

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

February 9, 2010 in the Administration Building

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

Infant Centres:			
Little Goslings		Coho	
Toddler Centres:		3-5 Centres:	
Sitka	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty)	Acadia	Allen Lehman
Huckleberry	Denise Pritchard	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni Csilla Tamás
Canada Goose		Pacific Spirit	Jim Johnson (Web Master) Elpi Schober
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben Anna Cohen	Tillicum	
Lilliput	Julie Stitt Karen Bakker	Lluvia	
Chuva	Jessica Irwin Maged Senbel	Barish	Sabrina Chen-See (Fundraising Chair) Doug Carlow
		Summer of '73	Lisa Sundstrom (President) Todd Handy (Treasurer)
18 months – 5 years Centres:			
Salal	Eileen Hallam (secretary)	Kittiwake	Musarrat Nahid
Auklet			
Out-of-School Care (ages 5-12):			
Kids Club	Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, Staff)		
Staff:	Etovre Vese (Tillicum) Susan Jones (Sandpiper)	Others:	Tim Chu (VP external, AMS) Brad Morrison, Childcare Commissioner, AMS External Office
Directors:	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian		

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

Jim moved, Kristin seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting with no corrections. The minutes from the **January 2009** meeting have been approved.

3. Administrators' Report (Darcelle)

Darcelle – childcare has been exempt from GST and PST and we recently found out that childcare will also be exempt from HST when it comes into effect.

The high school renovations are delayed. The first phase of the renovations focus on grades 6-8, which should open Spring 2012. The second phase that includes the primary grades will open some time in 2013. This will impact our independent school kindergarten. Our private Kindergarten will continue on at UBC until the public school renovations are finished and the need for our services is significantly reduced.

The deadline for kindergarten registration is Friday, Feb. 12 for parents of 5 year olds. Currently they have at least 60 applications. This year there are many more 5yr olds here due to the expansion of the daycare and because of the mixed group daycare model. The top 28 spots for kindergarten will be given notice of acceptance and an appointment deadline for contract signing and those with “potential hope” will receive notice of their place on a wait list and the balance will be notified to look elsewhere. Last year there were about 50 people who applied this year we have nearly 90 who are eligible. Within 1 month people will know about their status. Full day kindergarten will be modeled after the UHill hours.

The daycare fee increase for non-students this year will be approximately \$50/month. On the other hand, kindergarten fees will probably decrease \$50/month due to help from the government. These changes will most likely be implemented July 1, 2010. Parents will receive notice of the increase amounts

The meeting that discussed the new daycare sites had over 30 people in attendance. Kristin- Are these new sites temporary or permanent? Darcelle - The daycare spaces will be permanent. What will be temporary is the site. No one wants childcare on the big construction site which houses the antique barn so when there is space to move the daycare, the facility will be moved. Kristin - What about the 5 hubs or centres that will be built? Will that include childcare sites? What about the privatization of childcare? Darcelle – The plan is to include childcare facilities in the new hubs. As well as an intention to include up to 50 spaces in a new community centre however those will likely be operated by the UNA and may be contracted out

Darcelle: has been invited to U-Vic to be part of a panel to discuss different funding models for child care. This discussion is a response to the suggestion that U-Vic Board of Governors was looking at contracting out the expansion of their child care services to a private for profit operator for an annual fee and the negative response from the community

Lisa – Can we now circulate the childcare expansion report produced by the UBC Childcare Expansion Steering Committee (on which the current expansion plan is based) to the general public? Darcelle – Yes.

Darcelle: It is very costly to run and manage childcare services. For instance, the Citygate YWCA located on the downtown eastside will be closing their daycare because they are losing money (100 k per year for 10 years). They had approached various levels of the government for support but it didn't happen. The topic of childcare is political thing. When there is an election call, childcare advocates need to encourage the system to change. Jim - it may be our job on the council to be aware of the politics regarding childcare and be able to get that information out.

4. Fundraising Update (Kristin/Sabrina)

Kristin—We have generated a significant amount of money from fundraising. What should we spend the money on? Having a specific goal in mind will also help future fundraising since people like to know what they are donating their money for. The option of having music class with Chris be funded was discussed. Some centres do not have to pay for the music class and overall it would take most of money from the savings to fund all the centres. Julie - How about having a call for proposals for grants and then having the fundraising money applied to those highest ranked? The daycare council could form a subcommittee that would rank the requests [See item #5 for resolution of this question].

5. Interpretive park project—(Kristin)

Kristin- There is an area between the admin building and Bev's office that has been considered for making a garden. Kid's Club currently has a garden but there are people there who are really interested in getting involved in developing a new garden space. Elizabeth Brodie from Kid's Club has drawn up a proposal that outlines the garden project, goals, and cost. The proposal consists of 3 aims. Aim 1. To create a food garden inside the Kid's Club gate that would help kids learn about growing food and also connect with other parts of the campus community (e.g. UBC Farm, botanical garden). The cost would be about \$500 for tools, soil, garden support, labor, etc. Aim 2. Create a perennial garden. Aim 3. Create an interpretive native plants garden in the area next to the administration building. This would be an area that kids could use as a place to transition before a forest walk. Lisa- should we fund this or have a call for proposals? Todd- Funding this project would also help to motivate people to apply for proposals. We could have a rolling basis request for funds for proposals. Julie - will draft an email that will be sent out through the email broadcast to circulate to all centres.

Todd moves to use the fundraising money to finance the Kid's Club garden and to use this event as an example of a fundable project in the call for project proposals, and for Julie to draft an email that will go out as a call for proposals. Kristin seconds the motion. Proposals will be considered by council at

monthly meetings. The treasurer will be responsible for keeping track of project proposals, who was funded, for what amount, etc. An update on the funded projects will occur annually.

Action Items: 1) Julie to draft call for proposals for council to comment and Lisa to send out to reps and centres' staff; 2) Todd to receive proposals that result and council will consider on rolling basis at meetings; 3) Todd (and future treasurers) to keep Excel spreadsheet tracking dates of grants by centre, project, grant amount, and receipt of report upon execution of project.

6. Guest speaker event

Julie- Her friend is too expensive to come out but as she is a spokesperson for a breakfast club that is coming to BC. We could look into cost sharing with her sponsor. We could also look into finding people that are local in order to cut cost. Currently the guest speaker event is scheduled for the second week in May and will consist of a panel of speakers on the topic of picky eaters. This event would occur after undergrad exams and before commencement. This event will be open to the community.

Action Items: 1) Julie to continue to seek potential panel members and a suitable venue for a speaking event 2nd week of May 2009.

7. Advocacy Update (Shelly/Kristin)

Kristin- There will be an AMS sponsored Childcare Conference to be held on May 21-22, 2010. This will be a focused 2 day conference to discuss childcare around Canada and to bring advocacy and academics together.

Shelly- No new information from Brad Morrison as of right now but she will email him about getting more details about the conference.

Action Items: 1) Kristin to pass contact info for key AMS people to Christina and Shelly; 2) Advocacy VPs to determine a rotation schedule for attending occasional childcare conference planning meetings.

8. Misc.

It is okay to have parent reps post the daycare council minutes on the centre notice boards.

The subject of the communication systems for centres will be discussed at a future meeting.

9. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting: **March 16, 2009 at 7-9 pm.**