

Minutes of the Acadia Road Combined Daycare Communicare Society

October 13, 2009 in the Administration Building

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

Infant Centres:			
Little Goslings		Coho	Gracie Wood
Toddler Centres:		3-5 Centres:	
Sitka	Christina Hendricks (VP Advocacy, Faculty)	Acadia	
Huckleberry	Denise Pritchard (regrets)	Little Raven	Victoria Yang Shelly Gershuni Marie Mailvaganam
Canada Goose	Csilla Tamás	Pacific Spirit	Jim Johnson Elpi Schober
Discovery	Marcus Hallensleben Sarah Elmendorf	Tillicum	
Lilliput	Karen Bakker Julie Stitt	Lluvia	
Chuva		Barish	Sabrina Chen-See (Fundraising Chair) Darcy Cadre
		Summer of '73	Lisa Sundstrom (President) Todd Handy (Treasurer)
18 months – 5 years Centres:			
Salal	Eileen Hallam (secretary)	Kittiwake	Musarrat Nahid Ronald Gu (regrets)
Auklet			
Out-of-School Care (ages 5-12):			
Kids Club	Kristin Loheyde (VP Advocacy, Staff) Janice Milnerwood		
Staff:	Jim Ferguson	Others:	Tim Chu (VP external, AMS) Laura Wheeler
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

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

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

3. Discussion of open executive positions and council roles(Lisa)

Lisa – Welcome and overview of the major roles of the Council. The Council acts as an advisory body to UBC Child Care Services and represents the parents of each of the Centres. It is important that each Centre have 2 parent representatives in order to have a voice in policy development. The Council also plays a role in advocacy both on and off campus. For example, the Council was important in advocating for the further expansion of the daycare. Parent reps are responsible for distributing the daycare council minutes to each of their Centres. The issue regarding email access for each Centre was brought to discussion. Since each Centre has a different way of sending out emails to parents, reps should first check with the Centre supervisor to find out more information about the best way to distribute the minutes. If a Centre doesn't use the email system as none of the Centres have web access, parent reps can ask the Centre to post the minutes. All parents need to have access to the Council minutes. The possibility of pasting the minutes into the emails that Bev distributes was explored. WiFi is not available to this part of UBC so currently the Centres have internet only by going to the administration building.

Currently we are in need of a new web master who would be in charge of updating the Daycare Council website. In addition, we are in need of an additional fundraising chair and an additional VP for Advocacy who would represent student parents. Shelly, an undergraduate parent, voiced interest in becoming advocacy VP and will think about it.

Action items: Parent reps please announce to Centers that we are seeking a web master and an additional fundraising representative. If anyone is interested, can contact Lisa by email. Also parent reps discuss with Centres what may be the barriers to getting out emails to parents. For next meeting's agenda: discussion on why staff may not be using internet/email for their Centres and should Centres have internet access. Discuss if we should have the staff distribute the minutes to the rest of the parents or should a parent rep be in charge in sending minutes out to a list of parents that have undisclosed recipients.

4. Administrator's report (Darcelle/Bev)

Darcelle: At the Board of Governors meeting, the idea to expand childcare had an overall good response. Four sites were discussed: 1) The Old Barn coffee shop on Main Mall is an ideal site for daycare. Only temporary parking would be available. 2) The space at the base of Gage Towers is a structurally sound site and could become a permanent daycare site. 3) The Daycare Administration building is under discussion to be expanded to house full time daycare. 4) Koerner's lounge could become a drop-in centre. These projects are estimated to cost approximately 3.2 million. Permission was granted to have specific architects examine the sites and a report will be presented to the board in November. Two of the new Centers will all be mixed age daycare. Solutions for infant care would be to encourage in-home childcare in the UBC area.

The high school across from the Daycare Administration building is moving (renovations May-June) and will be converting to an elementary school. The BC government has stated that it will fund all-day kindergarten for some schools starting September 2010 and the balance 2011. This will have a direct impact on the UBC daycare. UHill will have 60 all-day kindergarten and the new elementary school will also have 60 all-day kindergarten spaces. Mixed age daycare will be the most amenable to UBC daycare once the changes are implemented.

Bev: We are in the process of redesigning the UBC Child Care Services' website which should take about 6-7 weeks. We are open to suggestions from parents about the style or how to better navigate through the website. The question of why can't childcare fees be automatically deducted from paycheques was brought to discussion. Currently, it is not possible.

Action items: Julie Stitt will make an official request to Human Resources in order to find out how we can get child care fees automatically taken off paycheques or why this cannot be not done.

5. Kindergarten Parent Night update (Julie)

Julie: The Kindergarten Parent Night is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2009, and representatives from from UHill, the Vancouver School Board and District Processing Office, and adding to the event a panel of about 4 parents (that have children in kindergarten now or recently) to talk about their experiences and why they choose the schools they did. Each parent on the panel will speak for 4-5 min. each about their choices. Independent schools have been contacted but they have not responded. Issues about cross boundary information, the French immersion process, and after school care will be discussed. This event is aimed at parents who whose child will turn age 5 in 2010 or in 2011. As of Jan. 2010, children will be chosen for their schools on the basis of lottery (registration is opening on Nov. 2, 2009), and not on a first come first serve basis as has been done in the past. One implication of this new process is that parents may find out about your school placement late. No need to register or purchase tickets for the info night. Three volunteers were chosen to assist in the parent night set up.

Action items: Parent reps will post flyers about the Kindergarten Parent night at each of their Centres.

6. Fundraising Update (Sabrina)

Sabrina - The traditional fundraiser has been the purchase of Safeway and Stongs gift cards. In the September meeting, it was thought that there was a deadline for Safeway gift cards that was for the end of October. Sabrina contacted Safeway and they said that they do not have a deadline. Safeway does have a seasonal gift card program, which is what we had participated in that gave an 8% return. Safeway also has a new gift card program that is ongoing, has no top limit, but gives a flat return at 5%. Save-On Foods has a program similar to Safeway. A company called Progressive has a gift card fundraising program that includes a variety of stores. Depending on the store, we can get a certain percentage back from the gift cards and people will have more choices (e.g. Chapters 10%, Toys-R-U's 2%, Canadian Tire-3%, Stongs-6%, Westjet-5%, ect.). This could make good gifts for the holiday season. One order form per family and gift cards will be distributed with a turnaround time of 3-4 days. Pending due diligence on Progressive by checking the Better Business Bureau and/or references, Julie moved to approve the company. Jim seconded and all were in favor of using the Progressive gift card fundraising program. The program can be done quarterly or monthly but we will try this company out one time this year before setting up anything ongoing and evaluate the response. The swap meet or garage sale discussed as well as the Lovable labels fundraising program that is ongoing. In order to participate in the fundraiser, parents need to go through the UBC website for their orders.

Action items: Our goal is to get out the Progressive Fund Raising forms by the beginning of November. Also post more flyers on the Lovable labels fundraising program.

7. Guest speaker events (Julie)

Julie – There is interest in having a parent info night where guest speakers are invited to discuss various topics. Some Centres have parent meetings that invite speakers but other Centres don't. If there was a cost involved in hosting a speaker, this may be able to be covered. Let us solicit to parents speaker ideas or topics. In the past, there has been interest in speaker topics on 1) sibling issues and 2) children and food (e.g. picky eaters). Also the Public Health Nurse has volunteered to be one of the future speakers. More will be discussed about this issue at the November meeting.

8. Advocacy Update (Kristin, Christina, Lisa)

Christina – the AMS is holding a conference on childcare next May. No updates to report.

Lisa - VPs are finalizing an advocacy letter to go out to Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid in response to a recent comment she made in a newspaper that parents are not indicating a strong demand for daycare, as opposed to all-day kindergarten. The letter will be cc'd to Minister for Children and families, UBC President Toope, but not sure which media outlets are best. There was a discussion on where to send the letter. Suggestions were made for cc'ing the letter to the official opposition critics in the legislature, Georgia Straight newspaper, Ubsysey, and Global News reporter Ted Field. The VPs will complete and distribute the letter.

9. Parking improvement ideas (Lisa)

Darcelle – Since there is no sidewalk on Revelstoke this poses a safety risk to parents, children, and staff at the Centres that are located there. Arrangements have been made to put in a sidewalk and open up more parking spaces in the area around the new Centres. The construction has already commenced and should be completed by the end of year.

Lisa – We have explored the possibility of changing the timing of the “C” bus routes and it looks like it will be difficult to push for a change before the Olympics. In addition, there will be parking lot and lane closures during the Olympics that will directly affect travel to the Centres. We need to communicate to parents about these changes by posting flyers or having the Centre staff distribute info to parents.

Bev- Also, it is not known if many parents will be out of town during the Olympics. If many parents do not need day care this would be helpful to know in order to appropriately schedule staff.

Action item: Parent reps will think about how to go about asking parents how the Olympics will impact their need for child care during the Olympics.
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10. Miscellaneous

Issues to be put on next month's agenda:

Eileen- What was the rationale for the 2-week time-off during August that applies to the new daycare centres?

Bev- Would like to discuss the issue of externally funded postdocs and if they are entitled to subsidized childcare. Since the University does not pay these postdocs they come up as “no employment record found” in the HR management system. Who has authority to verify these people?

11. Confirm Next Meeting

Next meeting: **Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7:00pm.**

For next meeting's discussion: move meetings to Thursdays.
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