



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

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Sindy Preger (Parent Vice Co-chair, W11 alt); Trish Murphy (Parent Co-chair, W15)-by phone; Sheila Ward (Trustee Co-chair); Pamela Gough (Trustee); Issy Vlaykov (W8); Kathryn Yung (W10); Sharon Kerr (W13); Andrea Demchuk (W14); Kristina Laperle (W17); David Dai (W21); Patricia Legrand (W21); Christina Zimmer (W19) Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Alison Pearce (Program Co-ordinator, FSL); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French)

GUESTS: Christophe Plantiveau (Alliance Française); Mona Rozenblum (Parent); Attilus Ronel (Parent); Sharon B (Parent)

Recorder: Amanda Tiberio

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Sindy Preger Roundtable introductions were made 	
Approval of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was achieved and approved 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was approved with amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trish Murphy, absent, will call in to give Co-Chair update at 8:00 p.m. Guest speaker Christophe Plantiveau was moved to the top of the agenda 	
Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were approved with one amendment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The staff report should note that online applications will be available in 2013 only for SK Immersion and Grade 4 programs. 	Amanda will make changes and post to webpage.
Guest Speaker	<p><u>Christophe Plantiveau (Campus Manager, Alliance Française - North York) spoke about the mission of Alliance Française in Toronto</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alliance Française has been in Toronto for 110 years. They are currently expanding their Spadina location, adding a 200 seat auditorium. The main goal of Alliance Française is to teach French. They currently serve 600 students in 4 centres, and employ 60 teachers. Courses for all ages, including infant and mother classes. Their programs for children and teenagers focus on developing oral skills. Part of the mission of Alliance Française (AF) is to be a cultural centre. They host events for children and adults, and partner with organizations such as libraries to promote the French language and culture. AF organizes French summer camps. They try to ensure students are enjoying what they learn. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AF is the only organization in Toronto that holds internationally-recognized French exams including the DELF (Diplômes d'Études en Langue Français). • Committee members comments: Alliance Française Summer Camps provided continued opportunity to speak French during the long break; attending classes with her children was a very enjoyable experience, and recommends all parents do the same with their children. • AF offers after-school programs that are art or music based, but conducted in French. They are currently working with the North York Central Library and Gibson House Museum to put on an exhibition and workshops next September/October. French Immersion schools would be invited and the workshops would be free. • Alliance Française doesn't receive money from the French government; it receives all funds from student fees. • During March break and on weekends, AF holds workshops for French teachers to enhance their knowledge of the language and engage in group work and discussion with other French teachers. • French programs at TDSB schools follow Ontario curriculum. Courses offered at AF do not. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Report • Participatory Budget Update 	<p><u>Trish Murphy (Parent Co-Chair) gave an update on the Participatory Budget Reference Group Process</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Participatory Budget Reference Group was organized by Trustee Chris Glover and Supt Jim Spyropoulos. Each Community Advisory Committee was invited to send 2 representatives to advise trustees about the budget. Trish attended the first two meetings, Wilmar Kortleever attended the first and last meeting, and Charmaine Merchant attended all three. • The first two meetings were informative, and the group was given presentations from staff of different departments of the Board. They felt very rushed with little time to ask questions, and no time for group discussions. • The group was asked to submit questions to Trustee Glover via e-mail after the meetings. Carol Boyle answered those questions, and members were required to communicate with her one-on-one; there was no opportunity for group discussion. Many members became frustrated. • Trish didn't think that stakeholders present, many of whom were not parents, were representative of the whole TDSB. There were few staff members present other than presenters. The trustees that attended were Sheila Cary-Meagher, Sam Sotiropoulos and Chris Glover. • There were many presentations but very little information regarding collective agreements, even though staff salaries make up ~ 80% of the TDSB budget. The cuts mentioned in the Staff Allocation Report released by the Human Resources Committee represent \$50 million of the \$85 million deficit. Trustees urged the reference group to contact local MPPs about advocating for review and changes to the funding formula. • A question was raised about whether a report will be written containing suggestions given by members of the reference group. It was not mentioned at the meetings, but Trish did not seem to think there would be. All participants were focussed on needs in their own areas and, as a result, there was no collective message or suggestion from the group. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intent of the meetings was to allow the community to participate and get informed on important budget issues. It was important for members of the FSLAC to participate so they could speak to any issues of concern in FSL and as TDSB parents. No issues for FSL were raised during the meetings. A question was asked about whether there was a feedback form provided to the reference group members. Trish reported that there was none and suggested that the FSLAC should ask Trustee Glover about an opportunity for feedback Trustee Gough added that Trustee Glover saw the Participatory Budget Reference Group as a process that is evolving. He is likely interested in feedback and wants more public involvement. It's still early and the budget won't be finalized until June. Trish Murphy resigned from her role as Co-Chair and member of FSLAC in order to turn her full attention to her family and her career. Trish thanked the group for its support and wished everyone well. The group thanked Trish for her outstanding efforts as a parent volunteer and leader in the FSL community. Sindy Preger, Vice-Chair, will step up until the annual Co-Chair election in June. 	<p>Trish will provide feedback on the meetings to Trustee Glover.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward Reports 	<p><u>W3 - Pamela Gough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a ward meeting next week and Trustee Gough will continue to recruit a rep for the FSLAC. <p><u>W10 - Kathryn Yung</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents have asked if there are any advocates for special needs programs in French Immersion. <p>Staff response: There wasn't much support for special needs students at the beginning of immersion, but as of ~ 3 years ago staffing allocation changed. They used to allocate special needs staff based only on students in regular programs, but it now includes students in French Immersion programs. Staff works on supporting the student in the French program and moving the student into an English program is a last resort. FI schools go through the process of making Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students with special needs. IEPs are plans for the student's education created in consultation with parents.</p> <p>Part of the allocation of special education teachers is based on need – there was a time that few IEPs were set up in French Immersion programs because teachers didn't think it was right or parents were encouraged to pull their students out of the program. If IEPs are not made, the system cannot tell how much support FI students need.</p> <p>Another way to help a student is through modifications – if, for whatever reason, a student is not working at the grade level they are sitting in, they may need different expectations. Modifications are subject-by-subject.</p> <p>Parents have asked if consideration has been given to having gifted FI classes/programs.</p> <p>Staff response: A critical mass of students who both have special needs and want French Immersion needs to appear before a single site is created for that purpose. To date, that has not been the case.</p>	

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	<p><u>W11 - Cindy Preger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown J.P.S: of the 58 applicants, 46 were from the Brown English catchment and were given spots based on proximity. Applicants from the only feeder school (Cottingham) were offered Davisville. 8 applicants are on a waitlist. Where a decision has been taken to cap the number of intake classes and no new site is being developed among the feeder(s), the home school applicants get an advantage and the feeder applicants have a lower priority based on proximity. Is this equitable? Is demand being fulfilled in a way that works for the system but not for individual communities? In the Enrolment Report, it would be helpful to know how many lotteries are done and/or where proximity is used and the rationale. • A question was raised as to why 3 classes could not be opened to satisfy all 58 applicants when majority is coming from the homeschool JK. <p><u>W13 - Sharon Kerr</u></p> <p>Parents are concerned that the Alexander Stirling extension will not be utilized for French program.</p> <p>Staff response: Alison Pearce confirmed the Alexander Stirling French program will begin in September 2012 with 2 SK classes. Brooks Road P.S. is continuing the French program for 2012, as well as offering an English program. The relocation of Brooks Road's French program to Highcastle P.S. is contingent upon another school being built – this is now slated for 2013.</p> <p><u>W14 - Andrea Demchuk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility is a problem in French programs. <p><u>W17 - Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Supt Peter Chang on possible accommodation reviews has been postponed. 	
<p>Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2012 enrolment update • Ministry Homework Help Proposal 	<p><i><u>Alison Pearce and John Tancredi gave an update about the Ministry Homework Help Proposal, September 2012 enrolment, and other news from Teaching and Learning</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education is focussing on FSL with staff devoted to FSL programs with funds to undertake projects to support FSL. They are creating 6 modules that will be accessible online in September for core French teachers including different aspects of good teaching, metacognition and performance tasks. They are also creating a handbook called "Prologue", designed for teachers of entry-level French programs. TDSB staff participated in the development of "Prologue". • The Ministry announced a small fund for projects to help immersion/extended students with homework. Boards were invited to submit proposals. The FSL dept, in partnership with Continuing Education, asked for funding to develop a framework and materials to provide after school tutoring across the grades for immersion/extended students. Funding announcements will be made in April. • The TDSB was invited by the Ministry to submit video samples of student work that will be sent to France to add to the selection of student work assessed for French proficiency using the Common 	

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	<p>European Framework of Reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSL enrolment for Sept 2012 continues to be addressed by staff. The Enrolment report should be available at the April or May FSLAC meeting. • Further to the question about opening a third French class at Brown J.P.S., the Board does everything it can to build the program while ensuring new programs and classes are not put into a school that is too small or a community with little desire for it. For Sept 2011, enrolment grew and during the fall, the central accommodation team got together and worked on solutions for areas with known enrolment pressures. They looked at 4 areas: through that process, 3 of those areas have succeeded in opening new SKFI sites for Sept 2012 (Broadacres J.S., Morse Street J.P.S. and Earl Beatty J.S.P.S). In addition to Alexander Stirling P.S., identified in an ARC process, these sites will help with enrolment pressures. All except Alexander Stirling are full-day kindergarten sites. • Ward 1/2 PARC is holding 13 meetings, and John has been attending as the FSL staff resource person. He is non-voting member. The FSLAC needs to identify 2 representatives to join 2 other PARCs. Both are in W16 although one overlaps W17. They are beginning at the end of March, and will have 3 public and 3 private meetings each. Members of the FSLAC who have previously been part of PARCs/ARCs recommend joining as they are informative and a good way to fulfill the mission of FSLAC. 	<p>Sindy will identify reps for upcoming PARCs and submit them.</p>
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All community advisory Committees are invited to host a table at the FUTURES conference on Saturday, May 5, 2012. Set up at 8:00 a.m. and taken down at 3:00 p.m., with no access to an electrical outlet. If a member wishes to participate on behalf of FSLAC, please send an email to the FSLAC mailbox at fslactoronto@gmail.com before April 2, 2012. Amanda will ask the PCIO about a budget for supplies for the table. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. 	

Next meeting: April 17, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m., 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A