflict of Interest Declaration** | * Nil |  |
| **Delegations** | * Nil |  |
| **Permit Unit Update** | * **Permits Update –** Maia Puccetti informed the committee that TDSB has put weekday permits on hold till January 2022 and are in the process of hiring and training new caretakers. Maia also informed the committee that the TDSB is in the process with TPH (Toronto Public Health) for the rollout of student vaccinations. TPH will be aggressive with this rollout and plan to use our gymnasiums which brings uncertainty for permits.   Ndaba mentioned that Parks and Recreation permits having been doing well and the reports back are encouraging and that to date, all things considered, indoor permits have gone quite well. The impact of community use of schools has not been high so far with regards to workload and impact on the schools.  When asked why the permits department has not considered starting up permits on Fridays Maia did tell everyone that TPH has requested as much space as possible the student vaccine rollout around the corner. Maia confirmed that we cannot commit to permits until TPH has informed us of their exact plans of the use of our gymnasiums. Ndaba further explained that the vaccination rollout requires a lot of space, an area where they prepare the vaccines, a large area where they administer the shots and then an area where students will stay for 15-minute interval after their vaccination. The TDSB still needs to ensure that people will not be able to walk and tour around the schools.  Ndaba was asked to comment on our future permit plans with respect to no more than two groups/cohorts mixing on one day and Ndaba confirmed that we cannot plan that far ahead as we do not know what the Covid-19 situation will be. Ndaba confirmed to the group that the Ministry of Education gives the TDSB guidelines with respect to Community Use of Schools and always look at the current situation. Sara stated that the current guidelines are prohibitive for permit group survival and she is concerned about inequities and inconsistencies with messaging, i.e., the Province saying they are worried about the safety of students but then pack 30 students into classrooms or allow arenas to be at maximum capacity with no masks.  The committee is very concerned that the current model is allowing the HAVES (organizations able to fund user rates) to survive while the HAVE NOTS have less and less although often being the ones providing support in highest need areas.  It was asked if it is possible to permit classrooms in the afternoons for Hebrew lessons, but Ndaba and Maia confirmed that indoor permits are on pause till January 2022. Maia said that the January 2022 date is not definitive, but the TDSB is actively trying to support permit holders.  Terrance Phillips thanked the Permits department for all their hard work and their efforts to make sure permit users are safe.  Frustration was expressed with the TDSB’s decisions with respect to permits and could not quite understand how TPH would tell the TDSB to hold space for vaccinations and the Toronto Catholic District School Board has gone ahead with indoor permit booking. Why is the messaging different for the same region? It was asked why we cannot permit out high schools when children over 12 years old are already getting vaccinated. Maia explained that all schools are being considered as vaccination sites and that the Toronto Catholic District School Board is different from the Toronto District School Board in that the TDSB has mandated vaccinations and this has had an impact on our staff.   * **Update on Priority Neighbourhood Initiatives** – Deferred. * **Focus on Youth (FOY) Programming for Summer 2021 Report (Continuing Education - Con Ed) –** The committee was joined by Continuing Education System Superintendent Peter Chang and Centrally Assigned Principal Norbert Costa to provide an update on Focus on Youth. Peter informed the committee that this year the Federal and Provincial government provided a harmonized amount (50% each) for Focus on Youth Programs in the amount of 3.2 million dollars. This assisted in supporting over 600 students financially and academically. Although short notice, 12 external agencies assisted in placing students. Some students were also placed in TDSB jobs within Community Services, IT, Continuing Education, Summer School and our International Students departments. Peter expressed how the Focus on Youth program assisted in the mental health and well-being of students, providing professional learning opportunities and mentorship by area programme monitors, and is very pleased that several hundred students were employed and guided over the summer.   Norbert Costa discussed how the team focused on providing skills and training to students (WHMIS, First Aid, High Five, etc.) in addition to employment. This is the first summer that the program focused on co-op opportunities for students and credits toward high school diplomas with great success. Norbert mentioned that Indigenous and Black groups were included this year through work with the Urban Indigenous Centre and Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and FOY is looking forward to providing opportunities with these organizations again next summer. Students were very happy with the different opportunities that were presented to them and are looking forward to next year. When asked, Norbert Costa confirmed that no funds were used this year to cover permit costs and that the Ministry requires a report on the allocation of FOY funds each year.  Patrick Rutledge complimented the Continuing Education group on their creativity in providing opportunities for students during COVID. He reminded the committee that the intent of FOY since the beginning was to provide job opportunities for students with small and mid-size community groups and would like to see the TDSB return to that model. Norbert thanked the committee and responded and told the committee that our partnerships are valued and the TDSB plans to reach out to as many agencies as possible next year, including agencies that provided placements in the past.  Peter and Norbert told the committee that 80 of the 600 students were involved with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and were provided opportunities in banking, universities and had grad coaches that worked with them throughout the summer. Norbert mentioned that musician Demir who performed in Eurovision was an inspirational speaker for the students as was Curtis Carmichael an award-winning author of the book ‘Butterflies In The Trenches’. Feedback from students was that all the speakers/presenters were inspirational, and these types of activities will hopefully be funded again next summer. The committee was advised that the 50% provided this year by the federal government was earmarked for mental health so we hope that the Provincial government will return to their previous level of support and not the 50% they allocated this past summer.  Patrick Rutledge suggested that the Continuing Education department reach out to the external agencies in early January, to ensure groups are ready when funding is approved. Patrick will suggest some names of agencies to Continuing Education group. Norbert hopes that we will get the same funding or more this year as he would really like to incorporate the great things that happened this summer with the great work that has happened in the past.  Peter asked the committee to send any names or suggestions to him or Norbert before January 2022 CUSCAC meeting. The Continuing Education group will join us again early in the new year. |  |
| **Outstanding Action Items** | * **Pools Working Group Update** – Alex Viliansky informed the committee that there currently is a shortage of aquatic staff. There is a need to restart lifesaving course training. * **Baseball Working Group Update** – No Update provided. * **Space Coalition Report Presentation** – Deferred. Briefing note to be released next week. * **Virtual AGM** – The AGM has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th, 2021 at 7 pm. Each permit holder will automatically get the invite inserted into their calendar. This year’s elections are looking to fill Category Year A members: Children, Community Advocacy, Seniors, For-Profit, Persons with Disabilities, Parent and 1 additional member. Judy asked the committee members to send her an email at [jgargaro@quickemail.com](mailto:jgargaro@quickemail.com) and tell her what category you fit into. Executive Officer Maia Puccetti will present greetings and opening remarks at the AGM on behalf of the TDSB. * **Review of Committee Membership and Vacancies –** Judy mentioned the upcoming vacancies at the October 29th PSSC meeting and discussed how well do our categories reflect equity, diversity and inclusion. Judy suggested renaming the ‘Aboriginal’ category to Black, Indigenous and Persons of Colour (BIPOC) and adding a category of LGBTQ2+. She will take this back to PSSC at the January 2022 meeting as well as incorporating the year changes for the election to reflect the deferral of elections in 2020 due to COVID. The committee agreed that we need to be overt to include, equity, diversity and inclusion groups. There was a suggestion that only direct permit holders should be eligible for voting committee member positions; this would mean that advocacy groups would either not be able to be voting members or that they would have to send a current permit holder to represent them. Judy will poll current voting members for the proposed changes and wording via email. * **Committee Goals for 2021-22: When and how should we set them and how should we evaluate them –** Deferred until Michelle Munroe’s Report has been approved. |  |
| **Trustee Report** | * Trustee Aarts confirmed that TPH (Toronto Public Health) is reviewing school protocols and recommendations weekly/bi-weekly i.e., The use of lockers for students. * Trustee Aarts mentioned that Tina had sent out a link ([**https://forms.gle/qBmZimvmsCpMr7v56**](https://forms.gle/qBmZimvmsCpMr7v56)**)** about the Ministry of Education Consultation on the 2022-23 Education Funding Guide for the committee’s feedback by November 19th, 2021. * Trustee Aarts thanked TDSB Employee Services staff and System Administrators for their hard work and implementation on the Mandatory Vaccination Policy. Ministry of Education has put in mandatory reporting daily for staff not vaccinated and that staff must do rapid testing 3 times a week although these tests are only 50% to 60% accurate. |  |
| **Other Business** | * When asked about an update on the TCDSB’s meeting last night, Ugonma agreed to provide a summary for the committee as she attended. |  |
| **Adjournment** | * 9:59 a.m. |  |
| **Next Meeting Date** | * **14 December 2021**, **8:00 a.m. via Zoom**   **Join Zoom Meeting**  [**https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/99163525423?pwd=c2dhZXBDZ2JPNGxQaFBJZ0NMVDJZUT09**](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/99163525423?pwd=c2dhZXBDZ2JPNGxQaFBJZ0NMVDJZUT09) |  |

**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