

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

Jan 11, 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:	Gabriela Sincaian Marcel Sincaian (Treasurer) Benoite Pfeiffer
Sitka:	Miranda Burgess Jeremy Woolf	Pacific Spirit/ S7UMUX Kindergarten	Denise Lauritano Annie Moradain Karon MacLean
Huckleberry:	Kelli Kadokawa	Tillicum:	
Canada Goose:		Lluvia:	Linda Quamme
Discovery:	Maria Ezhova (Chair)	Barish:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary)
Lilliput:	Julie Bettinger (Co-Secretary) Jim Salzman	Summer of '73:	Reuben Ford Karen Bakker (VP Advocacy) Karon MacLean
Chuva:	Brit Lampe	Kids Club:	No representative
Staff		Other	
Director	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian	AMS	Jeff Friedrich

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 Nov 9, 2006 meeting have been approved.

2. Administrators Report (Darcelle and Bev)

Enrollment Issues: There are currently 1,370 on the waitlist and the office is receiving approximately 60-80 new applications per month. The infant and toddler centers frequently cannot meet the demand for sibling spaces. Many siblings are not being offered a spot until they are 12 months or older. Sitka and Huckleberry are licensed to take 12 month to 3 year olds. Therefore, children who are over 12 months of age when their name is reached on the waitlist will be offered a space either in Little Goslings, Sitka or Huckleberry as spaces become available.

The administration has managed to place in 3-5 programs all those toddlers already in daycare who turned 3 years old in December and have placed some of the toddlers who turned 3 in January. It is still unclear if there will be spaces available for those toddlers turning 3 years in Feb and March. There will be about 4-5 toddlers in Feb and 4-5 in March who will need placement. Bev again reiterated if parents could provide more than 1 month notice if they are leaving daycare it would help her with placement.

Of note, undergraduate students have been adversely affected by the sibling policy. Student infant spaces are lost to faculty and staff with siblings because students don't have an older sibling in the system. This problem will need to be addressed if the expansion happens.

Online Payment: Online payment for childcare fees is active. Instructions for use will be posted at each center. Only primary guardian (person affiliated with UBC) has access to the account—if both parents are affiliated the family may choose who will be the primary. Checks are still accepted. Those parents who dropped of pre-dated checks and do not want them cashed need to go by office and pick up or phone and request that they be destroyed.

Budget: Recent federal and provincial cuts in childcare have led to a budget shortfall, therefore fees will increase. As of July 1, 2007, full-time childcare fees will increase by \$55/month. Kids Club summer rate will not increase. As per the recent contract negotiations, staff salary increases are being supported through the university's equity agreement with government this year rather than through parent fees. FYI the average salary for staff is \$33,000/year. Dollars available for staff salary increases were directed to a pension plan instead.

Expansion: Unanimous support for the expansion was given at the board of governors level 1 meeting in November; however, funding for the expansion still must be confirmed. Funding support for the Kids Club expansion will go to the board of governors level 2 meeting mid-January. If funding is confirmed, then the construction company will be able to move forward, architectural drawings will need to be approved by late Feb. and the children will be moved out of the building by mid-May and space in the main office building will be used to continue providing care. The new facilities built over summer and be open by mid-Aug.

An architect firm has been selected to design the 3 new duplex centers (6 programs). It is the same firm who designed the Osoyoos Crescent centers. Funding approval for the expansion of the new centers will go to the March board of governors meeting because it requires more finalized plans. If funding is provided by UBC then a total of 6 new daycares will be built and building would start in about 18 months.

Jeff Friedrich, VP of Academics from the Alma Mater Society (AMS) announced AMS voted last night to allocate \$100,000 over the next 10 years for the expansion. They are still in discussion with UBC and the provincial government to figure out what additional monetary support will be provided.

What is best way for parents to lobby university for funding? (Karen Bakker) Provincial government might be the best area to target. (Jeff Friedrich) Karen Bakker said making the case for students would be the strongest in lobbying for provincial funding because the province seeks to fund underserved populations.

Action Items: Make affiliated and non-affiliated fees available for advocacy
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3. Concert

The concert in November raised \$500. Maria discussed getting a gift for Chris and her partner as acknowledgement. It was agreed that would embarrass her, but individual cards from each center with photos of the children singing would be appropriate. This suggestion will be mentioned at the next senior staff meeting.

Photos and a video were suggested to be taken at the next concert next year and a video CD and a card with photos will be created for Chris as a thank you. Also better publicity in Acadia residence was recommended with possible mention in the Acadia Park monthly newsletter and possibly other campus newsletters.

4. Advocacy

Pressure has been put on Deans regarding childcare expansion. Brian Sullivan spoke at the Dean's meeting in Dec., but the outcome of this meeting was not yet known. The faculty assoc. has article in the current newsletter and this may be source for more parent testimonials.

The testimonials that were collected will be distributed and presented at the next board of governors meeting.

It is unclear where additional PAC advocacy efforts should be directed. A petition was discussed. If a petition was done, it would have to be completed by the end of Feb.

A motion was passed to spend up to \$500.00 for a web based petition if Brian Sullivan agrees this would be helpful.

A standing committee on daycare is supposed to be run out of the Presidents office. It was agreed more follow up on this was necessary.

Action Items: 1) Karen Bakker will ask Brian Sullivan about a petition. If Brian thinks this is a good idea, Karen will find out more information including costs about setting up a web based petition. 2) Karen Bakker will speak with Brian Sullivan about presenting the parent testimonials at the Board of Governors meeting in January. 3) Jeff Friedrich and Karen Bakker will contact Angela Redish to ask about the standing committee on daycare. 4) Karen Bakker will contact Adrian (UBC Government lobbyist) and Brian Sullivan to find out what is needed from PAC to lobby the provincial government.

5. Miscellaneous

Ideas for Family Friendly policies at UBC: Karen Bakker has organized a meeting on Jan 19 to discuss family friendly policies at UBC—the model for this is the family office at the University of Toronto which provides emergency back up childcare, etc. She has asked for suggestions to present at this meeting.

Suggestions included: more flexible part-time work arrangements; standardization of maternity and paternity leave expectation; tuition waivers applicable to child care costs; faculty parent e-mail list; starting classes after 8 am; housing and elementary school access (longer-term issues).

Action Items: 1) Forward any ideas onto Karen before Jan. 19. What could the university do to make your life as a parent easier now and in the future?

Food Survey: Results of the survey were reported to Brian Sullivan. He felt it was unrealistic to expect because it would require building a new kitchen, outside catering conflicts with the UBC union, etc. It was agreed the data needs to be archived for future reference. Further action on hot lunches will be postponed until expansion plans are confirmed. Karen Bakker will investigate the possibility of off-campus catering for hot lunches.

A motion was passed to allocate up to \$200.00 for Karon MacLean to purchase a USB hard drive for data storage and archiving. The hard drive will be given to the PAC secretary in order to keep an electronic copy of all PAC materials.

Playground Update: Sitka is mostly done; Little Goslings is just starting. Most of the remaining playgrounds were completed before Christmas.

Web master position: 2 individuals have agreed to share the webmaster position. Up to this point, Karon has been using her personal copy of Dreamweaver software for website maintenance; therefore PAC will need to purchase its own copy. A motion was passed to allocate up to \$300.00 for Dreamweaver software.

Wish lists: Each daycare center will be asked for a wish list of items at the next senior staff meeting.

Action Items: 1) Karen will close survey monkey website and write a cover memo describing results. 2) Data will be saved to a disk and stored in the PAC file in the office. An electronic copy of the data will be given to the secretary for archiving. 3) Karen, Karon, Julie and Jessica will organize the archive. 4) Karon MacLean will purchase a USB hard drive for PAC electronic storage. 5) Karon MacLean will purchase a copy of Dream weaver software for website maintenance.

6. Set next meeting

A meeting schedule for the term was discussed. The meetings for the rest of the term are as follows: Thursday, Feb. 15, Wednesday, March 21, Thursday, April 19, Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, June 21(Annual General Meeting)

Our next meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, February 15 2007 at 7:00 pm** at the Main Office.