

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

March 21, 2007, in the Administration Building

In Attendance (in bold; absent members are not in bold):

Infant Center		3-5 Centers	
Little Goslings:	Mary Wells	Acadia:	Katharine Todd Millar (VP Advocacy)
Toddler Centers		Little Raven:	Ben Pfeiffer (Advocacy Webmaster) Gabriela Sincaian Marcel Sincaian (Treasurer)
Sitka:	Miranda Burgess Jeremy Woolf	Pacific Spirit/ S7UMUX Kindergarten	Karon MacLean (President), regrets Annie Moradain
Huckleberry:	Kelli Kadokawa	Tillicum:	Paul Pavlidis (Webmaster), regrets
Canada Goose:	Greg Feldman, regrets	Lluvia:	Linda Quamme, regrets
Discovery:	Maria Ezhova, regrets	Barish:	Jessica Irwin (Chair, Co-Secretary)
Lilliput:	Julie Bettinger (Secretary) Jim Salzman	Summer of '73:	Karen Bakker (VP Advocacy), regrets Reuben Ford Julie Stitt
Chuva:	Brit Lampe	Kids Club:	No representative
Staff		Other	
Director	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian	AMS	Brandon Goodmurphy (VP Academic & University Affairs)

Visitors:

Please ask your council rep or senior staff members for contact information if you have any questions.

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1. Review of Minutes

Minutes: The minutes from the Feb 15, 2007 meeting have been approved with questions about what is happening with the action items on the hot lunch survey. This will be revisited when Karen Bakker is present.

2. Administrator's Report

The office is frequently asked by the media for parents to comment on childcare. Any parents willing to speak with the media are asked to provide their contact information to Darcelle.

The Boardmaker program was purchased for centers to use. This is a computer communications/graphics program that is used to create signs, etc. Each center will be able to use it when they need it. A motion to pay for the cost of the program up to \$600 was passed.

New Centers: The administration has been exploring possibilities to make the new day care centers licensed for 2-5 year olds, which is a category that does not exist under current Vancouver regulations. Darcelle met with the regulation representative and while he felt UBC could successfully implement such programs, he was afraid other organizations would abuse a change in the licensing, and therefore was not encouraging about a change in the existing regulations. However, he did agree to take it back to the regulation board for discussion. If the new centers have to meet the current regulations of 18 months to 3 years and 3 years to 5 years then fewer spaces will be available.

Architectural plans for new centers are being developed by the same architect who did the existing centers. It is still unknown whether UBC will provide 1/3 of the cost to match the 1/3 already committed by the AMS. (NOTE: the commitment by AMS is contingent on UBC also providing funding.) The funding discussion by the Board of Governors for new centers will probably happen in May. The remaining 1/3 of the cost has been requested from the provincial government. Any federal funding appears to be going to the provinces to distribute.

Kids Club construction is moving forward. The children in Kids Club will move out as soon as late May. The new building is a modular building, which will be built off site in June and moved on site in July.

Enrollment: Currently, there are no new spaces. Almost 20% (11/60) of the children in the toddler centers have turned 3 years of age in Jan-March and they are waiting for a spot in a 3-5 center, some are on variance and some are waiting outside of the system. There may be spaces available in May, as families leave UBC at the end of the academic year. Bev looked at children currently enrolled at toddler centers and from now until November, 50 children will turn 3 years of age and need to move to a 3-5 Center and 40 will need to be placed between now and September. After internal children who turn 3 years from now to November are placed, there will only be about 25 spots for new families. The wait list for the 3-5 centers is now 3 years long.

Action Items: 1) Need parents who are willing to be media contacts. If willing, please give Darcelle your name and contact information. 2) When possible, please provide more than 1 month notice to Bev if you are leaving the UBC day care system as this allows her to know in advance what spaces may be available.

3. Advocacy

Lobbying on provincial level (meeting with reps from Liberal and NDP parties):

Stephen Owen is stepping down. The advocacy group met with potential candidates to familiarize them with childcare issues. The goal was to get childcare on the candidates radar.

AMS met with the provincial government and with help from Darcelle, provided the government with the funding request needed from the province for the new daycare expansion. No commitment has been made from the province and it is unclear when the provincial government will make a decision. AMS is focusing its lobbying efforts on UBC for a funding commitment because the AMS funding is contingent on

UBC's commitment.

Update on family friendly policies:

Darcelle discussed with Lisa Castle, head of UBC Human Resources. They are looking at University of Toronto model for inspiration.

Survey of UBC parents regarding family friendly policies is larger than PAC has the ability to do. It would make sense to partner with other UBC organizations (student family housing, AMS, UBC HR ,Faculty association etc.) to do this. Discussion will be tabled until we receive more feedback from Karen Bakker.

Action Items:

4. Fundraising

Kelli Kadokawa will explore if she can recruit a few parents to help with the Stongs fundraiser for this spring. It was suggested that if we want to do this regularly as part of council, we should create an executive position to manage this. Also it may be possible to buy cards up front, and then just sell them. It was requested that we provide a list of other ways for people to donate if they do not want to shop at local stores.

Another fundraising idea was to sell a tile or handprint with donor names that would be displayed in the new centers.

Action Items: 1) Discuss creating fundraising position at annual general meeting (June). 2) Explore possibility of Stongs fundraiser for spring.
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5. Misc.

So far, it appears there is not support for a mandatory hot lunch program. Those representatives who have not already asked their parents are requested to ask at their next parent meeting if parents would support a mandatory hot lunch program that would cost up to \$7.00/day.

Contact for the development office: Kristin Loheyde kristin.loheyde@ubc.ca 604-822-2262.

NOTE: any donation to UBC, whether financial or gifts-in-kind, receives a charitable tax receipt. There is a UBC Childcare Fund that has raised several thousand dollars over the past years and Kristin will let us know the details about this fund. Jim Ferguson in the main office is very familiar with the process for donating money and has the correct form (Donations Remittance Form) for any parents who wish to donate money.

Kids Can't Wait video is available for centers to show at parent meetings. This video highlights the current political and policy issues around child care.

Action Items: 1) Ask at parent meetings if they would support a mandatory hot lunch program that would cost about \$7.00/day.
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6. Set next meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm** at the Main Office.