

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

Meeting Date: October 18th, 2024

Notes:

Attendance: via Zoom:

Patricia Chorney Rubin, (Community Co-Chair/ George Brown College); Jill Oakes, (Community Co-Chair/ YMCA Child Care); Michelle Dutra, (Woodgreen Child Care); Anh Lam, (Woodgreen Child Care); Nicola Maguire, (LEF); Pam McArthur, (Runnymede Adventure Club); Kim Rogers, (Sunshine Child Care); Irena Setnik, (Silver Creek Pre-School); Rosemary Stiglic, (PLASP Child Care Services); and Amy Van Camp, (Toronto Children's Services).

Also present were: Trustee Deborah Williams, (Trustee Co-Chair, Ward 10); Cynthia Moffatt, (Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services); Trustee Dennis Hastings, (Ward 1); Denise Humphreys, (System Superintendent, Student Achievement and Pathways); Diana Panagiotopoulos, (Executive Superintendent, Student Achievement and Pathways); and Colleen Russell-Rawlins, (Director of Education).

Regrets:

Liz Hoang, (Child Care Services Manager); Donna Spreitzer, (Executive Director, Toronto Community for Better Child Care); Patrina Stathopoulos, (Dandyllion Daycare); Lisa Teodosio (Centrally Assigned Principal, Early Years); and Lorrie Weddell, (NYAD - Donwood).

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION
Welcome/Introductions/ Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands		
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum confirmed. 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agenda was approved. • Moved: Pam McArthur • Seconded: Rosemary Stiglic 	
Approval of Minutes- May 24, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes were approved. • Moved: Irena Setnik • Seconded: Rosemary Stiglic 	
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed - No Conflicts were declared 	
Co-Chair Report	<p>Communication items (Co-Chairs'- Patricia Chorney Rubin & Jill Oakes):</p> <p>EYCAC Annual Report 2023-2024</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 • EYCAC Mandate/Purpose • EYCAC Meeting Dates • EYCAC Committee Membership 2023-2024 <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>	

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	<p>EYCAC Self-Evaluation 2023-2024</p> <p>The 2023/2024 CAC Self-Evaluation was completed by 6 EYCAC members in May 2024. The responses to each question represented (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree). Thank you to those members who participated in the evaluation.</p> <p>Priorities for 2024-2025</p> <p>Co-Chairs reminded members of the three priorities for 2024-2025.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working and collaborating to support children with exceptionalities. Practices and collaboration around inclusion and shared resources between school and BASP. 2. Supporting better transitions to kindergarten. 3. Expansion – Look to collaborate in professional learning opportunities for educators who are in kindergarten programs during the day and BASP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member shared EYCAC meetings should be productive and informative. To establish working groups and bring back information, resources, and goals. • Members agreed unanimously to establish up to three working groups based on the three priorities that have been identified. A google survey will be sent to members to determine interest in supporting the working groups and members will be informed of the established working groups. <p>Action Item: Cynthia to send a google survey to members to determine interest in supporting working groups based on the three priorities. A TDSB staff will help support the working group. The working group will define goals and priorities.</p>	

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	<p>Emergency Preparedness - Threat to School Safety Session</p> <p>Community Co-Chairs and some members attended the Emergency Preparedness virtual session that took place on October 11th, 2024. This session provided learning to help staff be more prepared should a situation arise. Caring and Safe Schools staff worked with Toronto Police Service to deliver this important learning which connects to Toronto District School Board Operational Procedure PR 695, Threats to School Safety. This invitation was provided by Caring and Safe Schools.</p> <p>Members discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership, readiness, and preparedness. • How does information get shared to child care centres that are not located in a TDSB school space (e.g., community centres or church basements)? How does the city engage communication? • A member shared that Police Constable Tony Santeramo shares information to the whole school community. When in schools, he has different drills to try and advice to give. • A member shared how child care operators who are in a leased space don't have keys to lock the door and do not feel safe in their space when a situation may occur. Child care staff are not always able to lock the door. • Toronto Children's Services suggested to have Police Constable Tony Santeramo speak as a guest at the Supervisor Network meetings that east district hosts. • TDSB staff offered they will explore facilitating a session for all child care centres located in TDSB schools including EarlyON, Authorized Recreation and skill building programs with Police Constable Tony Santeramo or with someone who supports emergency preparedness. <p>Action Item: Cynthia and TDSB staff to follow up with facilitating/ hosting a session</p>	

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	(Emergency Preparedness) for child care centres, EarlyON, Authorized Recreation programs in TDSB schools.	
Trustee Co-Chair Report Update	<p>Trustee Co-Chair Deborah Williams, Ward 10 shared the following updates:</p> <p><u>2025-26 Education Funding Engagement Guide</u></p> <p>On Friday, October 4, 2024, the Ministry of Education released the 2025-26 Education Funding Engagement Guide for consultation with the sector. The Ministry has asked for submissions to be submitted by Friday, November 8, 2024, in order to be considered as part of the development of the funding model. Each year, the Ministry identifies areas of focus that they would like addressed in the submissions they receive. This year their areas of focus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Education Funding Model Reform • Special Education Funding • Efficiencies and Reducing Administrative Burden • Community Use of Schools • Student Safety and Well-Being <p>As a result of the tight timelines, staff recommended the following process in developing the submission to the Ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 8 – Present to SEAC and request their feedback by November 1 for consideration into the Board submission. • October 9 – Send the guide to all other advisory committees via email to provide their feedback and comments by November 1 for consideration into the Board submission. • October 22 – Present a report on the Ministry’s consultation document at FBEC. This report would also outline other areas the Board may wish to be considered for funding support and seek the committee’s input. • October 29 – If requested, attend the PIAC meeting to hear feedback from the committee. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 1 – Submission deadline for Advisory Committees to provide feedback to for consideration into the submission. • November 1 to 8 – Staff prepare final document. • November 8 – Submission to the Ministry of Education. • November 27 – Report to FBEC on final submission to Ministry of Education. <p><u>SEAC Town Hall for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers of Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs</u></p> <p>TDSB SEAC is hosting a Town Hall. This is an opportunity for families who have a child with a disability/special education needs to share their experiences at school.</p> <p>DATE: November 4, 2024 TIME: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. LOCATION: Virtual or In-person (TDSB Board Office, 5050 Yonge St., North York)</p> <p>News: SEAC Town Hall for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers of Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs Toronto District School Board</p> <p><u>Register Now! Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference</u></p> <p>You are invited to join us for the Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference on Saturday, November 16, 2024. This year’s conference theme is Journey to Joy, Wellness, and Wholeness and will be a day full of presentations and workshops.</p> <p>Visit www.parentsaspartners.ca for more information and to register to attend.</p> <p>Action Item: Claudette to share information/links with EYCAC members.</p>	

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<p>TDSB Staff Updates (Senior Resource Person)</p>	<p>Cynthia Moffatt, Senior Policy Advisor/Manager Early Years and Child Care Services shared the following updates:</p> <p>TDSB Literacy Strategy (2024-2028)</p> <p>The TDSB Literacy Strategy was approved by the Board at the Board meeting on October 9th, 2024. This Strategy is built on the foundational understanding that literacy is globally recognized as a fundamental human right. Please share and explore opportunities in your programs to continue to support early literacy experiences and development for the youngest children.</p> <p>Action Item: Claudette to share link with EYCAC members.</p> <p>Health and Safety and Caring and Safe Schools Update</p> <p>On October 1st the Institutional Accountability Checklist was shared with Superintendents for follow up with their Administrators. Within the Institutional Accountability Checklist there is a line recommending schools that have child care centres on site should include a representative from the child care centre to the Caring and Safe Schools team.</p> <p><i>Establish a Caring, Safe and Accepting Schools team comprised of at least one student (where there is a Student Council in place), one parent/guardian/caregiver, one teacher, one support staff, one community partner, the Principal, the school equity representative and the Positive Spaces representative. Should schools have child care centres on site it is recommended that a representative from the child care centre be included on the Caring, Safe and Accepting Schools team as a community partner. The chair of the team will be a staff member. Student mental health and well-being must be at the forefront of all Caring, Safe and Accepting School Teams. In addition, this Team will be responsible for, but not</i></p>	

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	<p><i>limited to, advising on the development and implementation of the School Code of Conduct, the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, the School Progressive Discipline Plan, as well as, the equity commitments and positive school climate programming that addresses identified gaps and supports the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.</i></p> <p>Wi-Fi Pilot Update</p> <p>In the spring, a call out for Wi-Fi service pilot was communicated and there was no interest (EYCAC, new BASPs, Child Care Centres who had previously inquired). Later this month TDSB staff will call out to Child Care & BASP partners to determine if there is interest in using TDSB's Wi-Fi on pay-for-use basis. TDSB staff asked members if they have any advice for this upcoming call out. This service was developed at the request of partners. If there is no interest from this call out TDSB will not continue with the program.</p> <p>Members discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some operators have service for the fraction of the costs. • Operators run programs for 12 months and the service is only available for 10 months. This is a barrier. More clarification needs to be provided whether the service can be provided for 12 months. • Other service providers can connect Wi-Fi without wiring. • Staff communicated that TDSB is not a Wi-Fi service provider and understand that there may be more viable options for child care partners from other service providers that meet the needs and are more affordable. • Members share that lease costs are also higher. 	

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	<p>Before- and After-School Program (BASP) Update</p> <p>7 new BASPs were developed for 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bannockburn PS – EDP 2. Cedarbrook PS- CC 3. Centennial Road JPS- Rec 4. Dennis Avenue Community School- CC 5. Kingslake PS- CC 6. Presteign Heights ES- Rec 7. North Agincourt JPS-CC <p>Transitioned 60 existing Authorized Recreation programs to the BASP umbrella providing programming for 1,700 students.</p> <p>BASP Service Agreement Plan Update</p> <p>Child Care Services team and various TDSB departments are in the process of updating the BASP Service Agreement Plan. CCS team gathered feedback from EYCAC members through a google survey. The CCS Team is working with departments on revisions and plan to launch in the spring. The CCS team will provide an information session and develop a Q&A prior to sending out for execution.</p> <p>EarlyON Update</p> <p>All 75 EarlyON programs have reopened after summer closures, and the two EarlyON sites specifically for Black families with young children in communities that are underserved have returned to Fall operating hours. EarlyON is currently hiring long term supply and parent worker positions. Postings are currently live. All Parent</p>	

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	<p>Workers and the leadership team have participated in Indigenous professional training mandated for all EarlyON staff by TCS.</p> <p>Innovation Grant Pilot Project</p> <p>The Toronto Children’s Services (TCS) EarlyON Innovation Grant originally scheduled to end in December 2023 was extended until December 2024. TDSB has received confirmation that the funding will end on December 31, 2024, and the programs operating under this grant will be closed. Innovation Grant sites at Oakridge JPS and Glen Ravine will close in December. EarlyON team is working with our partners at the Early Childhood Development Initiative to plan communication for families and transition support for families currently attending the programs.</p> <p>CAC Review Update</p> <p>Early Years Community Advisory Committee Review Process was on October 16th, 2024, at Governance and Policy Committee and it was unanimously passed that the committee be reestablished. This will be tracking to Board in November. EYCAC Terms of Reference (2016) will need to be updated. Co-Chairs will provide an update to members.</p> <p>Action Item: Claudette to share EYCAC Terms of Reference (2016) document and Terms of Reference template to Co-Chairs.</p>	
Other Business:	<p>Expression of Appreciation - Congratulations Colleen, and Thank you! - Google Slides</p> <p>On behalf of EYCAC, thank you Colleen for your work, accomplishments, commitment, and leadership specifically in early years. Congratulations on your</p>	

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	<p>upcoming retirement. You have had a significant impact on the direction and development of Early Years programs within the TDSB. Thank you for working with the community and ensuring that families at TDSB have access to child care programs and opportunities for our youngest learners. You have left a legacy of collaboration and integration that will continue for years ahead. Best wishes on your next adventure.</p> <p><i>“To appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”</i></p> <p>Ralph Waldo Emerson</p> <p>24th Annual Child Care Workers and ECE Appreciation Day on October 24th</p> <p>TDSB is recognizing and celebrating the 24th Annual Child Care Workers and ECE Appreciation Day on October 24th. This year’s theme is Worth More!</p> <p>The Toronto District School Board recognizes the early years of a child's life have a profound and enduring impact on their future learning and development. Child Care Workers, Parent Workers, and Early Childhood Educators provide enriched, age-appropriate learning experiences for children in onsite child care programs, EarlyON Child and Family Programs, along with TDSB operated Kindergarten classrooms and Extended Day Programs.</p> <p>TDSB have shared various communications about this day with Trustees Weekly, TDSB System Leaders Weekly Bulletin, Principals, central teams, all our ECE teams and EY partners. This year, nominations of RECE's who have displayed exceptional work ethics and shown leadership attributes in their program were accepted from each of our Early Years programs; EarlyON Child and Family Centres, FDK and our</p>	

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	<p>third-party Child Care Programs. Please visit the “Latest News” section of our public website or the “News for Staff” section on TDSB Web on October 24th, 2024, to learn more about this year’s winners.</p> <p>Shared Space Working Group: Rosemary, Nicola, Leslie</p> <p>The working group were unable to meet since the last meeting.</p>	
<p>TDBS Community Advisory Committees Web page and EYCAC Web page:</p>	<p>https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees/Early-Years-Community-Advisory-Committee</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>January 24, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>October 18th, 2024, at 11:53 a.m. Moved by Jill Oakes</p>	