



Name of Committee: French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Date: 12 January 2021

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened on January 12, 2021 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), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Mandy Moore (W7), Geordie Sabbagh (W8 Alt), Hans Bathija (W10 Alt), Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Gail Miller (W22) Also present were: Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee Co-Chair W11), Trustee Robin Pilkey (W7), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt), Karen Falconer (Interim Director), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Linda Edwards (Centrally Assigned Principal, Virtual French Programs), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator)
Guests:	Trustee Trixie Doyle (Vice Chair of the Board W14), Shalone Hendrickson
Regrets:	Matt Forrest (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9), Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt)

Part A: Recommendations

Nil

Part B: For Information

Early Immersion Registration

The number of on-time applicants received are 2865, 29% lower than the 4018 received last year at this time. Offers of placement began in December and continue until completion. An extensive digital advertising and print media campaign were conducted this year, targeting TDSB and non-TDSB families. Layered, mitigating factors to consider as to decrease in number of applicants this year: the JK feeder pool is smaller by approx. 2000 students compared to last year; need to honour the uncertainty and the various considerations parents needed to make this year during application period (i.e., transportation, programming models such as virtual school, aware of the shortage of French teachers, worried about bussing to a FI program, whereas there may be walkable English options, fear of the unknown). It may be that parents will change their minds by September, depending on the virtual vs in-school climate, and Principals may need to assist with local placement. The PARS application program remains open until the end of January. Projections go out in February, impacting staffing models and timelines.

The membership is concerned regarding a 29% decrease, the potential surge to return to FI, support of the September 2021 waitlist of families wishing to return to their original choice. Staff is reviewing the situation, its implications, including staffing and considering next steps.

The membership suggested another round of communications to JK parents, including parent to parent/school council communications, extending the PARs deadline, allow parents to change their minds later in the year.

Middle Immersion French Program

The registration period is January 4 -29th. The French Department is hosting Virtual information sessions over the next 3 weeks. To date, the registration numbers are not concerning. Revisions to PR597 are underway, regarding the new system-wide Middle Immersion program with GR 4 entry point offered at 40 schools, that replaces Jr. Extended French which is phasing out.

French Review – Core French Plan

Professional Learning tailored to the specific areas of Core French, Immersion, Extended (i.e., Inclusion & Equity, Literacy Instruction, Programs & Principles) continues. Staff have updated tools such as teacher resources for in-person and virtual schools. Teachers are focused on student engagement. Staff continue to partner with Employee Services for recruitment and retention opportunities; created new French Fluency assessment tool to be used with new Occasional Teacher candidates; created a training module for administrators on the application and use of the French fluency assessment tool during interviews, which aligns with CEFR; French Department is participating in Virtual Career Fairs at Glendon and McGill; continue to track engagement of our GR9 students taking FSF 10 as a benchmark for success of Core French Plan. Core French is now being delivered to all students in all virtual classes, as of this month. Online digital resources are available to all FI/EF and Core teachers in Virtual School.

Redistribution/Consultation Status

A consultation report is tracking to February Governance and Policy Committee (GPC). Redistribution movement is dependent on virtual consultations moving forward. Staff clarified that the consultation is not on redistribution itself, as this is operational, but rather items such as number of feeder schools, travel distance. The membership requests that time also be made for public and parent feedback on the redistribution plan that emerges from this consultation.

TTC Support for Families

As is customary, Principals will use school budget funds for student need. If a Principal requires additional funding, they may ask their local school Superintendent.

Ward/CPF/Parent Co-Chair Reports

W15-Parents/Councils sent a letter to the Trustees to express their concern that students in virtual FI G3 and 4 are receiving less French instruction than students in bricks and mortar school. Staff shared that they continue to compete for limited FI teachers and fill the teacher gaps as quickly as possible.

For further detail, see Jan 12th meeting minutes at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Curtis Ennis