



**Name of Committee:** French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 14 September 2021

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened on September 14, 2021 from 7-9pm via virtual Zoom with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

<b>Attendance:</b>	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W2), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W5/W6 Alt), Mandy Moore (W7), Matt Forrest (W9); Randy Samuel (W14), 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), Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini (Executive Superintendent), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Linda Edwards (Centrally Assigned Principal, Virtual French Programs), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator)
<b>Guests:</b>	Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor, Early Years), Nadejda Lekosky (Mgr, Child Care Services), Shalone Hendrickson (parent)
<b>Regrets:</b>	Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Crystal Stewart (W6), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Geordie Sabbagh (W8 Alt), Hans Bathija (W10 Alt), Sarah Smith (W15), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt), Michelle Munroe (Parent Engagement)

**Part A: Recommendations**

Nil

**Part B: For Information**

**Before and After School Programs (BASP), Extended Day Programs (EDP) and French Immersion**

Each of the 70 Early French Immersion schools has at least one BASP program. P022 and PR691 are the TDSB policy and procedure that flow from provincial requirements outlined in the Child Care and Early Years Act (2014) and the K-GR6 policy guidelines for school boards. TDSB supports approximately 360 BASP (Before and After-school programs) including 18 EDP (TDSB Extended Day Programs).

The majority of BASP programs are third party operated. Individual BASP operators manage/determine their program’s operating capacity, wait lists, escort availability, fees, policies, expansion, etc. for their individual site(s), which can lead to some inequities in the system. Growth and expansion of the third party operated programs is driven by family demand, and viability as determined by the operator. TDSB Child Care Services works with the Operators and Principals to find appropriate space in schools for expansion as needed.

Membership is concerned that bussed FI students are unable to access a BASP at their home school because escorts are not typically provided to get students from the bus and into the classroom. Childcare programs located close to home/in the home school is the most practical solution for parents, not in the FI program schools. Membership feels that only the most flexible/agile parents can

get a childcare spot, given long waitlists and the travel/re-direction possibilities. The French Review report indicates only 28% of parents were satisfied with the available before and after school program and 12% of parents were accessing before and after school care in their English home school. With the FI program now starting in JK, these families will no longer have a connection to their English home school. To support equity and inclusion in FI, TDSB must address the childcare needs of these families. The motion of the FSLAC (included in the May 5th PSSC Summary Report) is a call to action to address this equity deficit, identified in the French Review, particularly for lower income families and those who are bussed/redirected.

## **French Review**

### **JK Entry:**

For September 2022, there will be entry points at both JK and SK; online application period opens in November 2021. Beginning September 2023, the entry point for Early FI will be JK only. All existing sites will transition to accommodate the JK entry. Operational Procedure PR597 will be updated to reflect JK entry.

### **New Sites:**

Starting September 2022 (online application period November 2021), there will be 4 new sites to improve equity of access:

- Mason Road JPS (Scarborough Southwest-W18-Trustee Kandavel)
- Brookhaven PS (York South-Weston-W6-Trustee Tonks)
- George B. Little PS (Scarborough-Guildwood-W19-Trustee Patel)
- Fraser Mustard ELA (Don Valley West-W11-Trustee Chernos-Lin)

This will reduce the size of our largest catchments, reducing the number of feeder schools, and allowing families in the largest catchment areas to access FI closer to home, providing a more equitable distribution of programs.

### **Updated Pathways:**

Pathway changes identified to reduce some of the longest student commutes take effect September 2022:

Millwood and Broadacres will feed to Bloordale MS (rather than Hilltop) and then Richview CI (Etobicoke Centre, W2-Trustee MacLean)

Corvette will feed to Robert Service SPS (Scarborough Southwest, W 18-Trustee Kandavel) rather than Tredway Woodsworth PS (Scarborough Guildwood, W 19-Trustee Patel)

The report to notify the Board is tracking to Planning and Priorities Committee meeting in the fall. The work was conducted through local feasibility team meetings with the local Superintendents, Principals and Trustees. Information letters announcing pathway changes will be shared with affected communities at the end of September 2021.

## **Registration for JK/SK FI Entry September 2022– Communications**

The week of August 30, banners went out to all schools with Kindergarten. The FI banner is to be placed near the regular Kindergarten registration banner.

Early FI flyers (translated into 22 languages) are available on [tdsb.on.ca/French](https://tdsb.on.ca/French). The TDSB website is being updated with the JK entry point information. Staff have prepared an extensive digital advertising and printed media campaign that is targeting families with children born in 2017 and 2018 who will be JK/SK students in 2022. As well, print ads will appear in local languages and staff is also investigating a social media campaign. The updated information package for entry to Early French Immersion and the updated video outlining FSL programs will be available on the website. FSL staff will host virtual information sessions during November 2021 for parents/guardians. Sessions will be virtual except for differentiated support for in-person sessions in communities with historically lower uptake and at new sites, if possible given TPH parameters and TDSB Operational Guidelines. Information will be sent out via System Leaders' Weekly, Trustees' Weekly, Ward Meetings, and TDSB Connects. Current JK families will also be sent information packages via email (i.e., school messenger).

### **Virtual FI/Extended Classes**

Virtual classes:

46 EFI classes from SK-8

75% of Gr. 4-8 are combined grades

11 Jr. Extended classes from Gr.4-8

3 Gr.7 entry Extended classes from Gr. 7-8

2 MFI classes

### **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

Nil

**Report Submitted by:** Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini