



Community Advisory Committees

**French-as-a-Second-Language
Community Advisory Committee
(FSLAC)**

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT





REVISED

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Community Advisory Committees

CAC Mandate/ Purpose

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The FSLAC was created by the Board in 2005. In 2007, our mission was adopted by the Board and was reconfirmed with the adoption of our Terms of Reference in 2016:

“To consult with and advise the Board on French as a Second Language matters. As a Board community advisory committee, the FSLAC will contribute to the work of trustees and staff. This partnership of trustees, staff and parents will foster excellence and growth in FSL programs at the Board.”

FSLAC Accomplishments: Activities, Information Sharing and Board Consultations

Meetings

The FSLAC met six times formally in the 2019-20 school year, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Regularly scheduled meetings in April, May and June 2020 were cancelled due to Covid-19. The FSLAC executive met twice and due to the continuing 2018 French Review, there were also several working group meetings. This year's focus has been on the on-going 2018 French Review.

Meeting notices, agendas, minutes and FSL resources are posted on the FSLAC page on the TDSB website (www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac). We receive administrative support to organize meetings, for minutes and reporting to the Board from the assigned committee assistant. Additional support would be welcome, particularly for FSLAC communication with parents/guardians.

Outreach Initiative(s)

Email & Newsletter Distribution:

FSLAC volunteers continue to use our Gmail account: fslactoronto@gmail.com for correspondence. Parents and stakeholders write to us with FSL related questions. Common enquiries are on accessing programs and special education support and for referrals to the appropriate staff member on FSL specific concerns.

The FSLAC newsletter was produced in December 2019, March 2020, and June 2020. It is sent out to more than 150 schools with French immersion/extended programs, trustees, and over 900 individual parents and FSL stakeholders who have signed up. It shares information about new developments in FSL and tips for parents in supporting their children learning French. The sign-up button and past newsletters are available at www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac. We continue to seek email addresses for Parent Councils to add to our distribution to fulfill our mandate more effectively as a partnership between trustees, staff and parents.





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FSLAC Accomplishments: Activities, Information Sharing and Board Consult. cont'd

Engaging Parents and Community Members: Conferences, Workshops & School Councils

In our continued effort to reach out to more parents directly, FSLAC members participated in PIAC's fall parent conference. FSLAC Members and Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) greeted parents at our display table and provided information on FSL programs and how to get assistance for students who may be struggling. Our popular parent workshop "French...helping your child succeed" was scheduled for the spring conference which was cancelled. The power point slides that accompany that workshop are available at www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac.

Our "Intro to the FSLAC" is available for school council and ward meetings. Power point slides are posted at www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac. Inquiries to have this presentation done may be directed to fslactoronto@gmail.com.

FSLAC Members attended French immersion/extended information nights to meet new parents and to support the presentations of FSL staff.

FSLAC parents participated in policy consultations, including the Secondary, Optional Attendance consultation. The parent co-chair and/or vice co-chairs attended CAC meetings. Participation might be better facilitated with a draft schedule prior to each term on what meetings and consultations to expect.

FSLAC members participate in Pupil Accommodation and Program Area Reviews where recommendations might involve changes to French programs. In 2019-20, none were held. FSLAC has tracked the possible reopening of Bannockburn PS as a French Immersion Centre for several years and is very interested in the future of John Fisher Jr PS, a French Immersion Centre, in the midtown area and Lakeshore CI as a potential expansion of secondary in Etobicoke.

Current Opportunities for Growth and Excellence in TDSB FSL Programs

2018 French Review, 2019 French Review Recommendations and Implementation 2020 French Review Interim Report

The FSLAC continues to be very engaged in the 2018 French Review and the June 2019 decisions, has received staff updates and has had detailed discussions at every meeting this year. The open conversations and the expectation shared throughout the consultation phase of the process showed a strong TDSB commitment to working together to improve FSL programs for all students.

In consideration of the Trustee initiated amendment to the 2019 French Review Recommendations to have broad consultation on the implementation plan, the FSLAC took the initiative over February and March 2020, to develop 9 recommendations for Trustee consideration. The first recommendation was that existing procedures/practice for entry to French immersion (a spot for every on-time applicant, expands spots/sites to meet demand and the sibling rule) and reporting on FSL be re-adopted as guiding principles. The Board did that on May 27, 2020.

The remaining 8 draft recommendations await a future FSLAC meeting.





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Current Opportunities for Growth and Excellence in TDSB FSL Programs cont'd...

Core French Action Plan

Staff shared the Core French Action Plan at the October 15, 2019 FSLAC meeting and the October 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole. It was received by the Board on October 30, 2019 as part of FSL Programs Review: Update #1. It identifies opportunities for increasing and improving professional development and resources for Core French teachers to support improving the engagement and achievement of Core French students. The FSLAC asked that Core French measurable goals be tracked and made public, such as, enrolment in grade 10 Core French when it becomes an elective. Staff shared that that metric is in their Ministry FSL 3 Year Plan. Opportunities for Core French improvement identified by the FSLAC include: school level decision making on Core French à la carte in elementary schools and making secondary Core French grades 10-12 credits available to the students at the half of secondary schools who do not offer these credits.

Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and the DELF

Due to Covid-19, the DELF was not offered this year. We hope to revisit the FSLAC recommendation to PSSC in February 2019, that staff be asked to provide a briefing note on TDSB DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) Capacity Building and Cohort Results (from 2013 on).

TDSB has teachers who are trained examiners. The continued provision of this training is essential in order to increase opportunities for students to participate,.

The DELF is an internationally recognized exam that tests proficiency in French and awards a credential to the student based on the benchmarks of the CEFR. This type of testing provides an external assessment of student outcomes in French immersion/extended/core that is validating and motivating for students and informs parents. The FSLAC supports providing the opportunity for all grade 12 French immersion/extended/core students to take DELF exams as is done at some other Ontario Boards. Limited funding and support is provided by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry did a study which included the TDSB students which is available here:

www.edugains.ca/resourcesFSL/PDF/Research/Synopsis_FINAL-1.pdf

Ministry research is showing that CEFR/DELF-related professional learning is positively impacting FSL classroom practice:

<https://transformingfsl.ca/en/resources/the-cefr-in-ontario-transformingclassroom-practice/>





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Current Challenges to Growth and Excellence in TDSB FSL Programs

2018 French Review, 2019 French Review Recommendations and Implementation-2020 French Review Interim Report

With the April, May and June FSLAC meetings cancelled by the Board due to Covid-19, the dialogue about the French Review between parents, staff and Trustees is on pause.

The June 2020 interim report was made available on the Committee of the Whole agenda on June 5, 2020 for receipt on June 11, 2020. The extremely small window to develop and deliver a response limits the FSLAC's ability to speak for parents in support of growth and excellence in FSL Programs and to have the "strong relationship and partnership" (MYSP) to support student learning in French. It is, unfortunately, a repeat of the process used to share the June 2019 French Review Recommendations.

Transportation – Cuts to Secondary French Immersion/Extended TTC support

The 2019-20 budget cut of the provision of TTC tickets to secondary French Immersion/Extended (FI/Ext) continues to be of concern. In June 2019, FI/Ext parents were advised by the TDSB that secondary students in need would be able to continue receiving support through their FI/Ext school principal. The FSLAC is concerned that those students will drop quietly out of FI/Ext rather than self-identify. On May 27, 2020, the Board forwarded the FSLAC recommendation that staff consider this equity issue in their on-going review of transportation.

Redirections of SK French Immersion for September 2020

The number of SK French Immersion (FI) intake classes is being cut from the Board recommended 2 classes to 1 class at 3 sites for September 2020 in an effort to rebalance English and French program enrolment in those schools. Families selected by the Board to be redirected to other nearby but not walkable SK FI schools asked the FSLAC for assistance. The FSLAC recommended to the Board that these decisions be held pending community input as has been done in the past. The FSLAC recommendation was declared out of order at PSSC and did not proceed. The FSLAC is concerned that limiting enrolment at sites selected by staff will reduce enrolment in French Immersion as redirected families may find the logistics involved in bussing and childcare overwhelming and will put strong, established immersion programs at risk.





Community Advisory Committees

Committee Members

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There are 23 parent/community volunteers on the FSLAC: 21 parent members/alternates from 15 wards, 1 non-voting community member and 2 alternates from Canadian Parents for French (Ontario). There are 3 Trustee members, selected at the annual TDSB organizational meeting in December. Staff members who support the work of the FSLAC are: Associate Director Manon Gardner, FSL central staff Angela Caccamo and Kirsten Johnston and administrative assistant Linda Stockdale.

Parent members/alternates are elected by parents/guardians in their ward in odd numbered years to serve a two-year term on the FSLAC. Trustees are asked to hold elections at their ward meetings during 2021. To be eligible to be an FSLAC voting member/alternate, one must be a current TDSB parent/guardian who wishes to further the mission of the FSLAC and is available to attend about eight meetings per year. Trustees needing more information or assistance recruiting members to fill vacancies may contact the FSLAC at fslactoronto@gmail.com.

FSLAC information is posted at: www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac. Members/alternates also receive electronic access to a Member Briefing Book via Google Drive which is updated annually.

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| Trustee Co-chair Robin Pilkey | Lynne Leblanc (W8) |
| Trustee Dan MacLean | Jennifer Tse (W8 Alt) |
| Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin | Matt Forrest (W9) |
| Parent Co-chair Mandy Moore (W7) | Polina Osmerkina (W10) |
| Parent Vice-co-chair Matt Forrest (W9) | Charles Zhu (W11/8) |
| Parent Vice-co-chair Charles Zhu (W11) | Wilmar Kortleeve (W11 Alt) |
| Parent Vice-co-chair Zeynab Kazi (W22) | Randy Samuel (W14) |
| Rob Janes (W1/2) | Sarah Smith (W15) |
| Lisa McAvoy (W2 Alt) | Nancy White (W16 Alt) |
| Nalini Singh (W2 Alt) | Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt) |
| Doug Kwan (W2 Alt) | Zeynab Kazi (W22) |
| Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13) | Gail Miller (W22 Alt) |
| Sharlene Henry (W5/6 Alt) | Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French) |
| Mandy Moore (W7) | Rosemary Sutherland (Canadian Parents for French Alt) |
| Laura Steele Gunter (W7 Alt) | Sharon Beason (Canadian Parents for French Alt) |
| Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt) | |

Note: Where more than 1 ward is indicated next to a parent/guardian's name, it indicates that they live in one ward but their child(ren) attend school in another ward or wards.

2020-2021 FSLAC Executive

Lynne Leblanc (W8) was elected at the October 13, 2020 FSLAC meeting as parent co-chair. Matt Forrest (W9), Charles Zhu (W8/13), Sharlene Henry (W5 Alt) and Lisa McAvoy (W2) were elected as parent vice co-chairs.

Upcoming Meetings: 2020: Nov 10 and **2021:** Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 11, Jun 8

