

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

December 16, 2008 in the Administration Building

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

Infant Centre		3-5 Centers	
Little Goslings	Janice Milnerwood (regrets)	Acadia:	Margaret Murphy (Co-Secretary)(regrets)
Toddler Centres		Little Raven:	Maria Ezhova Marie Mailvaganam (regrets)
Sitka:	Laura Wheeler	Pacific Spirit / S7UMUX Kindergarten	Astrid Dier
Huckleberry:	Todd Handy (regrets)	Tillicum:	Megan Riter (regrets)
Canada Goose	Jeanne Robert (Co-Secretary)	Lluvia:	
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben	Barish:	Brit Lampe (Fundraising, Treasurer)
Lilliput	Julie Bettinger (President) Lisa M Sundstrom (VP Advocacy, Faculty) (regrets)	Summer of '73:	Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, staff) Kelli Kadokawa (Fundraising) (regrets)
Chuva		Kids Club:	Janice Milnerwood Denise Lauritano (regrets) Jessica Irwin Julie Stitt
Staff	Wendy Brundige; Ingrid Keen	Other	Stefanie Ratjen (VP External AMS)
Director	Darcelle Cotton Bev Christian Debbie Thompson		

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

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1. Introductions

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

2. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes Britt, Laura second.

Minutes: The minutes from the **November 2008** meeting have been approved as amended.

3. Administrator's Report (Darcelle and Bev)

Darcelle: As we've talked about at previous meetings, there are ongoing difficulties with hiring and keeping staff because UBC daycare is unable to increase wages. However, Darcelle has managed to negotiate a year-end bonus for current employees, and a stipend will be paid (in installments every 3 months) until the end of the collective agreement.

There is a projected fee increase of 15 dollars a month starting July 2009. As well, the toy equipment fee (currently \$35/month) will go up by \$5 per child. These increases will go towards an increase in administration time for centre staff and some extra time required to maintain appropriate caregiver-child ratios. Replacement of staff sick days is still expected to be an ongoing issue however.

Bev: Salal (the newest childcare centre to open Jan 1) is fully enrolled. Deb Thompson (who will be evaluating the new programs) and Kristin (previously at Discovery and the new senior supervisor) will be meeting with parents this month.

Enrollment for Kittiwake (the second centre to open on Feb 1) has started and is going well. The hardest spots to fill will be the eight kids born in 2004 who will be going to kindergarten in the fall. Salal spaces are full for this age group and there are a few that will start at Kittiwake, but after February, these spots will be increasingly difficult to fill for such a short time. Any extra spots will be filled with younger children (born in 2005 / 2006) keeping the caregiver-child ratios in mind.

Salal has staff in place and is ready to open in January, Kittiwake has the full-time staff in place but still needs to hire the part-time staff. The third daycare is not staffed yet, but this is in the works.

The two-week closure will occur for the new centres in the second and third week of August. There has not been a strong negative reaction from the parents who have accepted spots so far. There was some pleasant surprise about the reduction in fees for that month. A survey question has been added to the questions given to parents to solicit more feedback on this issue. Most of the concerns from parents so far were about the size of the group (24 children between 18months and 5 years), especially from parents of younger children.

There are no part time spots available in the new centres for now.

There are 12 new parking spots associated with the new programs.

4. 40th Anniversary Presentation.

Laura: The 40th anniversary party committee has confirmed that this will be a block party on July 25th, 2009. UBC will work with work with them to close down the street for that day. They suggest a BBQ with live music and kids entertainment (such as the bouncy castles for example).

Other ideas for entertainment included a family talent show, presentations, Rick Scott (a children's entertainer), other UBC or non-UBC displays or exhibitions, or each of the centres could have an art show.

Commemorative tiles (e.g. buy a tile now, then we would install them for the party) could be a fundraising idea for the party and as an ongoing fundraiser.

The party budget is not set yet. Ticket sales and sponsorship are possibilities to reduce costs and track attendance. An RSVP, admission by donation, or a raffle may also be suggested as ways to track attendance.

As well, a number of advertising possibilities were discussed. Initial "save-the-date" advertising will have to be done fairly soon. Alumni magazine (TREK magazine), daycare website, UBC reports, live@UBC were suggested for advertising. We also need a link on the childcare website. Using photos of current and past daycare photos might be good advertising. The best way to contact past daycare alumni may be broad-based public announcements. Notices in the faculty newsletters may reach a lot of alumni. Committee events announcements (for example on CBC radio, in the Georgia Strait) are also good advertising possibilities. Selling the event as a story to reporters from the local newspapers, perhaps an interview current parents who were children at the UBC daycare, could also generate interest. Bev could add a line to the emails from childcare services. Timing is important for advertising too. March - April might be the best time to start advertising and refer people to the website for updates.

Some tents can be arranged as a 'rainy day' option. Possibly, the new daycares could be opened for a restricted time during the day when staff are present.

Ideally the party would occur during daylight hours (possibly 3pm to 9pm); more details will be provided in January.

We should invite the president of UBC and the mayor of Vancouver – we need to let them know in advance.

It may be that UBC food services can supply or sponsor the event in some way. It is worth checking the price and getting information on their facilities (e.g. barbecues etc). It is possible to ask people to pay for a hamburger and just have the event catered. We could also invite vendors (like they do at the children's festival) if food services allows that.

5. Miscellaneous

Ingrid Keen and Wendy Brundige's proposal was unfortunately not successful. They will continue to look for other means to address the problem of wages in childcare.

Kristen wanted to note that the campus development plan form did not address the daycare issues well and so she did not submit the form.

6. Confirm Next Meeting

Every third Tuesday. Next meeting, January 20th, 2009 at 7:00pm.