

**Annual General Meeting**

**UWSA Daycare**

**March 15, 2023, 5:45 PM**

**In Attendance:**

Kim Paz – Chair of the Management committee, parent

Justin Friesen – Vice-Chair of the Management Committee, parent

Dennis Ng – Treasure of the Management Committee, parent

Ioulia Berdnikova – UWSA Daycare Director

Donald Tang – Parent

Kit Yee You – Parent

Annie Laser – Management Committee member, Parent

Alyssa Daniels – Parent

Fatema Akhter – Parent

Erin Panchuk – Parent

Chelsea Drane – Parent

Tara Myran – Parent

Tabitha Wood – Parent

Consolate Ojwang – Parent

Lauren Kroeker – Lee – Parent

Anika Kroeker – Parent

Taylor Homenick – Management Committee member, Parent

Andrew Reimer – Parent

Stuart Sladden – Parent

Jennifer Jeffrey – Parent

Caleb Hasler – Parent

MJ Park – Parent, staff

Maneesha Yatapanalage -Parent, staff

Melissa Tovar – Parent

Josh Wiens – Parent

Paola Munoz E – Parent

Arlene c. Talastas – UWSA Daycare, staff

James Pullar – Parent

Nadine Vroom – Parent

Olayemi Olaleye – UWSA, Chief Financial Officer

Ted Turner – UWSA, Special Project Manager

**1.0 Call Meeting to Order & Quorum Count – 5:51 PM**

**2.0 Land Acknowledgement**

Tara Myran, Parent

**3.0 Introduction to the Management Committee and Staff**

Kim Bhathal, Chair

Dennis Ng, Treasurer

Cindy Doyle

Taylor Homenick

Annie Laser

Robyn Liddle

Justin Friesen (Acting Secretary)

**4.0 Rules of Meeting**

**5.0 Agenda & Minutes**

**5.1 Approval of Agenda for March 15, 2023**

Moved Caleb Hasler / Justin Friesen, carried by consensus

**5.2 Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2021 AGM**

Moved Justin Friesen / Tara Myran, carried by consensus

**6.0 UWSA Remarks**

Ted Turner, UWSA Special Projects Manager

**7.0 Chairperson's Remarks**

Kim Bhathal

**8.0 Director's Report**

Ioulia Berdnikova, Executive Director

Attached as appendix

Moved to accept report, Annika Kroeker / Annie Laser, carried by consensus

## **9.0 Finance Update**

Olayemi Olaeye, UWSA Chief Financial Officer

Tentative 2023-24 budget was circulated and is attached as appendix. Discussion followed about apparent differences in this year's draft budget relative to other years' budgets, and whether these were intentional changes or typos. O.O. noted that budget is a draft and can still be revised in further conversations; O.O noted that budgets have historically been created by the MC and final sign-off on budget would be in the hands of the MC.

Motion to accept the financial update: Cindy Doyle / Caleb Hassler, carried by consensus

## **10.0 Election of Management Committee**

Kim Bhathal (Chair), Justin Friesen, Robyn Liddle, Annie Laser, Dennis Ng, Nadine Vroom, Cindy, Doyle, Amber Balan, Vanessa Wiedman, Jennifer Jeffrey, Donald Tang, Erin Panchuk, Brendon Deamel,, Chelsea Drane, Joshua Hofmeister

Elected by consensus

## **11.0 New Business**

Ted discussed new greenspace that involved many external grants, funding and consultations. May/June is anticipated groundbreaking. Grant includes greenspace, Indigenous education and Indigenous professional development.

## **12.0 Adjournment 7:14pm**

## Director's Report

### Introduction

I would like to thank the parents and staff for attending this AGM meeting. In my remarks, I will share an overview of our History and Licensing, Program Highlights, Staff and Training Opportunities, Community Collaboration, and Fundraising Goals for information.

### History and Licensing

The University of Winnipeg Students Association (UWSA) Day Care Centre is a 144 space preschool/infant toddler child care center which is provincially licensed and not for profit. 16 spaces out of 144 are not government funded yet but they are on the wait list to be approved for funding.

At the end of this year, the UWSA Daycare will celebrate 50 years of service. The UWSA Daycare started as three small centers: an infant lab and pre-school program was run by the University of Winnipeg, and the University of Winnipeg Student Association (UWSA) had a small preschool program. In June 1995, the University of Winnipeg shifted its responsibility of childcare to the UWSA; and the UWSA assumed responsibility of all spaces.

### Our Program

Our program is based on an emergent curriculum. In this learning model, children are exposed to concepts and ideas that are of interest to them, at just the right level of development, in a play-based learning environment. A goal of the program is to inspire curiosity and child-led inquiry about themselves and the world around them. Children enjoy play indoors and outdoors everyday, weather permitting. To supplement our program, children attend field trips and welcome special visitors. Music and yoga programs are offered once per week for all children. Indigenous education goals and values are integrated throughout our program. See the Hi Mama reports and posting outside each room for more information. Talk to the staff in a room if you have any questions.

At UWSA Daycare, we love having parties to celebrate all holidays, based on parent and staff input and knowledge. Some activities have become a tradition in our centre such as our annual Mother and Father's Day events, winter gathering, and the Forest School Program. This year, the center celebrated National Indigenous Day on June 21. It was a high energy, educational event. We had so many activities planned that we had to spread them across an entire week! We also enjoyed visits from special guests Ti-Bert the Voyageur, Ryan Price, African drummers and Tubuki Daike and Guitar Gary. Please be in touch with us should you have any ideas or expertise to share we welcome your input.

### Staff and Training Opportunities

We employ 35 full time staff. High quality care is noted when centres have both trained staff with many years of service. I am pleased to report that **80%** of our front-line staff have ECE II and ECE III credentialing to support the care of your children. These employees have at least two or more years of post-secondary education related to childcare and child development.

Several staff members are celebrating anniversary years with our centre, showing their longevity and commitment to supporting children. Please join me in congratulating the hard work of our 5 year employees (Allison, Arlen, Maneesha and Maria); 10 year employees (Jannette, Mahira, Rhoda and

Susan); 15 year employee (Yeojin); and 30 year employee (Magdi). We are also very proud of Arlene who received her ECE III provincial certification this year. Thank you for sharing your expertise and time supporting the growth of our children.

The UWSA and Daycare Management committee strongly supports the education and professional development of our staff. Our staff are enrolled in many workshops and training sessions to improve quality of child care in the center. A goal is to ensure that each staff member has a minimum of 24 hours of professional development every year. For the past and an upcoming year we are especially focused on workshops related to Indigenous education.

### **Community Collaboration**

Practicum placements are also offered for many students from the University of Winnipeg, Red River College, MITT, Louis Riel School Division, and recently, Robertson College.

Since the pandemic, we have built a very close relationship with Developmental Studies Program from the University of Winnipeg. We accepted students on practicum as well as provided place for completing assignments and research. Students from Head Start Programs around Manitoba joined us to discuss Indigenous education issues, and ways to facilitate Truth and Reconciliation goals with staff and children in our centre. Some of this important work was featured in the UW News in July and August 2022.

Finally, we have been involved in supporting the TOYBOX project by offering collaboration opportunities among our staff, parents and several professors and students from across the University of Winnipeg and beyond. This work helps everyone to learn about the importance of providing children opportunities to discuss letters, numbers and wellness everyday with care providers so they have a good start to life. We will continue our collaboration with TOYBOX during the Spring and Summer months- parents will have the opportunity to enroll their child in additional activities, and more information is to come shortly. We are growing a long term relationship with TOYBOX, and Developmental Studies so we can learn about best practices for supporting the early education and care of young children.

### **Fundraising Goals**

Based on parent's requests, Management Committee agreed to cut down fundraising events to only Friday's Fundraising Lunches. It can be changed any time based on needs of the center and interest from the families.

### **Thank You**

In closing I appreciate the strong parent and staff support we have for the program. Thank you for making a commitment to our program and contributing to this beautiful community, so that we can work to provide a safe, healthy learning environment for the children in our care.

