

BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 20-124

In accordance with Section 6.10 of said Contract, MWPCCC submitted correspondence to RAP requesting authorization to increase the tuition and fees by 4% and stating that the requested increase is supported by the Joy Picus Parent Advisory Committee, attached hereto as Attachment 2. If approved, the new tuition rates will become effective July 1, 2020.

Based on MWPCCC's written request outlining the reasons for the tuition increase and the Board's previous tuition rate increase approvals, RAP Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed 2020-21 Monthly Tuition and Fee Rates as presented by Attachment 1.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approving the tuition and fee increases has no fiscal impact on the RAP General Fund.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, Partnerships Section.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Proposed 2020-21 Monthly Tuition and Fee Rates
- 2) Mount Washington Preschool and Childcare Centers, Inc. Tuition Increase Request Letter

JOY PICUS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

2020-2021 Monthly Tuition Rates Effective: July 1, 2020

Waiting List Fee: To be paid at the time application is turned in (non-refundable): \$ 86.00
Enrollment Fee: To be paid at the time of enrollment: \$ 148.00

Infants - Ratio 3:1	City Rate	Community Rate
5 days per week	\$ 1,444.00	\$ 1,494.00
4 days per week	\$ 1,285.00	\$ 1,334.00
3 days per week	\$ 970.00	\$ 1,005.00
2 days per week	\$ 650.00	\$ 671.00
Extra day of care (when available)	\$ 86.00	\$ 86.00

Toddlers - Ratio 4:1	City Rate	Community Rate
5 days per week	\$ 1,416.00	\$ 1,466.00
4 days per week	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,308.00
3 days per week	\$ 949.00	\$ 984.00
2 days per week	\$ 635.00	\$ 659.00
Extra day of care (when available)	\$ 86.00	\$ 86.00

Preschool I - Ratio 6:1	City Rate	Community Rate
5 days per week	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,321.00
4 days per week	\$ 1,093.00	\$ 1,148.00
3 days per week	\$ 846.00	\$ 885.00
2 days per week	\$ 595.00	\$ 635.00
Extra day of care (when available)	\$ 86.00	\$ 86.00

Preschool II - Ratio 8:1	City Rate	Community Rate
5 days per week	\$ 1,061.00	\$ 1,173.00
4 days per week	\$ 969.00	\$ 1,030.00
3 days per week	\$ 750.00	\$ 807.00
2 days per week	\$ 528.00	\$ 572.00
Extra day of care (when available)	\$ 86.00	\$ 86.00

Hours of Operation: 6:30AM - 6:00PM Monday through Friday

Holidays/Closure Days: Closed all City Holidays & other days per schedule provided annually

- Tuition is due by the first (1st) of every month.
- If the 1st is on a holiday or weekend, then tuition is due on the NEXT business day.
- A \$10.00 per day late fee will be applied to tuition received after the 1st of the month.
- A \$1.00 per minute late pick-up fee will be applied for late pick-up after 6:00PM.
- There are no tuition credits or adjustments for illness, holidays, vacations or circumstances beyond our control.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR TUITION EXPRESS-PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MWPCCC



Mount Washington Preschool and Child Care Center, Inc.

4601 N. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90065

June 11, 2020

Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II
Partnership Division
City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street
Suite 180 (Stop #628-9)
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Joy Picus Child Development Center Contract Number 3538

Dear Mr. Alvarez:

This year childcare in America was called out as an Essential business during the worst Pandemic in 100 years. Not only were we asked to stay open, we had to abide by very strict guidelines to achieve this. Parents that were not essential were forced to work from home with their toddlers running around and getting into EVERYTHING! I am writing this letter to day to request that a 4% increase be granted to the Mount Washington Preschool and Child Care Center, for the Joy Picus Child Development Center.

Currently the guidelines for operating the childcare centers in Los Angeles County states that the children need to be at least 6 feet apart, their play needs to be individualized, and we can only have ten children per room. All of this is out of our realm of child development thinking. However, we have accomplished it. Sadly, many childcare centers are shutting down, because the guidelines are so strict, and there is really no way to make any money.

Andrea Rosales the director at the Joy Picus Child Development Center developed a system, which was then used to guide the other centers, not only through MWPCCC, but to guide other centers in the downtown area. Everyone comes in and gets their temperature checked. The children go to their rooms, the parents are not allowed inside the classrooms. The children go to the activity chart and figure out what they want to do that day, and the teachers find the pre bagged set of toys that the child requested and put them in the child's basket. Children eat 6 feet apart, and it is no longer family style. The teachers still sit with them and have conversations. The teachers are still there to comfort them, as well as engage, ask open ended questions, and document their daily lives. We call it the new normal, and everyone has made it work.

No one knows how long the guidelines will stay like this. Joy Picus CDC had a 15-18 month waiting list in March to get into the infant room. Now it will be even longer because we can only have ten per room. Our licensed capacity prior to covid-19 was 86, it is now 50. In April when I sent the budget for the next fiscal year, it shows that we need a 4% tuition increase to pay our teachers the new minimum wage, and to continue to operate our business. Now with Covid-19 and the guidelines, we need it and probably more to stay in operation. We surveyed our families, and our PAC members if they were okay with a 4% increase, they all agreed that they were okay with an increase. Here are some of their responses.

One long term City family (Planning) responded with: *Joy Picus teachers and administration are the bomb!!! Yes, we agree.*

Another City family (Planning) wrote *I support this. You all deserve much much more.*

A City mom from Payroll says: *We approve the increase. Thank you so much for everything all of you are doing for the kids.*

An LAPD parent wrote: *We support this.*

A City Atty family wrote:

Thanks for the update. I'm so glad to hear that everyone is doing well! We miss our JP family and can't wait for things to return to what our new version of normal will look like.

Our family fully supports JP and all the teachers. As such, we offer this email in support of the fee increase, particularly since it will help cover salary increase-related expenses. Thanks and let us know if there is anything else we can do to offer our support during this difficult time.

A city parent that works in the Personnel dept wrote: *We understand the importance of needing to provide a wage increase to the staff and are in support of the tuition increase.*

There are many more just like these. Parents come to the Joy Picus Child Development Center all of the time and ask why our tuition is so much lower than all of the other child care centers, that are NAEYC accredited, have the low ratios, and have an amazing group of teachers. We offer comparable care to the centers that charge over a thousand dollars more for infant care. The only difference to the care is that they can pay their teachers higher, than us.

Over the years we have lost skilled and valuable staff as they have left to other centers for higher pay. Teacher turnover is detrimental to staff moral and continuity of care in a childcare center. Supporting the increase will help ensure we not only meet the minimum wage requirement, but possible prevent staff from leaving and we can continue to offer the best care possible to our families. This is even more important now than ever as our children are returning to school after months of being home during the pandemic.

We appreciate your consideration of this tuition rate increase matter and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Tamara Brown

Tamara Brown, MA
Executive Director