

# Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

October 21, 2008, in the Administration Building

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

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

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

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## 1. Review of the Minutes

**Minutes:** The minutes from the **September 2008** meeting have been approved.

## 2. Introductions

See attendance of council members in bold on first page.

## 3. Open Webmaster Position

The webmaster position is still vacant. The position may be initially a bit of work, but it only requires someone with a UBC campus-wide login. Dreamweaver software experience is good but not essential.

Action items: 1) Council reps to check with parents to see if anyone is interested.
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## 4. Administrator's Report (Darcelle)

Enrollment and statistics will be given next meeting when Bev returns.

The new centres are still on track. The first two buildings will be finished at the end of October. The next phase is about equipping centres and making offers of care. The first centre will open on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

There has been one 'glitch' in the construction. The current power supply infrastructure is old and insufficient for the new buildings. There will be a costly upgrade to remedy this issue.

It is critical that the staff is in place before offers of care can be made. Two internal job postings for the senior positions have been made. External postings will occur shortly. The strategy is to fill the senior positions first, then fill the remaining positions afterward.

For the remaining staff positions, administrators are considering the initial learning requirements and support. For example, new staff will have to learn how the UBC childcare system works, how to keep the centres integrated, and how the new childcare centres will function.

There are recruitment issues for filling the positions for the new daycares. Whistler childcare is closing one of their programs due to lack of staff and this is expected to be an issue for all levels of new staffing except possibly newly graduated students.

Darcelle is working with the university administration but there are issues with the collective agreement that makes it difficult to offer the competitive wages necessary in such a labour shortage. One possibility under discussion is subsidized infant/toddler training. The training would be offered to both new and old staff provided that they agree to stay with the centres for a given amount of time. The training would be offered by distance education.

There is a possibility that the playgrounds at the new centres will be designed by Paul Dirks, the 'guru' of playground design along with a few projects from the old centres as well.

Darcelle is also on the childcare human resource sector council. This is a council (not an advocacy group) funded by government to look into labour market issues etc. She is looking for recruitment and retention solutions here as well.

Finally, consultants have been hired to develop principles and policy options for calculating child care demand and supply for the on campus community and to develop strategies to fulfill current expansion targets and to provide future targets.

A UBC steering committee has been formed that includes AMS representatives, daycare council representative, senior management of various university department and community representatives.

The committee will guide the research, look at projections for childcare service needs and will help advise the university on future needs and possible business models.

Action Items: 1) Parent reps are to discuss potential playground design with centres.

## 5. Parent Info Night

The event will take place next Wed at 7pm in the administration office.

Maria needs help – volunteers for setup and refreshments.

The event was advertised in the acadia newsletter and in all of the daycares. A representative from the school board will give a talk and there will also be reps from 5 independent schools present. No public school reps were available this year. Maria is working to bring in a rep from the YMCA as well.

Maria suggested that future meetings may have better participation from busy principals if they are scheduled earlier in the year. The discussion of the next parent info night was deferred until the next council meeting.

Action items:

- 1) Marie volunteered to move chairs at the info night.
- 2) Julie will check with the special events person to help out.
- 3) Centres with two reps, please ask the other rep who didn't come to the council meeting to volunteer. Please report to Marie by Friday if you can help.

## 6. Grocery Store Fundraiser

Kelly reported that we met the maximum fundraiser profit for Safeway and Stongs, but the number of gift cards sold totaled only \$16,000. This results in about \$1,600 for the council. This is down from last year and the year before. Previous year's totals were approx \$23,000.

It is possible that some of the centres did not receive the flyers and information. Kelly suggested extending the deadline for gift card purchases to Friday Oct 24.

It was suggested the money raised should go toward 'greening' the centres. For example, purchasing china to replace plastic dishes currently in use. Fundraising traditionally goes to something for the entire childcare community as this is more effective than splitting the money up to give each centre a small amount. Parent reps could write proposals for their centres or the money could be given to subsets of the centres each year. It was suggested that plastic toys be replaced for the kids in the 0-3 centres this year.

Action items:

- 1) Parent reps talk with centres about 'greening' ideas.
- 2) All council members are to think about any other issues to spend the money on.
- 3) Parent reps should emphasize the extension and the expansion of the fundraising activities in each centre.

4) Kelly will email for volunteers to help hand out the gift cards.

## 7. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Laura: UBC daycare is celebrating 40 years in business in 2009. The party date was set for Sat July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Ideas for the celebration included street dancing, block party, BBQ, band.

It was suggested that it is important to form a committee (staff will get time off in lieu for serving on this committee), get a website up and running, find a source of money, work out process for obtaining sponsorship, etc.

Chris Ross Kelly, the music teacher, has done a fundraising kid's concert in previous years – this may be a source of money towards the celebration.

Action items:

- 1) Julie will put this as a standing item on the agenda for updates.
- 2) Maria will check with Chris about the concert.
- 3) Committee formation will be discussed at future council meetings.

## 8. Advocacy

Lisa: Met with steering committee to discuss priorities for any daycare expansion: quality, accessibility, and affordability. Discussed the dilemma of reducing quality or changing the model of care in order to cover more of the demand. The committee is focused on future development, expanding programs and training in the university community and what that means for childcare needs. There are many possibilities to anticipate and meet the demand but it is not simple to predict childcare needs into the future.

There is an open house all this week for input on the future of UBC (including childcare issues). There is an online form also available for input.

Lisa was also asked by the faculty association to present to them about the daycare crisis.

Stef: There are a couple of advocacy options available to increase awareness of childcare issues. The AMS is an advocacy organization and it has established childcare as one of its main issues. There is a November 12 electoral A (GVRD) debate and childcare will be on the agenda. There is also a GSS childcare committee and an upcoming schoolboard election.

Action items:

- 1) Stef and Lisa will connect to discuss advocacy opportunities.
- 2) Parent reps will talk with parents to see if anyone wants to be involved.
- 3) Lisa will send out an email regarding the open house and online form to the council members for wider circulation.
- 4) Stef will book candidates for school board forum.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

There is a CUPE website with their submission guidelines to the government for all-day kindergarden for children 3-5 years old.

Feedback on the timing of compulsory two-week vacation for new staff suggests that the holidays are better scheduled in the early part of August.

There is one issue of noise in the Canada Goose daycare. Centres are able to apply for an emergency repair grant through the health officer to help address the noise issue.

Action Items:

1) Parent reps bring email suggestions regarding new staff holiday time to next meeting.

## **10. Confirm next meeting**

Every third Tuesday. Next meeting, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00pm.