



**French as a Second Language Advisory Committee
Draft Minutes**

Date: Tuesday June 17th, 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kristina Laperle (Parent Co-Chair, W17); Dina Pizolinas (W2, Alt); David Kim(W 3); Lauralynn Johnston(Ward 8); Kathryn Yung (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W10); Sharon Kerr (Ward 13); Wilmar Kortleever (W13, Alt); Pam Rigney (Ward 21, Alt); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (Ward 22); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Melanie Dickstein(Constituency Assistant);

TELECONFERENCE: Dina Pizolinas (Ward 2, Alt); Laura Steele (Ward 7); Wilmar Kortleever (Ward 13),

GUESTS: Betheney Maheu (Davisville/Northlea parent)

TDSB STAFF: Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-coordinator, FSL); John Tancredi (Central Co-coordinating Principal);

REGRETS: Nichole Jonas (Ward 1); Cheryl Wilson (Ward 19); Rosemary Sutherland (Ward 9); Cindy Kenyon (Ward 14, Alt); Cindy Ewins (W17, Alt); May Lee (Ward 21); Rita Kamacho (Ward 16)

RECORDER: Vandana Bharti, Committee Assistant (Parent & Community Engagement Office, TDSB)

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1.	Call to Order – Welcome/Introductions Meeting was called to order by Kristina Laperle 7:05 pm	
2.	Approval of Quorum Quorum was achieved. Membership review: Aziz Walji (W2) has submitted his resignation and the committee appointed Dina Pizolinas as the new representative. The new member for Ward 11 & Ward 13 is Betheney Maheu	
3.	Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved.	
4.	Approval of Minutes May 15 th minutes were approved with some amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add David Kim and Wilmar Kortleever to the teleconference list ▪ Grammatical changes to item#3, #6, #8 ▪ Remove Duplicate question on page 2 under the heading “Discussion” ▪ Page 4 Item#4 Enrolment report has its own heading MOTION: In the event that quorum is not achieved at a meeting, the informational notes taken will be posted. Moved by Kathryn Yung and Lauralyn Johnston seconded it. The motion passed.	Include February meeting notes in June 2014 minutes.

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
5.	<p>Co-chair Report ~ Annual Report</p> <p>The draft annual report outlining the activities of the FSLAC for 2013/14 was sent via email with the agenda. A handout was provided at the meeting.</p> <p>Kathryn Yung moved to adopt the report and send it on t to PSSC and Dina seconded it. The motion was passed.</p>	
6.	<p>Election:</p> <p>Kathryn Yung took the chair and invited Candidates to self-nominate; the nominees were:</p> <p>Parent Co- Chair ~ Kristina Laperle</p> <p>Parent Vice Chair ~ Debbie-Lynn Hoste</p> <p>Parent Co Vice ~ Bethany Maheu</p> <p>No other nominations were made. Kathryn acclaimed all candidates.</p> <p>The membership voted unanimously to support the new executive.</p>	
7.	<p>Staff Report:</p> <p>- Ward 10 & Lord Lansdowne</p> <p>-Chris Bolton, Trustee of Ward 10 and chair of the TDSB has stepped down. The PART will continue in order to make sure that the pressing needs of the ward are being met.</p> <p>- A question was asked about whether the planning department is taking into consideration the condos that are being developed in the area and recent media stories about the trend of raising kids in buildings in the downtown area.</p> <p>- Staff responded that the planning department is aware that demographics are shifting and it is part of the planning process.</p> <p>Change of timelines for the application deadlines for SK programs.</p> <p>- The discussion to move the SK registration dates to the fall continues. The briefing note was brought to Academic Council, which Exec Supt Gen Ling Chang chairs, on June 2nd. Concerns around communicating the change to prospective and current TDSB parents are part of the discussion and planning. On June 24th it will go to Amin Council for final approval.</p> <p>- Rationale for the switch is that additional weeks will aid in the planning and the placement of students into their local SKFI school. Earlier confirmation of placement will aid parents in planning for their childcare and will make it easier to meet the requirements of collective agreements of teachers and ECEs. Longer lead time is also useful in working out before and aftercare programs where surveying and minimum uptakes must be met to run the programs.</p> <p>- FSL staff working with communication department on a communication plan to support the successful transition to the earlier deadline, including multiple methods of sharing the information internally and externally including information directly to schools, TDSB website, social media and ads in local newspapers.</p>	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>SCHOOLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Letters will be sent to the 61 existing SKFI sites and will get to other TDSB schools through 'News you can use', the system leader weekly message - Staff will be asking administrative council to support improved and early direct communications to parents. There is not yet a letter from the director that is sent home with every student on the first day of class; they are working on it. -all JK students will receive a French immersion information package – suggestion made that it be given with the major letter package that goes home the first week of school <p>WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff met with IT last week. Banners to be added to various pages with links to application information, - TDSB social media will share the info via Facebook and TWITTER: @tdsb_fsl with hashtag use (ie, #frimm, #onted, #onfr) - IT staff have thoughts on how to improve the information online. An interesting fact is that people do not scroll down on the first page, there is important information that they want to move up to the top of the page, it may not be aesthetically pleasing but the goal is to have the key information on top so it will be read. <p>NEWSPAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff are also working to get information in local newspapers . Committee members felt this was especially important to reach non-TDSB students, like those may be in the Toronto Catholic District School Board or private preschool/daycares or Montessori schools. Members specifically recommended ads in “The Little Paper”, “City Parent (Toronto Edition – magazine & website)”, “Savvy Mom”, and the City of Toronto FUN Guide (book & website produced by the City of Toronto for their recreation programs). These are very effective places to advertise because parents look to these magazines and websites regularly for what to do with their kids <p>OTHER IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Members recommended that a letter be put into the agenda, especially the timelines in the agenda at least for the grade 4's. Staff responded that the agenda is already done for Sept 2014, but could be considered for next year. -ensure that parents who may be able to attend other school boards are aware of the change and are included in communication -Staff responded that they are looking at the simple forms like getting a poster that can be put up in schools and community gathering places, like libraries and Early Years Centres. -Members indicated that they are willing to help spread the word through the gmail list or putting up posters in their parts of the 	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -informational video on a Youtube channel -presenting new timelines for registration at curriculum nights by providing a slide show to principals like they did for the SK Info. nights -maximizing effectiveness of TDSB SKFI key words on Google and other search engines. -use the big banners that go on school fences – most SKFI schools already have them from a project a few years ago. New sites would require new banners. <p>New FSL Curriculum Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 teachers from every school participated in the roll out for the new curriculum and there has been good interest and uptake. <p>DELFL Challenge & CEFR/Dr. Laura Hermans Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DELF Certificates were sent to students. A couple of the students did not achieve their desired level, but there has not yet been any feedback from students or parents. -having a teleconference with the Ministry at the end of June, full analysis of the results will be a while as the data was just submitted - Next year they hope to have more correcteurs (DELFL certified examiners). <p>Staff met with Dr. Laura Hermans and the discussion on portfolios and CEFR resources is on-going.</p> <p>Possible Partnership with France</p> <p>John and Kirsten met with the Attaché from the French Embassy. The French are interested in a partnership with the TDSB and L'Academie de Strassbourg (5000-6000 students) and French cities like Toulouse, L'île de France, and Paris to have staff and teachers work together on issues of student mental health, an area in which the French would like to draw on the experience and expertise of the TDSB.</p>	
8.	<p>Ward Reports</p> <p>Ward 10</p> <p>PART underway at Lord Lansdowne this week, PART members are very supportive of French programs.</p>	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>Corresponding with the Ward 10 alt who will need to be promoted to representative once Kathryn moves away.</p> <p>Ward 22 Losing a principal to retirement who has been a great support in the French program</p> <p>Ward 11 Trustee Shelley Laskin hosted a round table discussion with parents, new superintendant Sandra Tondat who was previously a supervising principal and worked on the Ward 1 PARC Committee was introduced.</p> <p>Ward 13 Traffic on Eglinton is ridiculous, extra busing is going out and there are emergency exit doors directly on Leaside Question about capacity at Leaside -they are still over capacity they would like some answers in September as to how and when these issues will be solved..</p> <p>Ward 8 Would like to thank their Trustee Howard Goodman for his service and they are sad that he is not returning</p> <p>Ward 21 Why are grade 3 – 8 students still at Chief Dan George instead of Sterling as per Accommodation Review Committee recommendations?</p> <p>Ward 3 Islington Junior middle school is opening a SK French immersion class</p>	<p>Kristina to follow up with staff to see what is happening with former Brooks road students catchment</p>
9.	<p>Other Business: ~ Mary showed the June FSLAC newsletter to the group and highlighted: the improvement to the Toronto Public library URL for French programs; Don Mills CI student who won a full scholarship to the University of Ottawa at the Canadian Parents for French Concours d'Art Oratoire ~ Kristina presented thank you cards and gifts to John, Kirsten, Melanie, Mary and outgoing Vice-chair, Kathryn Yung, to thank them for their outstanding support of the FSLAC and FSL students this school year.</p>	<p>Mary to send the winner's information to Melanie Dickenstein who will share it with TDSB communications.</p>
10.	<p>Adjournment Meeting was adjourned 8:57 pm</p>	
11.	<p>Next meeting: September 23rd, 2014</p>	<p>Meeting notice will be sent via e-mail.</p>

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
12.	February 20, 2014 Meeting Notes – information only	

<p>Call to Order – Welcome/Introductions Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.</p>
<p>Approval of Quorum Quorum was not achieved. Committee decided to proceed informally.</p> <p>Membership Review The following members resigned: Issy Vlaykov (W8), Andrea Demchuk (W14, alt) The following alternate became a member: Lauralyn Johnston (W8)</p>
<p>Approval of Agenda The agenda was accepted informally.</p>
<p>Approval of Minutes The draft minutes from the January 9th meeting were deferred to the April meeting..</p>
<p>Co-Chairs Report CAC Update The CAC review report went to Planning and Priorities Committee in January. The meeting ran late and the CAC report was deferred. The FSLAC put forward concerns and priorities related to the report in a written deputation and asked for improved support through internet access for FSLAC meetings and funding for emergency childcare. A representative from another CAC presented and said it's difficult to say what we need when we don't know what the cuts will be. More info will be provided as it becomes available. The FSLAC deputation is posted on our webpage: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Community/Community%20Advisory%20committees/FSLAC/P%20%20P%20-%20CAC%20report%20-%20%20January%2022%202014.pdf</p>
<p>Communications Report</p> <p>FSLAC Newsletter: The FSL Newsletter is produced by FSLAC volunteers 3 times a year. There are more than 500 individual parent subscribers on the gmail contact list. The upcoming March edition will feature Kirstin's 'Great Grad' story, happenings in French around Toronto like March Break camps, info on apps from The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), Télé-Français Ontario (TFO) and our student reviewers, upcoming contests. Members with ideas for the June newsletter or with interest in helping out should get in touch with Kristina.</p> <p>FSLAC Updates for Ward Meetings: Laura Steele-Gunter (W7) put together a well-received report on FSLAC activities for her ward meeting. Members asked to use it as a template for their own reports. Mary & Kristina will add sample FSLAC report for Ward meetings to Google Docs for members.</p>

FI/Ext Information Nights

Information nights for SK immersion and grade 7 extended took place during the month of January. Turnouts were generally good and applications are up from last year.

Kathryn went to Lord Lansdowne, and Dewson info nights. Both events were well attended, the principal presented and parents were very engaged and asked questions on the program and about 35% on the process. Some parents missed getting the return e-mail and were concerned. Presentation included information on how to handle it if you don't speak French, or if you don't speak English at home.

Sarah went to the RH McGregor info night. New principal arrived in January. Kirsten did an awesome presentation at the school. There was a 50/50 mix of feeder schools. Not too many program questions, mostly process. Program questions were about misperceptions on Special Ed, etc.

Mary went to the Elmlea info night. She was blown away by the great job that Principal Patel did in showcasing the program and the school. Parents were greeted by school council members as they arrived and provided French snacks. The meeting started in the gym with brief introductions of the immersion staff and then the parents were divided into groups to do a rotation through three 20 minute sessions. One was in the SK class with the SK teachers, one was in the gym where displays of student work in French from SK-grade 5 was displayed and one was in the library where a teacher and several students did a lesson on social justice and equity, their school focus for 2013/14 in French on a Smart board. The evening finished off in the gym where FAQs were posted and the principal answered remaining questions. Trustee Hastings attended. It was outstanding.

David K. shared that the Info Night at John English was well done. John English students shared experiences. The process was a big concern. Parents were trying to wrap their heads around why students who live five blocks away may not get to attend John English.

Wilmar went to Northlea . The issues were more or less the same; that classes are full, and questions about optional attendance. People were impressed with the presentation.

Kristen Cockburn attended the MFI night at John Ross Robertson in November. Three teaches were there. Only John Ross students got in for 2013/14 and the redirection to the closest school is really far away.

Members with parent contact info from info nights should scan and send it to fslactoronto@gmail.com.

Staff Report SKFI & Ext 4 “Hot Spots” Update

John reported that work is underway to address hotspots where applications exceed the spots allocated by Planning. Trustees are in the loop. Solutions do not always please parents, trustees and staff. In SKFI and grade 4- junior extended, every on-time applicant is offered a spot with transportation according to policy, however, it may not necessarily be the school closest to home. There is potential for 2 new sites for junior, and 3 new sites for early immersion for Sept 2014.

Grade 4 Entry -Junior Extended

There is one new additional grade 4 site at **Rene Gordon** to meet local demand for the program. Parents are being notified.

SKFI & PARS

- Kirsten and John are hard at work with Superintendents, Planning Department, and Trustees. There are five programs that have not received placements yet.
- Superintendents, architects, and the trustee met at **John Fisher** where demand is above the allocated spots. The Davisville/Eglinton area is in a space crunch. We are looking at putting a junior classroom in the basement.
- Members asked what role the parents are playing in working towards a solution – staff responded that parents should be included from the beginning, however, when we meet for the first time we meet as staff only, and then include parents when there are some options to present. The John Fisher principal is in touch with the school council chair. The challenge is having parents on hold for a long time while solutions are being developed.
- FSL Department split the **Elmlea** catchment, and now the schools to the north will go to **Melody Village**. Parents were notified of the potential change and that is was dependent on the Board decision on the Ward 1 PARC. Plan is to have 60 spots at Elmlea and 60 at Melody Village.
- **Runnymede** applicants are being subject to a lottery and if all applicants cannot be placed at Runnymede, they will be offered **George Syme. Humbercrest** accepted all applicants. Overflow from **Fern** is being redirected to **Parkdale**.
- It's not certain why parents don't take spots (i.e. one school offers 60 spots and 32 spots are taken, while at another part of the City, 60 spots are offered and 60 spots are taken. We are not sure how to find out why 28 did not take the spots and what insight this could give in our planning and communication that would be valid for more than any particular year.
- According to the 2013 Enrolment report, Mary noted that in Middle Immersion at **John Ross Robertson** there were more applications than spots last year. The kids got into John Ross Robertson based on proximity. There are only 3 middle immersion schools. Hollywood was far and full. Valleyfield was far. Families from John Ross were offered Valleyfield spots with bus transportation. Previously, in middle immersion, there have been combined 4/5 classes which allowed for an entry class of 45 students and this is a possibility in PR 597 Staff responded that they worked on getting another class at Eglinton Jr. Extended program as an alternative. Last Spring, there was a lot of discussion at John Ross Robertson. It's difficult to have 4 and 5 combined. Work continues with Planning. Both middle and early immersion are front-end loaded with French (80-100% in beginning years). Staff is maintaining a wait list; applicants can join the middle immersion class up until the end of Sept.
- Sarah asked staff where they are in terms of communicating with parents. Ward 15 is still in the last batch. **Adam Beck** is not done yet, nor **RH McGregor**. Some have been re-directed to Corvette
- Members were asked to advise concerned parents to keep an eye out, and check their junk mail and to be patient as work continues. Parents are given 5 days (including a weekend) to respond. Some parents mistakenly think they don't have to apply because they have a sibling who is in the program.
- Extended 7 numbers are coming in now. Process is handled at the Ext 7 school. Schools will share their final numbers with the FSL Department in early April.

CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) and the **DELF**(Diplôme d'études en langue française) :

The Ministry of Education is funding a project where students from selected Boards and FSL programs may take the DELF exam at the end of April. This test provides an accreditation for French Second Language proficiency. The TDSB now has 7 trained examiners called: correcteurs. Students choose their level and parent consent is required. Students responded very positively to this opportunity to do this internationally recognized exam! CEFR info is available from Curriculum Services Canada with the Ministry of Education at: <http://www.curriculum.org/fsl/home>

NEW EXPANSION FUNDS: Ministry of Education is providing a new special purpose grant to support expansion of Ext/Imm programs. The TDSB applied for and is receiving

\$122, 900 which will be allocated to new sites to provide library and class resources from a menu of resources put together by the FSL department.

FDK: All SKFI sites will be full day in Sept 2014. Staff is noting through standardized diagnostic assessment that SKFI students already experiencing full day K are better prepared for reading in grade 1 than their peers in half day kindergarten.

FSL PLAN: Where are we at in terms of the process? The Ministry of Education Framework requires a multi-year FSL Plan that builds engagement and proficiency. Discussions on-going about the plan with Ministry officials. One goal is to increase the number of students doing the grade 9 beginner Core French. Also looking at retention rates of FSL through graduation. Want to increase communication (i.e. community engagement through Twitter) as it is a constant challenge in such a big system. There is no new money committed to the decisions made.

Members feel that the FSL plan should go to Trustees and to the FSLAC to support improvement in accountability and transparency. If nobody knows about it, what's the point?

Homework Help Pilot Project (from Alison Pearce & Con Ed)

The central funding for that at the grade 1 to 6 level has been cut this year.

Ward Reports

Ward 2

Running CPF beginner French program for parents, Step 2

Occasional teacher challenge. Principal has a list of teachers; 82 teachers are available but teachers are choosy about covering. Is there anything we can do about it?

- John – Staff Allocations (Secondary, and Elementary) – Occasional Teachers can pick and choose. We hear it from Principals too but the process and the lists are part of the collective agreement.

Ward 17

Kristina will attend the east end location of the Inner City Advisory Committee parent conference in April

Ward 10

In the Dewson area there is a Montessori school that has a bilingual program. Can those students transfer over to Dewson in Grade 1? Late admission according to PR597 – we assess the equivalency of the program and if space is available. If you are coming from Peel public, no, program is not equivalent to TDSB SKFI. If you are coming from Francophone or Toronto Catholic Board, yes, if there is space in the class. If you are coming from another public board with an equivalent program, yes. If you are coming from a private school with an equivalent program, yes, if there is space in the class.

Other Business

No other business reported.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Next meeting

April 10th, 7pm, Committee Room A