

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

November 17, 2009 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	
Huckleberry	Denise Pritchard	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni
Canada Goose	Csilla Tamás	Pacific Spirit	Jim Johnson Elpi Schober
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben	Tillicum	
Lilliput	Julie Stitt Karen Bakker	Lluvia	
Chuva	Jessica Irwin	Barish	Sabrina Chen-See (Fundraising Chair)
		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:	Deb Thompson	Others:	Tim Chu (VP external, AMS)
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

Todd moved, Kristin seconded accepting the minutes from our last meeting.

Minutes: The minutes from the **October 2009** meeting have been approved.

3. Vote on candidates for executive positions (Lisa)

Lisa – Jim Johnson has volunteered to be the Daycare Council web master. Darcelle motioned and Lisa seconded. All council members were in favor of accepting Jim as the new web master. It was also stated that Shelly Gershuni has volunteered to be the Vice-President of Advocacy for Students. Lisa motioned and Jim seconded. All council members were in favor of accepting Shelly as the new VP-Advocacy for students.

4. Report on kindergarten parent info night (Julie)

Julie – There were many people who attended this event. People were packed in the gym with people standing up in the back. We were expecting about 45 people but over 78 people attended indicating that

this is a hot topic issue. The woman who represented the Vancouver school board gave some information that contradicted the school board website so some parents were confused about the information given. She also did not touch on the French immersion topic, which was also on the agenda. Bev reviewed kids Club and the parent panel was towards the end of the agenda. In general, the Kindergarten Parent Info night was a big success. It was recommended that next year we get a bigger room for the event such as the Commons block. Also, having more handouts and rearranging the agenda a bit would be beneficial. For kids turning 5 years old next year, it is important for parents to know that schools are now implementing a lottery system. There will also be no systemic sibling priority and the Principal of each school will make decisions about whether or not to prioritize siblings. The school board rep. stated that the second child would still be in the lottery so it is possible that two siblings could be at two separate schools. When your child turns 4 years old, it is a good time to get on the wait list for after school child care. For school, you need to make sure that you register in the right year or your registration application will be discarded if you register too soon.

5. Guest speaker events (Julie)

Julie – It was asked the Council if there were any suggestions for topics on potential guest speaker events. Bev mentioned that the public health nurse is interested to come and talk at one of these events. Kristin mentioned a name for a nutritionist, and also there was some discussion of a naturopath. Topics that were brought up were sibling issues, picky issues, sleeping, and positive discipline. Sabrina mentioned a program she read in a magazine about a program in the US that focused on what to do in minor emergencies. This may also be a potential topic of interest. Sabrina will send Julie the article. Discussion focused on when we should hold the first guest speaker event and what the topic should be. The end of January or the first week of February 2010 was suggested but April was decided to be the best time in order to avoid the Olympic road closures. So far the plan is to focus on one guest speaker event for this academic year. The topic chosen was issues surrounding food and behavior. We could have a panel of speakers that includes a health nurse, a naturopath, and Julie's friend who wrote a cookbook of child-friendly dishes.

Action item: Julie will contact potential speakers for the guest speaker event to be held in April 2010.
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6. Administrator's report (Darcelle/Deb)

Darcelle – the UBC childcare expansion plan was presented to the board of governors along with the architects who were short-listed to look at the renovations of the proposed building sites. The next step is to attend the meeting on Dec. 3 where the level Board 1 and Board 2 will be voted on to approve the plan and architect selection. Renovations to the childcare administration building could begin in June 2010, which would then shut down everything except for the preschool. Kindergarten will close and Chuva and Barish would transition to full time daycare centres. It is possible that renovations could be finished as soon as Jan. or Feb. of 2011. It is not known when the High school will move to the NRC (across 16th) and the U-Hill High school will be rebuilt and open with 60 spaces of all day kindergarten as well as grades 1-7 across the street. Construction is planned to start this spring. The UBC Child Care private Kindergarten will move into Kid's Club and by as early as Sept. 2010, the kindergarten will likely need to close due to the opening of the all day public school Kindergarten across the street

The Bastion centre, the Old Barn that is currently a coffee shop located on Main Mall, and the space in Koerner's lounge are all sites where daycare sites are proposed in the expansion plan. For the site located in Koerner's lounge, this would be a site for drop in care only. It would be ideal to have the drop in centre check in accessible online. These projects are estimated to cost approximately 3.2 million dollars and all could be opened by Sept. 2010. The University Services Building could also be a space option for another future plan. 2-5 years out there will be more student housing constructed that supports a living-working solution hub. Additional space for child care is a part of these future plans. All of these

future child care facilities would be run by UBC childcare services and there are others being proposed to be operated by UNA (i.e. in Wesbook Place Community Centre).

Deb – In the month of August, all the new daycare centres have a two-week closure (as specified in the enrollment contracts signed by parents of children in the centres). This decision was implemented in order to coordinate staff vacation times so that the quality of care could be maintained during the year. Since staff get four weeks of vacation per year, and the new group daycares have 6 full time staff, this means there would be six month's worth of staff time that would need to be filled with subs. Good quality substitute staff can be difficult to find, and coordinating two weeks of the staff's time off limits the need for temporary staff. Originally there was a proposal for a four-week closure, but discussions with parents and the parent council led to the compromise of a two-week closure. Because the older centres have different staff to child ratios (4 full time staff in the old centres rather than 6), and parents were not initially notified of the possibility of a two-week closure in their original contracts, it was decided not to implement this policy in the existing centres.

7. Fundraising update (Sabrina)

Sabrina – Envelopes with the completed fundraising order forms will be picked up on Thursday morning unless a work study student could come in on Friday to collect envelopes from each centre. Broadcast email from Bev will be sent out to parents to remind them that order forms are due on this week. Several parents have asked questions about the orders and there are fairly big (over \$500) orders going out. Kristin has volunteered to help double check the order forms this weekend. Monday will be when the order goes out to Progressive. We discussed the possibility of having a specific person be responsible for each of their daycare centres. Staff will not be responsible for distributing the cards. We will have cards available at the admin building according to the dates on the letter: Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. If cards are not picked up at the admin building, parent reps will then be responsible for distributing the remaining to their centres. Several volunteer parents will be available to hand out cards in the admin building on the card pickup dates. Lisa mentioned that this has been quite an onerous job for Sabrina without a second Fundraising Chair to share the burden.

Action item: Lisa to add to message to parents with meeting minutes that we still need someone to volunteer to be a second Fundraising Chair on council. Parent reps to arrange how to deliver gift card orders safely to parents who do not pick up their orders at the gift card office.
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8. Postdoc fellows status in childcare system (Bev)

Bev- Since postdoctoral fellows are people who are not paid by the UBC directly, what is the perspective from the council on the status of postdocs? Would postdocs be considered faculty, staff or unaffiliated? Council members stated that postdoctoral fellows are definitely a part of the university and are generally supported by faculty grants, postdoctoral fellowships, or the affiliated department in some way. A letter from the department head or faculty supervisor that states the postdoc start and end date would be sufficient evidence of their UBC affiliated status. Visiting professors should also be considered affiliated with the university and should be able to gain access to UBC childcare in the same priority order as regular UBC faculty. A letter from the department head would also be needed to confirm visiting professor status.

9. Parking congestion

Darcelle – Staff permit parking has recently been implemented around the daycare centres. During the Olympics, this area may also be overwhelmed with cars since there is no metered or permit parking.

Parking will need to be monitored. At the daycare centre, there are over 109 staff members and the parking lot by the administration building can only accommodate 22 spaces. For staff parking in front of the centres on Osoyoos, there is supposed to be only 1 staff per from each centre. We discussed that some staff say they cannot afford parking permits. At this time UBC is negotiating the U-Pass (transit pass) for faculty and staff, which may help with more affordable transportation issues. Also the renovations that are taking place off Revelstoke will be able to provide some additional parking spaces. Would it be possible for Darcelle to ask if UBC childcare staff could use the church parking lot? We would need to contact the church administration about this issue.

10. Advocacy (Christina)

Christina – A letter was sent out to the University of Victoria that brought to attention the concern that the UBC Daycare Council had on the notice that the University is looking to a for-profit provider to address its high demand for child care services. CUPE Professor from Manitoba Susan Prentice will visit BC and discuss the corporatization of childcare. First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition will have a national day of action on Tuesday, Nov. 24 where you can download materials for circulation and when you can send a letter to your MLA and MP to let them know that poverty rates in BC and Canada are unacceptable. AMS students are organizing a conference about childcare to be held in May, and Kristin has attended one of their planning meetings, but we have not been notified of nor have attended any of their recent meetings. It's not clear whether there are any important contributions we can make to the planning of this conference, though the conference itself may be a good opportunity for raising awareness about childcare issues in the campus community (and beyond).

Lisa – On Dec. 2, 2009, she will be attending the breakfast with the President, Stephen J. Toope, and the plan is to discuss with him issues important to the Daycare Council.

Action items: Christina or Kristin or Shelly to touch base with AMS about conference developments. Lisa to raise daycare issue with Stephen Toope

11. Misc.

Jessica- Are half time daycare programs coming back? She is dismayed at the phasing out of these programs with the upcoming daycare expansion. The waitlist demands identify full day child care as the top priority. It may be that parents will be interested in having the half time daycare program as an option for the future. Darcelle responded that in the past, having a morning and afternoon preschool split (within a full day daycare) did not work especially in the afternoon. It is possible that the half-day care options will be available in the future depending on demand. The decision to change the half day programs to full day was made based on the much higher demand for full day care and to maximize use of space and resources.

Issues to be put in next month's agenda: Parking and driving during the Olympics.

11. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting: **January 12, 2009 at 7:00pm** (one week earlier than usual to compensate for no meeting in December). Meetings will continue to be on the third Tuesday of each month on a regular basis.

