



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Date: 9 February 2021

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened on February 9, 2021 from 7-9pm via virtual Zoom with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Attendance:	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), 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), Crystal Stewart (W6), Mandy Moore (W7), Geordie Sabbagh (W8 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Hans Bathija (W10 Alt), Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), 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), Curtis Ennis (Interim Associate Director), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Linda Edwards (Centrally Assigned Principal, Virtual French Programs), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator)
Guests:	Trustee Sriskandarajah (W22), Shalone Hendrickson, Lorna, Sabrina, Brenda Lee, Lauren Chang McLean, Zachary, Faith
Regrets:	Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W2), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt)

Part A: Recommendations
Nil

Part B: For Information

SK FI registration numbers

Early FI applicant numbers are lower by 29% and 18% compared to those for 2020-21 and 2019-20 respectively. The applicant pool for SK FI 2021-2022 is 2865 + 194 (late applicants). Regarding the lower number of applicants, there are several mitigating factors to consider:

- Approx. 2338 difference in enrolment for beginner students from 2019 and 2020
- 2019-20 JK cohort (applicant pool) larger (17,049) than this year (14,746) – Trillium Monthly Enrolment Report.
- 2126 under projection for JK/SK enrolment suggests students have chosen to stay home/home schooling or other because of pandemic/virtual school concerns, etc.
- 2020-21 registration period was open for 5 weeks vs 4 weeks (the norm), extra week provided due to timing of transportation decision.

On-time applicants are currently being placed. Space permitting, late applicants will be offered placement. Staff are working with the Trustees, regarding getting the message out that late applicants are welcome – PARS online application portal remains open for as long as possible - Feb 26th. Staffing

timelines and requirements are established in March and the concern was shared that lower applicant numbers may result in a staffing surplus.

Members expressed concern about the decrease in registration numbers; how to reach students not in the system which will also be a challenge when JK becomes the entry point; how to keep French teachers at the TDSB if there are fewer students for the short term.

SK Waiting Lists Sept 2020

The SK FI 2020 Wait List expired in December 2020. However, given the impact of the return to French survey and consideration for exceptional circumstances due to the pandemic, the Wait List will remain active until Sept 30, 2021. Local principals will offer placements to students from this list, space permitting, after realignment in September. The waitlist students will be able to start FI in GR1, without having attended FI SK, (pandemic Right of Return, see below), if the student left by January 2021, or did not start, but had registered. Staff acknowledge that there will be varied learning experiences. In preparation for September 2021, staff will focus on PD for teachers to address student learning gaps, student learning needs, and what we need to do to support all learners including racialized students and students with special education needs.

Middle FI Registration Update

Registration closed Jan 29th, with 999 on-time applicants. PARs online portal remains open until the end of Feb. for Middle FI. Late applicants will receive an offer of placement, space permitting, after all on-time applicants are accommodated. All 40 sites have generated at least one class! Junior Extended French had 1672 on-time applicants last year. This is the first cohort where Ext. Fr. Grade 4 is not an option. This is a new program, given layered considerations due to the pandemic and travel requirement, a slower start is not surprising – may take a year or two to build it up, and generate expected numbers. This Middle FI program provides another entry point for families electing not to enroll for SK FI.

Membership celebrated news that all MFI sites will run and expressed concern that application numbers are considerably lower than the Ext. Fr. Grade 4 program.

September 2021 Right of Return to French Programs

Students who were registered in or left FI/FE programs until January 2021, will be sent a survey to find out their intent to return to French program, so that they can be re-registered at their original school of placement for Sept 2021. The survey will be sent to those that left French programming for English (794 students) and those that left French and the TDSB (786 students). These students may return to the original school where they were offered placement and will receive communication from the school once they complete the survey if they choose to come back to re-register for Sept 2021.

Ward/CPF/Parent Co-Chair Reports

W2, W11, CPF and parent co-chair shared updates.

For further detail, see Feb 9th meeting minutes at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Curtis Ennis