



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Date: 10 November 2020

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened on November 10, 2020 from 7-9pm via virtual Zoom with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Attendance:	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W2), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W5/W6 Alt), Matt Forrest (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10); Wilmar Kortleeve (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Gail Miller (W22) Also present were: Trustee Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair W7), Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (W11), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Manon Gardner (Associate Director), Kirsten Johnston (Program Coordinator)
Guests:	Trustee Trixie Doyle (Vice Chair of the Board W14), Andrew Gowdy (System Planning Officer), Nechama Hirschberg (Educational Planning Officer), Pamela Wilansky, Lisa Lebeer, Aysha Campbell, Geordie Sabbagh, Mays Abusaifan
Regrets:	Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Mandy Moore (W7), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal)

Part A: Recommendations

Nil

Part B: For Information

Status of Virtual School and FSL

The shortage of French language teachers in the province has greatly impacted the TDSB Elementary Virtual School. Staff continues to explore options and take action to meet the needs of all French Immersion and Extended French classes and support the need for occasional teachers.

The Virtual School still had 48 French Immersion and Extended French classrooms without a French teacher at the end of October. To resolve this, some French teachers were partnered with English teachers allowing for those 48 classes to receive French instruction. Staff's goal was to maximize the use of French teachers.

The model for Grades 4-8 Extended French and Grades 5-8 French Immersion remains unchanged at 50% French and 50% English. The model for Grades 3 and 4 French Immersion in virtual school will change to 50% French and 50% English for 20 Grade 3 French Immersion classes and 10 Grade 4 French Immersion classes. English is usually introduced in grade 4; English will now be introduced in grade 3 for 50% of the time.

In total, ninety-two classes were impacted by this reorganization. Though not ideal, this new

scheduling allows for Grades 3 to 8 classes to now have French instruction on a more consistent basis, particularly for those who had none at all prior to the reorganization. This model allows all students to receive the necessary instruction in both languages to meet Ministry minimum requirements and to also remain with their existing classmates.

Staffing Update

Interim Associate Director Karen Falconer will be replacing Associate Director Manon Gardner (retiring) as staff lead for the FSLAC portfolio, the French Review and Virtual School, commencing November 23, 2020.

June FSL Interim Report - Redistribution

As approved at Board in June 2019, one of the French Review recommendations was to increase equity of access to French Immersion programs throughout TDSB/Wards, by relocating or redistributing current programs. At the February 2020 FSLAC meeting, staff consulted on criteria for redistribution of French Immersion programs and at the November meeting, staff asked for further feedback in advance of a broader parent and community consultation. Some of the feedback included:

- Legacy programs should not dictate catchment area. Parents want to go to the closest FSL offering. Some long standing well supported schools may not be viable anymore, but because of tradition/legacy, this will be challenging.
- Parents want their FI program at the school closest to their house, walkable. Distance and complexity of trip (multiple subways/buses) is important.
- French Centres are likely efficient but have challenges as they are not necessarily community supported.

The Secondary Program Review will be looking at programs and buildings, where the option to repurpose an empty building for a French Centre may be viable.

June FSL Interim Report – Planning/Projections/LTPAS

Andrew Gowdy and Nechama Hirschberg presented the FSL Interim Report June 2020 and explained the appendices provided from Planning with maps, enrolment information and projections for FI/Ext Fr. programs.

French Immersion Registration for 2021-22

SK Registration is progressing well on PARs and is open Nov 2-27th. Middle French Immersion will commence in January. We're honouring all accepted 2020-21 FSL registrants for next year, whether or not they showed up or left virtual/in-school FSL programming. Placement concerns highlighted: determining student plans for next year; wait-list management; re-directed families wishing to move from the waitlist which is kept until December; the learning gap. A survey requesting student program decisions for 2021-22, with a February deadline will be sent to registered FI/Ext Fr. students that didn't show up this year or left mid-year.

Ward/CPF/Parent Co-Chair Reports

Parents thanked Board staff for their extraordinary efforts during the pandemic. Parents are concerned about the teacher reorganizations, lack of FSL supply teachers, reduced switching dates when parents are suddenly required to return to work and the breadth of secondary FI credits. Canadian Parents for French is invited to the Ministry consultation regarding secondary mandatory e-learning credits. The membership is working with Trustees to build the membership. An FSLAC eblast went out with

information about SK FI registration, Ext 7 and Cosburn decision, virtual elementary FI/Ext. French and upcoming Middle FI registration period.

For further detail, see Nov 10th meeting minutes at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Manon Gardner

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