



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

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened on March 9, 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), Matt Forrest (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Mandy Moore (W7), Geordie Sabbagh (W8 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), 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), 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 Manna Wong (W20)
Regrets:	Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Crystal Stewart (W6), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Hans Bathija (W10 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Sarah Smith (W15), Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt)

Part A: Recommendations

Nil

Part B: For Information

Registration Update

Late applicants (197 students) were offered placement for Early FI and 43 late applicants were offered Middle FI placement. Central staff did not reduce the number of entry point FSL classrooms at any school site but organically a reduction may occur based on the number of applicants to a local site. At this point, numbers indicate that all FSL sites will run in September, with at least 1 class. Applications indicate that there will be at least 1 class at each of the 40 MFI sites. It is anticipated that these numbers will increase yearly as staff continue to promote the new MFI program to the community.

September 2021 Right of Return: Survey Results

The Right of Return survey was sent to the 1580 students that left French programming between September and the beginning of January. Staff received 95 responses and 61 (54 FI, 7 Ext) students wish to return to French programs in September 2021. Members asked Staff to report back if there were any students that left French programming who have IEPs.

Online Supports for Parents/Students

FSL Resources for Families Google site highlights various resources and activities that families may access to practice with their child at home if they choose. Staff demonstrated the site and showcased core French, FI and Ext. French “asynchronous” student activities for GR4-8 and FI activities for SK -GR3 students. New activities are added weekly for all the French programs, for independent student use

and access, which are supported through resources found in the virtual library. These activities are designed to be self-guided activities for any FSL students at home without teacher support. This resource is designed for students with an exemption from synchronous learning, but they are also accessible to all students including those students who may be isolating, those without a teacher, etc. As a side-benefit, these activities provide alternative and additional practice for any FSL students. As well, the virtual experience is explored in the context of French programs to help ease the minds of parents. Student/family resources are also included on the Virtual Library/virtual learning public domain. Resources provided on the Virtual Library are extensively reviewed for cybersecurity risks.

The membership and staff agree to amplify awareness of this FSL student/family support tool across the system through various communications. This FSL resource while it is available can apply to more than asynchronous situations and serve multiple purposes. Summer availability of the online support tool for families is being looked into by staff.

Summer Programs

Elementary summer French programs will be offered in each Learning Centre. More information expected mid to late April.

French Review

Staff are working with Planning, Student Information Systems, and Early Years on the FI JK entry point for Sept 2022. The critical pathway is being developed and includes discussions and collaboration with other departments to align the Registration for JK entry and application to French Immersion process.

Redistribution of programs, while challenging, must focus on the problem of underserved areas and staff are committed to rectifying this issue. Membership expressed, and staff acknowledged, significant concerns about lack of access, in particular in Scarborough and Etobicoke, and expressed the idea of support for additional programs in these areas. Membership understands the challenge raised by staff, but do not wish to see programs closed. Improved access is an ongoing concern across the system. It will be difficult to distribute from schools with popular programs, yet equity of access in racialized, marginalized communities is a must. Membership is concerned for the areas that are underserved and the time elapsed since the French Review was announced.

FSL Official Languages Special Purpose Grant; DELF

Ministry funding for supporting FSL students. Given the lockdown orders last year, the TDSB did not participate in DELF in spring 2020, therefore, funds were returned to the Ministry. In 2021-22, TDSB will not participate in DELF given COVID restrictions and constraints. To date, there are 18 other Boards not participating in DELF. Funds for PD and French experiences are available. Staff are looking at creative ways that schools may use these funds.

Ward/CPF/Parent Co-Chair Reports

CPF and parent co-chair shared updates.

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

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Nil

Report Submitted by: Curtis Ennis