

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

May 22, 2008, in the Administration Building

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

Infant Center		3-5 Centers	
Little Goslings:	Lisa Sundstrom (VP Advocacy, faculty) Christina Conati (regrets)	Acadia:	
Toddler Centers		Little Raven:	Ben Pfeiffer Maria Ezhova
Sitka:	Laura Wheeler	Pacific Spirit/ S7UMUX Kindergarten	Cristina Conati (regrets) Reuben Ford (regrets)
Huckleberry:	Leslie Paris John Pitcher Brenda Wessel	Tillicum:	Paul Pavlidis (Webmaster) (regrets) Megan Riter
Canada Goose:	Jeff Terry	Lluvia:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary) (regrets)
Discovery:		Barish:	Jessica Irwin (Co-Secretary) (regrets) Brit Lampe (Fundraising, Treasurer)
Lilliput:	Julie Bettinger (Co-Secretary)	Summer of '73:	Julie Stitt (President) (regrets) Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, staff) Kelli Kadokawa (Fundraising)
Chuva:		Kids Club:	Annie Moradain
Staff		Other	
Director	Darcelle Cotton Bev Christian	Kids Club Staff	Diane Tannahill

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

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1. Annual General Meeting

A. Review of the Minutes

Minutes: The minutes from the **June 21, 2008** meeting have been approved.

B. President's report

One highlight of the year was the start of construction on the five new daycare centers. This positive development has occurred in no small part due to the tireless efforts of the Daycare Council, and of course Darcelle Cottons as well, to advocate for the university to improve its provision of daycare spots. Construction will continue despite the university being short \$1.3 million (as a result of the provincial government denying all of UBC's grant applications), with completion due fall 2008 and an opening of January 2009.

The 4th Annual School Entry Information Night was held (October 25) with 45 parents in attendance and 5 kindergartens represented (1 public, 4 private). The results of our questionnaire indicate that it is clearly an event that we should continue, but that there is room for improvement. Many westside schools decline to attend since they have no difficulty filling their kindergarten classes. We may want to pay more attention to insuring that the Vancouver School Board representative is aware of our audience's needs. We could also rethink our advertising strategy next year. Tremendous thanks to Maria Ezhova and Reuben Ford for leading this event.

Fundraising efforts this year were directed mainly towards purchase of portable gym equipment for all of the centers to use, stored in or around the gym.

A fundraising concert by Chris Roskelley was held November 24 with books, balloons and baked goods also for sale. According to Chris' wishes, proceeds were donated to families of UBC childcare staff who were suffering financially due to the other parent being a city worker on strike. The concert raised \$600, which was distributed to three such families. Heartfelt thanks to Maria Ezhova, Jessica Irwin, Kelli Kadokawa, and Kika Konzen for their organizational efforts, and to Chris as always for her music!

Annual Stong's/Safeway gift card fundraising efforts raised \$1900. Thanks to Kelli Kadokawa and Britt Lampe for organizing this event.

Loveable Labels was selected as an ongoing fundraiser with 20% of sales returning to Childcare Services, generating nearly \$300 thus far. Thank you to Kelli Kadokawa for leading this effort.

The Kids' Swap Meet, held May 10 at the Acadia Commons Block, raised \$360. Thanks to Kelli Kadokawa and Laura Wheeler for organizing this event, which not only raised funds but provided an important community service.

With the vacancy of the Vancouver-Quadra MP position, the 4 candidates were invited separately by the Advocacy Representatives to join a parent council meeting. Candidates who attended were: Joyce Murray, Liberal; Rebecca Coad, NDP; and Dan Grice, Green. Multiple attempts elicited no reply from Deborah Meredith, Conservative.

In the fall we sent a letter to Lisa Castle, VP Human Resources; Brian Sullivan, Vice-President, Students; Fred Fotis, Executive Director, Housing and Conferences; and Angela Redish, Senior Advisor to the President, in response to the document *Focus on People: Workplace Practices at UBC*. The letter commended the document's inclusion of childcare issues as important for recruitment and retention of faculty and staff and requested that the Daycare Council have a formal role in the proposed taskforce to address these issues. In the spring, Lisa Castle, Associate Vice-President, Human Resources, who is responsible for organizing the task force, acknowledged that the council should have a seat on it. Thanks to Vice-Presidents for Advocacy, Lisa Sundstrom and Kristin Loheyde, as well as Julie Stitt, Daycare Council President.

In January we sent a thank you letter to Professor Toope, thanking him for including child care in his budget speech as a potential use of surplus funds. The letter underlined the seriousness of the crisis in daycare availability for UBC affiliates, and pointed out that the current UBC daycare expansion will reduce wait list times for the time being but not bring them down to a reasonable length that is compatible with existing leave policies.

Throughout the year, Lisa Sundstrom and Julie Stitt worked with the Faculty Association to foster daycare concerns within the association, with some success. The Faculty Association has made a point of keeping daycare provision on the agenda of their semi-annual meetings with the UBC President. Kristin Loheyde also raised the issue of daycare availability directly with President Toope at a President's Breakfast in April.

Lockdown protocol was discussed on council and by all daycare staff in the wake of the campus lockdown that took place during a security incident on January 30. The protocol will be distributed to parents once finalized.

New Goals for 2008-09 to include:

Planning Committee for 40th Anniversary to be held June/July 2009. This committee must be appointed at the first meeting of the council in September in order to allow adequate preparation time for this large event. Tentative plans include a musical concert for alumni and current daycare families, a barbeque dinner, and possibly an overnight camp-out.

Traffic and parking issues. Parking is clearly in short supply for pickup and dropoff times at the daycare centres, and it is unclear whether the situation will become worse upon the opening of the new centres in January. We must continue to encourage parents to park in underused peripheral areas and monitor possibilities for additional parking. The recent phenomenon of UBC Parking ticketing illegally (but conventionally) parked vehicles is a worrisome development.

Fundraising efforts around new construction, such as name tiles. New fundraising chairs will need to coordinate this in the fall. Stongs/Safeway gift cards: what will be the new project to be funded? Further advertise Loveable Labels.

5th Annual Parent Info Night. Maria Ezhova needs a co-chair to help her organize the event.

Promote website and develop a mechanism for regular updating. We need a new webmaster to help with this (see below).

Increase parent and particularly student parent participation on council.

Create long-term advocacy plan. The current year has mainly involved reacting to administrative signals in the wake of last year's victory of securing the new centres. More collaboration can be fostered with the Faculty Association, AMS, and the various employee groups representing university staff to press for further daycare provision and family-friendly policies in the university. Council should also work closely with the university administration to press for provincial and federal daycare funding. We must keep up pressure to insure an active role on Lisa Castle's taskforce identifying how to meet *Focus on People* goals.

Continue to monitor and discuss, as well as inform parents clearly concerning daycare management policies involving continuity of care, sabbatical leaves, and sibling priority on the waitlist.

Report was approved.

C. Treasurer's report

Report was approved. Motion was passed to pay accountant for report preparation.

D. Administrator's report

Child Care Directors Report 2007/08

The year started out with a bang when seven years of lobbying the university to expand its on campus child care programs came to a successful conclusion. Much credit for this outcome is due to the advocacy efforts of this council. Plans were drawn up and construction started with an ambitious completion schedule that looks like it will be achieved. However our application to the provincial government to assist with 50% of the capitol funding costs was denied and the university will look to other sources in these difficult times to cover the short fall.

The new programs will have staggered openings beginning in January 2009.

Access to the programs will expand from the current student /staff/faculty priority and grow to include a target of 40% student enrollment. UBC and the UNA are working toward a plan that will open access to the child care system to unaffiliated UNA residents starting January 09 though details are still being finalized.

Beginning in September 2008 there will be in implementation of a cost recovery fee for non-affiliated and no longer affiliated families. The additional fees will range from \$50 to \$400 per month with the highest fee applying to care for the youngest children.

The administrative staff continues to struggle with the recruitment of early childhood professionals. The on-call auxiliary lists are shorter than they have ever been which impacts our professional staffs ability to backfill their positions when they are want to schedule holidays or are ill. This issue is reflective of the difficulty in finding and retaining a skilled work force and does not relieve my stress when I look to the future recruitment of 32 new staff for the new programs.

Several P&P issues have been debated over the year and the advice of council is and continues to be invaluable as it brings the perspective of services users to the table.

2007/08 was the worst year yet in terms of turnover between September and May with 21 children gridlocked into toddler care waiting for space in a 3/5 centre. For comparison purposes there were 12 children affected in 2007 and 8 children in 2006. We fully expect the expansion as well as the new mixed aged group model to alleviate this problem in the future.

E. Nomination of new board members

The following executive positions were filled: President: Julie Bettinger, VP advocacy faculty: Lisa Sundstrom, VP advocacy staff: Kristin Loheyde, Treasurer Britt Lampe, Fundraising: Kelli Kadokawa and Britt Lampe, Laura 40th Anniversary: Laura Wheeler.

The following positions are still open and need to be filled in September, or earlier. If you are interested please let us know. VP advocacy students, webmaster and secretary.

Motion approved to change signing officers: Julie Stitt and Jessica Irwin were removed and Britt Lampe was added.

F. Closing remarks

Thanks to Julie Stitt for all of her hard work as council president.

2. Review of minutes

Minutes: The minutes from the **April 13, 2008** meeting have been approved.

3. Volunteers for school night

We need a second person to help organize school information night. Centers with 2 daycare council representatives are asked to have the second representative or "special event" parent help organize this if possible. We should try to involve the UNA board, they have an education person, Nancy Mahone. They could take this event over for future years.

Suggestions for improving the next info night included:

- 1) inviting representatives from Westcoast or from individual after school programs to come and speak about their programs and the process for enrolling kindergarten children.
- 2) Give the Vancouver School Board representative a list of questions that s/he should be able/prepared to answer.
- 3) Advertise event in Acadia newsletter and UNA paper.

Action Items: 1) Publicize need for co-chair
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4. Parking

Parents are getting ticketed for parking on road during drop off and pick up times. Lisa suggested writing a letter to let parking authority to explain drop off/pick up times and the lack of sufficient parking during those hours.

Action Items: 1) Lisa Sundstrom will write a letter to parking authority.

5. Transition to after school care

Tabled until October meeting.

6. Miscellaneous

Julie Bettinger needs all documents from this year to archive. Email to her ASAP.

Centers without representatives will be identified and Julie Bettinger will attend the July Staff meeting in order to recruit representatives and provide a description of the position.

Action Items: 1) Julie Bettinger will archive 2007-2008 council documents.

7. Confirm next meeting

Our next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday September 16, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Main Office.