



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





**Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2012**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sindy Preger (Parent Vice Co-chair, W11 alt); Dina Pizolinas (W2); David Kim (W3); Heather Jordan (W7); Issy Vlaykov (W8); Rosemary Sutherland (W9); Kathryn Yung (W10); Sharon Kerr (W13); Tanya English (W14); Cindy Ewins (W17); Kristina Laperle (W17 alt); Thandi Briggs (W19 alt); Patricia Legrand (W21 alt); Debbie Lynn Hoste (W22); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Alison Pearce (Program Co-ordinator, FSL); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French)

**Recorder:** Amanda Tiberio

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
<b>Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.</li> <li>Roundtable introductions were made</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of Quorum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quorum was achieved and approved.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agenda was approved as written</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2012</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes were approved as written</li> </ul>	Amanda will post to website
<b>Co-Chair Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item was deferred - any issues to be covered in following agenda items.</li> </ul>	
<b>Draft FSL Policy Consultation</b>	<p>John Tancredi presented the FSL Policy Development process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSLAC co-chairs met with senior staff to discuss the potential development of an FSL policy in mid- April. FSL staff have produced a draft policy (please see attached) and are currently consulting with superintendents, principals, vice-principals, and the Supercouncil as part of the development process.</li> <li>During the presentations, FSL staff have emphasized the increasing enrolment into FSL programs and the money it generates for the TDSB. Please see the attached file for an overview of the agenda of each consultation.</li> <li>The public website was launched mid-May and an internal email was distributed throughout the system. A flyer was also posted in Deputy Directly Weekly.</li> <li>Public consultations will take place on June 4, 5 and 14. Please see attached flyer. Consultations will consist of the two guiding questions and discussion.</li> </ul> <p>Member discussion:</p> <p>Concern raised that the timeline for development and consultation has been too short. Trustees may not have been able to get the information out, and school councils are not engaged in the issue. Staff</p>	

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	<p>response: one goal of the project was to bring something to the Board in the fall, with an overall timeline of about 6 months. Delaying the consultation until the fall would push the process into February 2013. Some aspects of FSL procedures are in need of review and having the policy in place first with a clear statement from the Board will be very helpful in those discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern raised that the relationship between FSL and English programs is not in the draft policy. A suggestion was made to add a statement about that.</li> <li>• Members want to be satisfied that all council chairs had notification from TDSB.</li> <li>• A suggestion was made that the policy include a statement saying that the Board is committed to “providing quality French programs which develop student proficiency in French”</li> <li>• A suggestion was made to have one more meeting at the beginning of the next school year to share the feedback that has been received, and allow one more opportunity for the community to contribute. Suggestion was made that this take place at the FSLAC September meeting. .</li> <li>• A question was asked about how comments and feedback are consolidated and addressed. Staff response: John’s assistant is monitoring online feedback and taking consultation meeting notes.</li> <li>• At the June meeting, staff will share the feedback they have received to date.</li> </ul>	<p>Melanie undertook to confirm that council chairs have received notice about the draft policy consultations from the Parent and Community Involvement office.</p> <p>Sindy will follow-up on Sept FSLAC mtg idea with John.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">         FSL Policy Draft 2012     </div> <div style="text-align: center;">         FSL Programs Policy Development     </div>
<p><b>TDSB Budget</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no trustee present to speak on the issue. Staff stated that they have no FSL budget concerns at this time.</li> <li>• A suggestion was made that if something came to light regarding FSL, Sindy would send the information to all members and act on behalf of the committee.</li> <li>• A motion was passed that: if necessary, Sindy Preger can speak on behalf of the FSLAC on matters related to the 2012-2013 TDSB budget that may have an impact on FSL.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Planning for 2012-2013</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elections</b></li> <li>• <b>Membership</b></li> <li>• <b>Review of Operating Guidelines</b></li> <li>• <b>Dates for 2012/2013</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sindy Preger has stepped in as parent co-chair for the rest of the year. The committee needs a leadership team to improve flexibility, continuity, reduce demands on individuals and bring new ideas and opinions to the executive. Please let Sindy know if you are interested in taking on one of the positions for the 2012/2013 year. An election will be held at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.</li> <li>• FSLAC does not have representatives from wards 4, 5, 6, 15 and 20. The committee is looking for representatives from these wards for next year, and will email in these trustees in August.</li> <li>• Proposed operating guidelines attached. Revisions are needed made to accommodate changes in practice since the guidelines were adopted in 2008: addition of the vice-chair position and a community rep, managing the membership list and voting procedure. Members are asked to review and email feedback to FSLAC email account. The operating guidelines will be voted on at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Draft meeting schedule attached. Members would like to remove the January date to attend local immersion info nights and move the February date earlier in the month. Amanda will find a new date for the co-chairs’ approval. New schedule will be available at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Email Sindy Preger (<a href="mailto:spreger@rogers.com">spreger@rogers.com</a>) if you are interested in taking on a leadership role in 2012/2013.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">         2012 Proposed Operating Guidelines        Please review and email feedback to <a href="mailto:fsfactoronto@gmail.com">fsfactoronto@gmail.com</a>,     </div> <div style="text-align: center;">         2012-2013 Proposed Meeting Dates     </div>

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<p><b>PARC Reports</b></p>	<p><u>W1 - Dina Pizolinas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last public meeting will be on Thursday, May 31. Melody Village is proposed as a single-track immersion school. Another model will be put forward on Thursday This PARC has 13 meetings, with an open consultation process in the format of carousels. Many teachers have attended and given feedback/input but it is not that supportive of a single-track French immersion school.</li> <li>There were concerns in the community about: how they will have a FI school with so many students who have special needs even though dual-track schools are allocated special education staff for both streams; how it works with a single track school with children in the same family at different schools – Members noted that this would be the case in a dual-track school as well if it was not your home school for English.</li> </ul> <p><u>W16/17 - Cheryl Wilson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The third meeting of the GA Brown, Selwyn, Prestein Heights, O'Connor, Victoria Park PARC was Tuesday, May 29. The proposed changes will not impact the French programs of any of the schools. The only comment pertaining to French came from the O'Connor meeting, during which one parent suggested starting core French in grade 3 instead of grade 4.</li> <li>There continues to be concern about whether the students should attend a school from K-8, or K-5 and then transition to a junior high model before grade nine. Most PARC participants agree that the proposal to combine GA Brown and Selwyn would be a better use of space and resources. The O'Connor community appears to want to increase their numbers and may support moving to a K-8 school. The very engaged community at Victoria Park do not want their school closed. Comments at the public meetings indicate that the Victoria Park community will fight to keep their school as it is. Concerns include: potential closing of daycares, keeping the community walking to school and students with disabilities in the school.</li> <li>Middle schools are designed to accept more students and have more quality facilities that they want to keep (at GA Brown). Students from Prestein Heights (K-5) move on to GA Brown for 6-8. Right now, secondary schools wouldn't meet the demand of students flowing through Prestein Heights and GA Brown – the will need to expand programs to take pressure off of other schools.</li> </ul> <p><u>W16 - Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are planning a junior school closure, and they propose to move the program into the middle school which is on the same property, creating a K-8 dual-track school. Closing the school made some parents upset because they liked the feeling of a small school. They are trying not to change FI at Gledhill – there is some discussion about converting it to a K-8, but it is a large expense for something many parents don't want. No new proposals. Next meeting is May 31.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Ward Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ward 13 – Sharon Kerr</li> </ul> <p>A question was asked about where the students will be placed now that Leaside has the extended program and is running out of space. Staff response: pathways may change but probably not until 2015.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward 7 – Heather Jordan</li> </ul> <p>The FSLAC involvement in PARTs was very late in the process. Changes to boundaries and programs are being made without adequate discussion and community input. All schools are over capacity. There is a shortage of immersion spaces and students are being sent out of the ward. The community and the trustee are not working through the issues together. Parents could take this concern to the Chair of the Board.</p> <p>The PARTs have created ill feelings that are causing pushback against the French program. The procedure for siblings during the transition is different for FI and English in the same dual track school. English parents feel that the increase in French enrolment is pushing out the English students, and those English students that are left are perceived as the ones who cannot succeed in FI.</p> <p>Staff response: this will be better addressed when the FSL policy is in place.</p> <p>Member discussion: suggestion that a discussion take place around the idea that once enrolment for FI reaches a certain threshold, the school is changed to single-track FI. This has been used in another Ontario board and systematic, planned change may be more peaceful.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Enrolment Report</b></li> <li>• <b>FSL Support in the Classroom</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanie followed up on business from last meeting and has confirmed that in the future, FSLAC will be invited to have representation in PARTs.</li> <li>• A draft enrolment report was reviewed by members.</li> <li>• Full Day Kindergarten does not have a cap on class size – the average size is 26, but can reach up to 30 (or more) students. The difficulty is that a school that once had 3 classes of 20 students can now have 2 classes of 30 students up to SK, but in grade 1, those students must go back to being placed into 3 classes of 20 students again.</li> <li>• Principals are not allowed to accept FDK students in optional attendance unless there is already a sibling in the school.</li> <li>• The enrolment process continues until the last day of September for kindergarten – the draft report is a snapshot.</li> <li>• There was a suggestion to add some information to the final report: which schools held lotteries; the total number of applicants who did not register when offered and who was redirected to another school.</li> <li>• Item was not addressed due to time constraints.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No other business.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.</li> </ul>	

Next meeting: June 19, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m., 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A