

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 7, 2021
TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Anita Legault, Childcare Manager
SUBJECT: **ALMONTE DAYCARE PARENT FEE PROPOSAL**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, Committee of the Whole recommend Council increase childcare fees 3% to help offset revenue loss in 2021 resulting in childcare services being more viable and sustainable in the future.

AND THAT, the part time rate be removed from the fee schedule bylaw, and the municipality proceed with one rate for each program.

AND THAT, staff report the increase to Lanark County for an effective date 60 days after approval, which is March 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND

Almonte Daycare offers quality programming for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age. We offer care at 4 locations with the recent addition of a toddler and preschool program at 110 Paterson.

Almonte Daycare has extended hours beginning at 6:30 – 6:00 pm to allow for parents to commute to their workplaces outside of Almonte. In addition, we offer full day programming during PD days, March break and summer for extended care programs. Staff are compensated for their work by internally equitable and externally competitive salary with step increases each year. Results of the pandemic had certainly made an impact on revenue though reduced registration, increase of operational costs and meeting legislative requirements for staff scheduling within the cohorts.

Discussion

Combining full time and part - time rates into one rate with a 3% increase.

When the part time rate was established, the centre was licensed for a much smaller capacity, and higher fees were charged to compensate for a shorter week. Now that our

capacity is much larger, one standard per diem - rate per program is advisable. Currently many larger centres opt for a one rate system. Furthermore, these new per diem rates for Almonte Daycare fall below Lanark counties highest ranking and is still considerably lower than our competitor.

Parents will pay the same daily rate regardless of how many days they require. If parents schedule changes from 5 days a week to 3 days a week, we will not need to adjust these rates in our system and with OCCMS. The benefit of having one rate make it more appealing to families requiring part - time as it is more affordable. One standard rate will make parent invoicing less complicated and easier for reconciliation with OCCMS at months end.

Overall, an increase to childcare per diem rates will make our childcare unit more viable and sustainable in the future. Furthermore, an increase will give us the ability to meet internal financial and legislative requirements and a greater ability to adjust to the changing environment.

The last approval of increase of fees by 2% occurred in October 2020 with the increase effective January 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With anticipated enrollment and a 3% increase, it is expected to produce a revenue of \$43,000 over 10 months.

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All of which is respectfully submitted,



Anita Legault
Childcare Manager



Ken Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

Attachment A – Proposed Fee Schedule for 2022

Attachment B – Fee Schedule for 2021