

Parent Advisory Committee

April 20, 2026 5:00 pm

MEETING NOTES

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** member update- Ministry has removed the requirement for a consultant to attend PAC meetings. Inna Begelfer is no longer on the committee due to withdrawing her child from the center. We need another parent member on the committee so an email will be sent out to parents to recruit. Someone mentioned that Alen Smajevic had previously expressed interest
2. **Old Business**
 - a. **Amber's replacement= Whitney-** introduced Whitney as the new Assistant Manager and that she was promoted from within existing daycare staff. Whitney discussed her background and experience as an ECE, with child support/diverse needs and management. So far things have been going great and Whitney has added great value to the center in this role
 - b. **Licensing 2025 report-** licensing review was held in Dec 2025 and everything went well. A couple of items to address before receiving renewal of license- including lock and key storage of chemicals instead of child lock storage, adding photos to food allergy list and adding carpet fall protection at the base of infant loft. Donalee and consultant reported to RODS Board in January
 - c. **Relocation/Expansion cancelled-** relocation/expansion project got cancelled by RODS after 18 months of planning and waiting. This was due to funding cuts to the organization and Smith St no longer being sold as it will be cheaper to operate Smith St than pay rent at the 2314 11th ave location. Other programs will eventually be moving back into Smith St. We are disappointed due to time wasted, no increased revenue for expanded spaces and not getting a newly designed/constructed center. We are glad to not have to pack up and move and staying with our current number of spaces as it is becoming more challenging to fill spaces from waiting lists due to many additional centers opened in the city. Now moving forward we will going ahead with renovations at our current space including the kids bathroom, storage cabinets, flooring in some areas and possibly the kitchen if there is enough money. Our focus is on improving some function challenges within these updates. We are planning to combine/open up our infant and toddler spaces by removing some pony walls. This aligns with best practice in ECE and will allow for more shared space/materials to improve function as well. This is our first phase of changes.

- d. Daycare website- our RODS Communications dept will be assisting us with setting up a separate website for the daycare to increase visibility in the community and that tells more about our program than what exists currently on the RODS website. When LINC was a bigger part of the daycare and waiting lists were plentiful, online presence wasn't necessarily needed. Now there is more competition for staffing and enrollment so we need more visibility

3. Program Report

- a. Staffing changes- we have dealt with a lot of hiring of staff in recent months primarily due to challenges with Amber seeking out and recruiting our staff behind the scenes. This has been very disheartening for all of us. A lot of training time and extra work has been going in to most of our new hires so we are hoping to settle in soon or make additional changes to staffing to better meet our needs and expectations
- b. Collaboration focus- EAs, environment, daily routines-Whitney provided information on our collaboration expectations of staff within the program and how we handle the added support from EA child support grants. We don't designate one staff to the one child receiving support but rather it is a group effort of all teachers to be aware of any special programming/development needs for children on grants and work as a team to support them
- c. Simplifying focus- documentation, activity prep- we are focussing recently on simplifying tasks for staff regarding programming, documentation and reporting and the idea of "less is more" and that value doesn't come from elaborate programming but rather intentional and responsive programming
- d. Toddler environment updates- our toddler room has been experiencing some challenges due to a large group of very busy and active children and we needed to focus the environment on meeting those needs instead of just managing challenging behaviors that are simply typical behaviours. The changes made to allow for more active/physical play within the space have been very beneficial
- e. Ministry Host site application- the Ministry reached out to us regarding applying to be a Host Site for other early learning programs to come and learn from our space and program. We did apply and had a walkthrough/review of our space and we will find out in May if we are selected. We feel this would give us great exposure within the sector to help with recruiting staff and getting more visibility
- f. Parent expectation issues- policies, potty training, food- informed parents of a number of challenges with parents having expectations that don't align with regulations, best practice and our internal policies and procedures and looked

for advice on whether to address this to the broader group of parents. Specific examples of a parent being extremely difficult regarding wanting to give 1 day notice of withdrawal and not paying, potty training expectations that aren't manageable and outside food requests not aligning with regulations or nutritional guidelines were mentioned. Parents suggested that if the issue was systemic and not isolated then it wouldn't hurt to give information to parents to provide some context of the challenges we face with these expectations.

4. New Business

- a. Ministry updates- TABLED
- b. ECE Appreciation Month- May- the centre tries to make ECE appreciation month and educator appreciation day a big deal for staff to show how much we value their work. Parents can provide feedback/ideas on anything the parents can do. We are waiting for education appreciation day to be proclaimed by the Ministry
- c. Assistance from parents needed to assemble furniture ??- Cally will draft a volunteer sign up for parents for the next couple of weeks. Members will give feedback for this form and then Whitney/Donalee will send out to parents to sign up
- d. RODS expectation issues- TABLED

5. Parent Questions/Comments

6. Next Meeting: September 2026