



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: French-As-A-Second-Language Advisory Committee

Date: September 23, 2014

Time: 7:00 pm (6:30pm Dinner)

Present: Kristina Laperle (Parent Co-Chair, W17); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (Vice Chair, W22); Betheney Maheu (Vice Chair, W12/13); Dina Pizolinas (Ward 2); David Kim (Ward 3); Matt Forest (Ward 9 Alt); Rosemary Sutherland (Ward 9); Sharon Kerr (Ward 13); Wilmar Kortleever (Ward 13, Alt); Pam Rigney (Ward 21, Alt); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Teleconference: Cheryl Wilson (Ward19); May Lee (Ward 21)

TDSB staff: Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-coordinator, FSL); John Tancredi (Central Co-coordinating Principal); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant);

Regrets: Sheila Ward (Trustee Co-Chair); Pamela Gough (Trustee); Maria Rodrigues (Trustee); Nicholas Jonas(W1) Laura Steele-Gunter(W7); Tanya English (W14) ; Jennifer Story(W15); Rita Camacho–Lomeli (W16); Beverly Way (W18); Lauralyn Johnston (Ward 8);

Guests: Carron Thomas (W 1, Elmlea Parent); Les Hiscock(W3, John English Parent) Heliones Pereira (W3, John English Parent)

Recorder: Latha John and Linda Mendonca Committee Assistants

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION
1.Call to Order/Quorum	Welcome Introductions –Kristina Laperle Quorum at 7:10 pm	
2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes	***MOTION: To approve the agenda by Sharon Kerr, seconded by Dina Pizolinas All in favour. Motion carried. ***MOTION: To approve the June Minutes by Rosemary Sutherland., seconded by Dina Pizolinas .Motion carried.	Action: Latha to post June minutes on FSLAC page on the TDSB website

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3. Membership	Membership Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership process was reviewed and discussed; each ward may elect parents as Representative & Alternate(s). If the Representative resigns, the Alternate becomes the Representative. • It was suggested that further changes in membership should wait until Trustee elections are completed. • Member (W10) Kathryn Yung has moved to England and resigned as FSLAC Representative (W10 Alt) Carla Francis is unreachable and a new rep may need to be elected for W10 	Action - Latha to remove Kathryn Yung (W10 rep) from the membership list.
4. Co-Chair's Report 4a. PRO Grant Update	PRO Grant/funding was denied for the because the cost of the roll up banner for display at parent conferences exceeded the percentage limit for promotional material	Action – John & Kristen will help in providing a banner.
4b. CAC Review	There are 13 Community Advisory Committees to the TDSB. All the chairs of all the various committees are scheduled to meet on October 28 to share information. An update will be provided in the November meeting.	Agenda Item for Nov 4 - Kristina will report back at next meeting.
4c. PIAC Conference preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIAC Conference on November 15th • FSLAC asked for a table and to do a workshop presentation. • Kristina called on members to volunteer to be at the FSLAC table at the conference. More details to follow on scheduling reps. 	Agenda Item for Nov 4 - Finalize conference preparation.
4d. Newsletter/ Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter/Communication with the parents on the distribution list was discussed. The newsletter usually goes out just prior to school breaks (Christmas/New Year's, March Break, summer) • Trustee elections: There was consensus in the committee to send survey questions to Trustee candidates, and share the survey results with the distribution list prior to elections in a "News Blast" style communication. • Change of registration dates for FSL programs: a second 'Blast' will be sent out as a reminder of the changes to FSL registration dates in concert with staff communication to parents and the community on this. 	Action - Mary, Betheny & Debbie-Lynn to coordinate survey project -Kristina to do a news blast email on change to SKFI registration dates

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4e. Briefing book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Briefing Book for 2014-15 is being updated, ready by the next meeting. For environmental reasons, hard copies of the Briefing Book will be provided only to members who request them from Latha via email. Reps are asked to make sure FSLAC Exec. has their correct e-mail address for the Google Docs access. 	<p>Action- John/Kirsten to send new maps Action - Latha to photocopy briefing book as requested Action – Mary to email new link to Google Docs when 14/15 Briefing Book posted</p>
<p>5. Staff Report John Tancredi, Central Co-coordinating Principal & Kirsten Johnston, FSL Programs</p> <p>5a. Change in Application Timelines – update on communication</p>	<p>Changes in registration dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early French Immersion (JK)– November 3, 2014 -December 5, 2014 Junior Extended & Middle Immersion (Gr. 4) - January 5 - January 29, 2015 TDSB website updated Letter announcing the change was sent through System Leaders Weekly Kirsten called all principals to ensure the message got out Application Timelines Poster was presented to the committee. Every school received two posters to be posted on school premises. Poster provides information to parents about the timelines. Application Packages will go out to every JK student once the information SKFI nights are set and all other related info is ready Communications will tweet on TDSB twitter account There will be a banner on TDSB landing page the last week of October. 	
5b. Online Resources & Professional Learning	<p>Virtual Library A 21st century teaching tools and online resources available for students and staff. School Websites are linked to the Virtual Library. The information is curated, safe and appropriate. Features of the Virtual Library were presented to the committee, and 'LearnMark' provided with passwords needed for access to some sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Jr. encyclopedias (3 are French or bilingual, and 1 with audio) e-books 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • media sites (DX digitalized video) vetted by TDSB <p>TFO online content now available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TFO content now available free of charge to all TDSB FSL students and staff (previously only available to English language school boards with a paid subscription) • Training/info course (Oct 14) to be provided for FSL Instructional Leaders & Library Instructional Leaders who will share with other staff <p>The committee questioned if all schools in TDSB have WIFI and sufficient hardware to access the Virtual Library. Equity issue was highlighted. Staff responded: IT people are working on all schools having access to WIFI.</p> <p>Professional courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Learning Activities include: courses for the many new teachers (core & FI), Digital Learning, Special Ed. In French network, How to Learn Differently in the 21st century, and courses on the revised curriculum with additional focus on speaking and listening. • Concern raised by the Committee that the Curriculum is not very parent friendly and a parent guide would be useful to explain the shift to authentic communication and what that means in a classroom. • Secondary FSL curriculum is overdue and delivery date still unknown. • Change made to report cards – an extra box will be added to subjects indicating if they are taught in French or English <p>Copies of the Ministry’s publication “Parent Guide to French Immersion and Extended French” were provided to committee members. On-line version expected soon.</p>	

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<p>5c. SPIF / French Review - update</p>	<p>SPIF/Strategic Planning in French - Review Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 - Many feasibility studies were done in 2013-14- working with Trustees & Superintendents has resulted in 5 new early immersion sites and 2 new extended sites for Sept 2014. • Phase 2 - working with Senior Staff – expected recommendation to turn Lord Lansdowne into an FI Centre • Committee expressed interest in further discussions on secondary school opportunities and challenges • New Data shows that enrolment & retention are increasing – retention rates from grades 9-12 is 95% • There is lots of growth in SK- grade 4 • Retention between grade 8 and 9 is a challenge – anecdotally it is to join different specialized programs (Arts, Sports, etc...) • Secondary IB and French immersion/extended are not offered together as they are in Toronto Catholic • The committee raised concerns about secondary schools meeting demand and about having FSL opportunities when the students are in other specialized secondary programs. • Staff responded that long term accommodation strategy K-12 is considering all types of program and their needs • Concern raised that W13 is very full; Schools are at capacity and is the best possible learning environment there for extended & immersion? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that more choice of credits in French be offered, possibly by adding Secondary French immersion Centers into the mix of secondary sites 	
<p>5d. FSL Summer School & e-Learning follow-up</p>	<p>e-Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee suggested that e-Learning courses offered in French could expand course selection in immersion schools during the school year. • Staff said e-Learning summer French course, Grade 9 Geography was offered and not enough students signed up for one full class. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee brought to the attention of staff that Grade 9 Geography is a course that is offered in the school year in every immersion/extended school so there is no incentive to take it in summer. Also, parents questioned e-Learning's summer uptake as possibly resulting from parents not wanting to increase student time on-line at home during the summer. Secondary courses in French were fairly limited in actual summer school. Uptake for French immersion/extended elementary summer school was good. 	
<p>5e. Optional Attendance Policy Review - update</p>	<p>Optional Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The internal review is ongoing, the process is in early stages – Trustee Cary-Meagher & Trustee Dandy and 1 parent representative are involved in the Committee. Public consultations will be part of the process. Every student has right to attend school in the area, but for French there is a guaranteed spot but not a guaranteed school. Transportation or TTC tickets available according to distances in transportation policy/procedure. Each school's optional attendance status is reviewed every year and is dependent on available space and enrolment projections. A question was asked about how the decision gets made to declare a school as open, limited or closed. No procedure document available. Concerns were raised by several members stating that daycare options are not available at French immersion and some students have opted out of French because of daycare availability/access. Committee members shared the issue that daycare staff of the home school is not collecting students from the bus coming from the French school because that leaves them with insufficient staff to watch the other kids (ie, not meeting mandatory supervision ratios). Toddlers in daycare in dual track schools are guaranteed a place in the English program even if it is not their home school, but not in French – Preference is being given to children in the daycare which is a non-TDSB organization 	<p>Agenda Item for Nov: Optional attendance and daycare</p> <p>FSLAC members who have daycare/optional attendance issues in their wards should forward details to John to bring back to the Optional Attendance Committee.</p>

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5f. Chief Dan George/Stirling ARC update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff followed up on outstanding question on why the recommendations of the Brooks Road/High Castle/ Stirling ARC were not implemented. • The proposal for capital improvements was denied by the Ministry and Chief Dan George was selected by staff as the new site for students formerly in the Brooks Rd catchment who were north of the 401. 	
6. Ward Reports	<p>W2 - Most schools had curriculum night, some grade 8 classes reorganized at Hilltop</p> <p>W3 – with FDK schools are bursting at the seams, successful enrolments in John English & Adam Beck. Rep would like to visit other schools in W3.</p> <p>W9 - New French Immersion site at Perth Avenue. Regal Road is full.</p> <p>W11 - Curriculum night was done. Humewood is 100 years old.</p> <p>W13 - No Ward meeting.</p> <p>Most elementary are starting FDK this year - start up issues.</p> <p>Questions about early registration, if people miss cut off dates for registration any allowances? - Staff confirms there will be no allowances and people will have to meet the deadline.</p> <p>Leaside is overflowing above the 1000 capacity. - Suggestion: Adjust the pathways to ease overcrowding to Leaside as it is taking in students from East York. TDSB French enrolment is going up year to year.</p> <p>W17 - Extensive renovations for FDK completed. Curriculum night was last week. Tonight was Ward Forum and at both events parents were informed about the change in registration dates and were advised to apply before the cut-off date</p> <p>W19 – Had Curriculum Meeting, SK parents requested more homework. There is a concern that some dual track schools have principals who don't speak French - TDSB Staff reported that support for the program is a requirement set by the Board but bilingualism not a requirement to hold the position.</p> <p>W22 – Had Curriculum Night & BBQ, notices of the registration date changes</p>	



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	were sent out to parents. New Principal at William G. Miller. All is going well.	
7. Other Business Canadian Parents for French	CPF National Conference The committee was informed of the conference between October 16 th -19 th in Ottawa discussing the FSL issues with parents from across Canada	
8. Next Meeting Date	November 4 th , 2014	
9. Adjournment	9:17 pm	