

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

May 16, 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 (Co-Fundraising Chair)	Tillicum:	Paul Pavlidis (Webmaster)
Canada Goose:	Greg Feldman	Lluvia:	Linda Quamme (regrets)
Discovery:	Maria Ezhova	Barish:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary) (regrets)
Lilliput:	Julie Bettinger (Co-Secretary) (regrets) Jim Salzman	Summer of '73:	Karen Bakker (VP Advocacy) Reuben Ford Julie Stitt
Chuva:	Britt Lampe (Co-Fundraising Chair)	Kids Club:	No representative
Staff		Other	
Director	Darcelle Cottons Bev Christian	AMS	

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 **April 19, 2007** meeting were approved.

2. Administrator's Report

The reconstruction of Kids Club is going ahead. Housing has found interim funding for rebuilding of Kids Club in order to be done in time for September.

Status of proposed new daycare buildings: Architects are finished, development permit has been approved. Tenants have been given notice and offered a displacement compensation package. Without actual construction dollars, things are stalled but the planning stages are completed. There would have been delays anyway because we have to wait for current tenants to move out (they aren't being evicted).

Enrollment: Council members are asked to urge parents to inform the staff if they are leaving the program this summer; very few have done so even though there about 55 people expected to leave (kindergarten). People should try to give 6 weeks notice if possible.

Waiting list update: There are currently 1399 active applications. Kids Club is already full for September – this is unusual. Some spots opening for infants (<14 months) in June; 5/10 high on the list have been placed (Sitka and Huckleberry). Some of them have been on the list for <2 years, while toddler waitlist are waiting >2 years. Waiting times depend on where openings are available. Infants on the waiting list get bumped to other list when they are over 14 months. These spots could have been given to either infants or toddlers. There are ~35 toddler spots opening to fill in next 3-4 months once 3-5 kids move up or out. So, many people on the toddler waiting list will just be waiting a little longer.

Policy about students: 40% full-time student enrollment in whole program will be a policy guarantee if the new centres are built. It is currently close to 40% students (mostly graduate students), but in the future this will be a guarantee. Currently, 20% faculty, 20% staff, rest is community.

Sibling policy: The original purpose of the policy was to allow single drop-offs, not to provide a waiting list advantage, but it does in fact work out to be an advantage. Primarily students are impacted by this. Some spots might be earmarked for students this fall to help them (currently students, staff and faculty have the same priority).

Bev called some people high on the waiting list to get feedback about quality of communication; they had some suggestions such as providing updates about the waiting list status on a web site. No specific action was suggested at this time.

Julie Stitt asked for suggestions about how to reduce stress on parents waiting for a spot when the child is a winter baby and not old enough for openings that come up in August. Partly this is an issue of communicating the likelihood of an opening without raising false hope. Currently, the policy is to hold backup spots in Pacific Spirit, and attempt to extend licensing of toddler centres to allow kids to hang out for a few months. Other suggestions that were raised: Pay for spot they don't use (not much support for this idea); or parents team together to hire nanny to bridge the gap.

3. Advocacy

Karen Bakker brought up two items of business.

1. A letter of support from UBC Daycare Parent Council to the UBC Board of Governors has been drafted and needs approval by the Council. The letter is in response to the removal of the Phase I Daycare expansion plan from the May 22 Board meeting and urges action in funding the Phase 1 daycare expansion. There was a discussion of work Karen and Julie Stitt have been doing to keep daycare on the BoG agenda and in gathering the support of faculty and staff representatives, as well as continuing to foster the support of Brian Sullivan (VP Students). There was a discussion of strategy that would be most effective in persuading the BoG to take action.

The council approved the sending of letter.

2. Karen proposes a letter-writing campaign, in which daycare parents will urge their unit heads to write letters to the Board of Governors about the importance of UBC support of daycare. (this campaign applies primarily to faculty and also staff, but not students, who are well-represented by AMS) .

To this end, Karen has produced documents that parents can pass on to their chairs. This includes a position statement, a suggested letter for chairs to use, and a letter for the chairs explaining the reason for the campaign. Karen is requesting that the Council approve this campaign and kick it off by distributing the documents to parents in their centres. The idea is that the topic of childcare would be brought up at faculty meetings, and a motion passed by the department to send the letter, which would be written by the chair and cc'd to their Dean and the President. The goal is have at least 10 units write this kind of letter.

Karen told the Council that several units have already done this. The Political Science Dept is on board, as is Geography and Human Early Learning. The Faculty Association has put this information on their web site and in their newsletter, to urge other units to write letters.

The council approved the implementation of the letter writing campaign.

Action item from last meeting: Television Ad: Three people in journalism were contacted, no one has the equipment or capabilities to do this. One was willing to recommend someone on a "small" budget. Karen Bakker says that air time is too expensive; probably a better way would be through a national advocacy group that has the budget and time to do something like this. The council agreed and the idea has been dropped.

Action Items: Karen will provide a sample letter to send to unit head, and suggested draft letter for head to use. Karen will also draft an email to be sent along to parents.
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4. Misc.

The Annual General Meeting was discussed and it was suggested that we ask parents to attend and volunteer to take on jobs.

Action Items: Each representative will send an email to their parents to advertise AGM to parents, encourage them to make suggestions and volunteer for things they can do, and to attend the meeting. They will be sent the specific list of tasks that are needed.
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5. Set next meeting

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting. It has been scheduled for **Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 7:00 pm** at the Main Office.