

## Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

June 14, 2010, in the Administration Building

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

<b>Infant Center</b>			
Little Goslings:	<b>Shi-Ling Hsu</b>	Coho	
<b>Toddler Centers</b>		<b>3-5 Centres</b>	
Sitka:	<b>Christina Hendricks</b> (VP Advocacy, Faculty)	Acadia	<b>Allen Lehman</b>
Huckleberry:	<b>Kelli Kadokawa</b> (President) <b>Maria Zago</b>	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni Csilla Tamás
Canada Goose:		Pacific Spirit	<b>Jim Johnson</b> (Webmaster) Elpi Schober
Discovery:	Marcus Hallensleben Anna Cohen	Tillicum	Elinor Delgatty
Lilliput:	Julie Stitt Karen Bakker	Lluvia	
Chuva:	Jessica Irwin Maged Senbel	Barish	Sabrina Chen-See Doug Carlow
		Summer of '73	<b>Todd Handy</b> (Treasurer) <b>Lisa Sundstrom</b> (Co-Secretary) David Ciu
<b>18 months – 5 years Centres</b>			
Salal	Eileen Hallam	Kittiwake	<b>Yasmin Nassar</b>
Auklet	Quiang Andrew Du		
<b>Out-of-School Care (ages 5 – 12)</b>			
Kids Club	<b>Kristin Loheyde</b> (VP Advocacy, Staff)		
Staff	<b>Linda Berkyto</b> (Huckleberry)	<b>Other</b>	
Directors	<b>Darcelle Cotton</b> <b>Bev Christian</b>	AMS	

Visitors:

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

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## 1. Introductions

Kelli Kadokawa started the introductions and welcomed everyone to the council.

## 2. Review of the Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and a single minor correction was suggested. Shi-Ling Hsu noted that he was in fact here that month representing Little Goslings. A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Shi-Ling Hsu and seconded by Todd Handy. The motion was approved unanimously

## 3. Administrators Report (Bev)

Darcelle Cottons and Bev Christian present an administrator's report. Darcelle reviewed current initiatives to build new day care space and discussed ongoing renovations to the Barn, which will hopefully open on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. No firm commitments can be made to parents until the completion of the project has been absolutely confirmed and certified. However, preparations are nonetheless underway. Senior staff postings have been made. The new team will be built around the senior staff as soon as they are hired.

Darcelle also mentioned that a few other projects are still in the early 'vision' stages. This includes a possible daycare in the USB (plant operations) building which would be 3000 sq feet and possibly house a split age-group. There was also discussion around another possible daycare in south campus, but it seemed like a large number of details would still need to be worked out.

Bev briefly discussed enrollment. July is a bit slower than usual and August might also be quiet. September will be very busy for new kids. Bev reminded the council that she hasn't heard from 25-30 families who will be leaving this summer. Families who do not update their status make it difficult to plan for new incoming families. Parent representatives were urged to spread this message back to their centres.

Kelli Kadokawa asked how many new kids come into the 3-5 centres per year. Bev replied that there will be about 30 spaces from turn-over with the barn adding 16 new spaces for 3-5-year olds.

Issues remain around finding kindergarten age care and these were briefly discussed.

Action Items: 1) Agenda item for a future meeting: Discussion of how family grouping at the new centers would affect kids moving through the system since children will only graduate from it in September when 5 years olds move to kindergarten.
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## 4. Advocacy

Christina Hendricks reported back to the council on the AMS-hosted daycare conference in May entitled "It Takes a University". She described the event as really informative. Several other members of the council who were in attendance and on speaking panels agreed. Kristin Loheyde said there were lots of very good perspectives that would otherwise not have been heard.

Bev mentioned that the privatization of daycare was discussed. She specifically cited a disaster in Australia, where fees went up and the private daycare company went bankrupt. She noted that threats to public subsidized daycare still exist.

People came to this conference from across Canada and from diverse institutions. Some institutions are cutting childcare. UBC seems to be doing well compared to other universities in Canada in terms of support for childcare.

Several other comments were made. Undergraduates were not represented on the parent representative panel. Website for the conference was not very informative.

It was mentioned that it is not clear what the next steps from the conference will be. Apparently there was talk of writing a paper or presenting data to the government. Darcelle will ask about follow-up and perhaps we will post on the parent council website. Todd Handy made the point that it would be important not to lose the chances to use the results from the conference to promote further expansion, since it has worked so well.

VP Academic, who has childcare in their portfolio just contacted Darcelle and asked to meet.

Bev reviewed some issues around the wait list and noted the consistent delays. For example, if you wait until you are 4-6 months pregnant you will not get infant care.

## 5. Fundraising

Kelli Kadokawa suggested a re-launch of the Lovable Labels program to increase visibility. This is a successful approach which requires almost no effort from council. The council gets a 20% profit from sales only when parents buy through a special web portal through the ubc web site ([ubc.lovablelabels.ca](http://ubc.lovablelabels.ca)).

Kelli Kadokawa also brought up the fall gift-card fundraiser. We learned a lot from our trial last year. The group was optimistic that the funds would increase next year. We were reminded that the best way to proceed was to submit one order per house. Kelli mention that we had contemplated the idea of offering 2 gift card fundraisers per year.

Action Items: 1) Kelli will send Shi-Ling all the fundraising info she has. 2) Shi-Ling will look over the gift-card fundraiser options.
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## 6. Review of Grant Applications

The council carefully reviewed the merits of 4 small grant proposals.

A proposal from *Little Goslings* requested a water and sand table. It was briefly discussed and received wide support. Todd Handy mention the centre had matching funds. Todd Handy made a motion to fund the proposal, which was seconded by Shi-Ling. The motion was unanimously carried.

A proposal from *Coho* requested a custom-made fish table. This was briefly discussed and found acceptable. Todd Handy made a motion to fund the proposal, which was seconded by Shi-Ling. The motion was unanimously carried.

A proposal from *Sandpiper* requesting funds for a light-table was discussed. The request exceeded, by a small portion, the limit set by the council at the last meeting. Todd Handy made a motion to fund the proposal up to the \$650 limit. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A proposal from *Kittiwake* requested an array of items. There was discussion around this proposal. Although the council found some aspects of it compelling, it appeared to lack some detail, rationale and may not have had the lowest quotes in some cases. Todd Handy moved that this proposal be grandfathered into this current round of grants, but that the centre be required to report back to Todd Handy or Kelli Kadokawa with more details and rationale before the end of June, after which, the council will discuss and vote via e-mail. The motion was seconded by Jim Johnson and carried unanimously.

It was mentioned that daycare centres are always looking for overhead projectors. Jim mentioned that he knew of some that were not being used at the moment in his department.

Action Items: 1) Kittiwake will send another proposal to Todd or Kelli and the Council will discuss and vote via e-mail.
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## **7. Parent Info Night**

There was a brief discussion of parent info night. Last year we had Sylvia Helmer, from the Vancouver School Board representative and her replacement, Judith Robson. Several members of council mentioned that this was very useful, suggesting at one point that expanding to a second night might be an option. In the end, the council agreed that it was a priority to secure a bigger space (that holds about 75-100 seated people), and that the date be secured in the summer well in advance of the session. It was mentioned that parents often want to hear about French immersion. The private and catholic school reps were not as valuable. The parent panel was somewhat helpful, but it was suggested it be shorten to make more time for the VSB rep. It was also suggested that we have the Parent Info Night earlier in the fall.

## **8. Open Executive Positions**

Some discussion occurred around open positions. Shi-ling offered to be a co-chair of fundraising and was warmly welcomed into the fold. Kelli Kadokawa expressed confidence that he will be joined by another co-chair in the fall.

Kelli brought up the fact we were still looking for a second co-secretary and VP Advocacy (Student rep). Lisa had agreed to stay on as a co-secretary, but travels extensively so she cannot do the job herself. Jim Johnson offered to assist with co-secretary duties, but mention that he too will be travelling a lot in the fall.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

Bev mentioned that the new day care website is up and running. Kelli Kadokawa said that it is hard to find contact information. There is also no list of centres, but Bev said that this is by design since parents who are not yet in the system have called centres looking for spots. Bev mentioned that a future version of the website will perhaps have a 'currently enrolled page' with password access. It was suggested that paying fees could be simplified.

Christina has offered to improve the advocacy page of the Parent Council Website.

Kelli asked whether the photos and video of the anniversary celebration could be put on the website. Jim suggested a Facebook group to host informal content such as pictures and video and noted that it would be free.

The Picky Eaters Seminar was cancelled and will be planned for the fall.

Kelli finished the meeting with a big thank you to Lisa Sundstrom and Kristin Loheyde and all the outgoing board members for all their hard work!

Action Items: 1) Christina will work on the advocacy page of the Parent Council Website.
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## **10. Confirm next meeting**

The next meeting will be September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the UBC Daycare Administration Building.