

Clause embodied in Report No. 5 of the Community Services Committee, as adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on June 24, 25 and 26, 2003.

**3****Occupancy Cost Agreements for Child Care Between  
the City and the Toronto District School Board and the  
Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud**

*(City Council on June 24, 25 and 26, 2003, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)*

**The Community Services Committee recommends the adoption of the following report (May 12, 2003) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services:**

Purpose:

This report seeks approval to amend the current agreement between the City and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and approval to enter into an agreement with the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud (CSDCCS) for the payment of occupancy costs for child care programs located in TDSB and CSDCCS facilities.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

The 2003 Children's Services Division budget as approved by Council provides \$5.3 million for occupancy costs for child care programs in schools. The changes proposed in this report can be accommodated within the approved budget.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the City make remittances to the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud at a rate of \$10.00 per month per child under the age of 3.8 enrolled in licensed child care spaces operated in their facilities;
- (2) payments to the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud be made using an appropriate transfer mechanism as determined by the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and the City Solicitor;

- (3) the City make remittances to the Toronto District School Board at the rate of \$6.50 per square foot for exclusive space used to provide child care services effective January 1, 2003;
- (4) actual payments be tied to approved square footage in accordance with the Child Care Service Plan; and
- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

City Council at its meeting of February 4, 5, and 6, 1998, considered a report dated January 15, 1998 from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and directed City officials to negotiate an agreement that addressed the City use of school facilities for child care. Subsequently, occupancy cost agreements were negotiated with the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and the Conseil Scolaire de District Du Centre-Sud-Ouest.

On May 29, 2002, the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud adopted a policy to charge occupancy costs for child care programs located in their facilities. This change in policy affects three child care programs currently in CSDCCS facilities.

The agreement with the Toronto District School Board has been in effect since September 1, 1998, and the occupancy rate has not changed since that time.

Comments:

The current occupancy cost agreements between the City and the school boards cover over 350 child care programs. The Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud had recently instituted an occupancy charge for child care located in CSDCCS facilities. In keeping with the City's practice of negotiating occupancy cost agreements with the other three Boards of Education, approval is sought to finalize the occupancy cost agreement negotiated with CSDCCS. As the costs are dependent on the number of children enrolled under 3.8 years the actual expenditure will vary from year to year. This year's expenditure is estimated at \$8,200.00.

The Toronto District School Board has identified a need to increase the occupancy charge for child care from \$6.11/square foot originally negotiated in 1998 to \$6.50/square foot. City and TDSB staff have identified more efficient use of space in order to absorb the increased square footage cost within the approved budget. This rate is also consistent with the recently negotiated agreement between the Parks and Recreation Division and the TDSB for exclusive use space.

Child care occupancy cost agreements were intended to preserve the infrastructure of child care and to specifically address security of tenure of child care programs in schools. This is critical since more than half the licensed child care programs in the City are located in schools and the provincial funding formula does not finance this use of school space.

Conclusions:

This report recommends an amendment to the current City/TDSB occupancy cost agreement and recommends that the City enter into an agreement on the basis outlined in this report to pay for the occupancy costs for child care programs located in the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud. The actions proposed in this report can be accommodated within the 2003 approved operating budget.

Contact:

Brenda Patterson  
Director, Contracted Services  
Children's Services Division  
Tel: 416-392-3319/Fax: 416-392-4227  
Email: [patterso@csd.toronto.ca](mailto:patterso@csd.toronto.ca)