

## **Bright Starts Cooperative Early Learning Centre Board Meeting**

Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:45pm

**Chairperson: Jennifer Bleakney**

**On minutes: Phil Boyle**

**Meeting by videoconference**

In attendance: Tetyana Richert, Stacey Reid, Nomair Naeem, Jenn Bleakney, Marina Ivanova, Edwin Ng, Robi Vanos, Phil Boyle, Owen Gallup, Mary Robinson, Veronica Micheal

Regrets: Kari Raif Sura, Rob Reid

Meeting called to order at 6:46pm

**Motion** to approve the agenda

Moved by Nomair

Seconded by Robi

All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions

Motion carried

**Motion** to approval of July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

Moved by Phil

Seconded by Mary

Most in favor, none opposed, one abstention

Motion carried

### **Executive Director's Report**

Funding update; Region has discontinued sustainability funding and province has announced new 'safe restart' funding. Transition is unclear but it looks like provincial funding will be more. SR is continuing to apply for CEWS, the fifth period opened late, but the application is in. The region is now anticipated that everyone will be back to full capacity soon and funding will go back to pre-COVID models. As for our enrollment, we have more families than anticipated that aren't ready to return and will go on internal waitlist, so capacity is lower now than anticipated. On September 8<sup>th</sup> we will let some more back in, and then in October too. Preschool rooms will be at 16 per room, toddlers will be at 10 per room, and we will have 10 infants in total. Current arrangements for staggered entry/exit, cleaning, and extra staff will continue until at least January.

Question on how day-to-day operations are for the center. SR indicates that things are good as numbers are low. Physical distancing can be a challenge but staff are keeping up on cleaning.

SR indicates that there was an impromptu ministry inspection today, the inspector liked pick-up/drop-off procedures and separate entrances. There was one non-compliance for children being able to access a cupboard they should not. That should not have happened. We will see what the ministry says. Hopefully it does not result in conditions on our licence. Overall the inspection went well. She observed lunch routines and was happy with that.

New ministry rules will make masks for staff mandatory, and they are sending us some so that is a cost savings. We will need some clarification around some of these guidelines as they are changing and we have asked for more information. Ministry has also changed some reporting requirements, so we are trying to figure this out. We can move to an online screening method as well, we are hoping that this can be done through HiMama but we may have to do it through

google forms so that families can do screening online. It will be ideal if HiMama pulls through, we don't want to be switching.

Question about mental health of staff, how are they doing? Do they have resources? SR – they seem to be doing well, the ones that are uncertain are the ones who have not come back yet. And they seem to be ok about masks.

### **Timeline for Approval of New Policies**

New provincial guidelines on the horizon may impact Center policies; supplementary meetings may be required to approve these policies may be required. SR will aim to have new policies to committee for review this week and ideally, they will be approved by weekend. And a new communication to parents reminding of policies will go out too. That will go to communications committee soon too. Will be in touch with board by end of the week.

### **Treasurer's Report**

MI reports 397k total cash, total investments at 225k, net loss 11k, revenue 67k lower than budget. The net loss is due to lower revenue from low enrollment, but everything is as expected and there are no surprises. We will have more funding coming onstream soon too.

### **Committee Business/Updates**

We usually solicit help from parents to join committees so we can do that in September when we have more families who have returned.

Staff Appreciation Committee re: ECE Day (Oct 22). Robi planning to get in touch with staff engagement committee to setn something up. Last year we brought in dinner, but we can't do that again this year. Having it on the staff meeting night is good so maybe we can do it then since they are all together. That would be Tues Oct 20<sup>th</sup>

### **New business for next meeting**

A supplementary meeting will be needed for approval of revised policies; date TBA.

### **Regrets for next meeting (Sept 15<sup>th</sup>)**

None

### **Feedback**

None

### **Good news roundtable**

Spring term over! Veronica having a good stretch with the twins!

**Motion** to adjourn meeting  
Moved by Mary  
Seconded by Nomair  
All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions  
Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm