



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

Date: Thursday, November 28th, 2013

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

PRESENT: Nicole Jonas (W1); Millicent Quist(W1, Alt); Wilmar Kortleever (W13, Alt); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Dina Pizolinas(W2); David Kim(W3); Kathryn Yung(Parent Co-Vice-Chair); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Rita Camacho-Lomeli(W16); Kristina Laperle(Parent Vice-Chair, W17); Debbie Lynn Hoste (W22)

TELECONFERENCE: Rosemary Sutherland (W9)

TDSB STAFF: Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL)

VISITORS: May Lee (W21); Pam Rigney (W21); Carol Chan (W12); Evans Chan (W12); Sharon B. (W12)

REGRETS: Pamela Gough (Trustee); Aziz Walji (W2); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Lauralyn Johnston (W8, Alt); Cheryl Wilson (W19); Cindy Kenyon (W14, Alt)

RECORDER: Linda Mendonca

| Item | Information/Discussion | Action/Recommendation |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions | Meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM | |
| 2. Approval of Quorum Membership Review | Quorum was achieved at 7:22 PM. Membership Changes: The following members resigned: Heather Jordan (W7), Barak Queija (W10-alt), Christopher May (W 11), Sindy Preger (W 11) The following alternates became members: Laura Steele-Gunter (W7) | Kristina is working to fill vacancies. |
| 3. Approval of Agenda | The agenda was approved by consensus with the following amendment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add: Canadian Parents for French(CPF) Conference to “Other Business Section” | |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from October 17/13 | ***MOTION: Debbie Lynn, seconded by Sharon moved to approve the October 17/13 minutes with the following amendments. All approved. Motion carried. | Recorder will post the minutes to the website. |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Correction to W9 report, where it states that “childcare is a concern”, add clarification that report was from Sophia Ruddock Parent from Rawlinson. ▪ John to provide Enrolment Report update at next meeting | John Tancredi to provide FDK Report at next meeting. |
| <p>5. Guest Speaker: Beth Butcher, Executive Superintendent for Teaching & Learning – “Strategic Planning for Future Growth”</p> | <p>“Strategic Planning for Future Growth” Presentation by Beth Butcher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beth provided a verbal report of the “Strategic Plan for Future Growth”, the TDSB’s proactive response to accommodating FSL programmes at Elementary and Secondary levels ▪ The process will have staff identifying pressure points and then bringing their findings to FSLAC for input from now until May 2014; goal is to have FSL programming that is equitably dispersed and responsive to accommodation pressures ▪ Final report will go to Programs and School Services Committee (PSSC) in May, and then on to Board in June ▪ Beth will take the following comments/questions back for consideration during the Strategic Planning process. <p>Questions/Comments from Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>What is a pressure point? (i.e. overflow in enrolment, not being able to meet needs in area, and enrolment and equity related to FSL access).</i> ▪ <i>When schools are capped, parents do not apply. How do you determine pressure points in those situations?</i> ▪ <i>How will information be communicated? A lot of parents in schools do not know that French is available. Some parents need translation/interpretation supports (i.e. Somali, Arabic speaking parents). Need to ensure that there is understanding about what’s going on, and tight deadlines for application and consultation process can be problematic..</i> ▪ <i>It was suggested to send out an FSL Calendar of dates, and meetings, and deadlines.</i> ▪ <i>How are we going to get more teachers for French programming?</i> ▪ <i>Will it look at retention rates?</i> ▪ <i>Some parents are told that they must have a French background to enrol their children in FSL programs or to have a tutor.</i> ▪ <i>Some parents with children in grade 1 & 2 feel stressed out – as progression in French can be slow. It would be helpful parents to have support when kids are struggling.</i> ▪ <i>Can Twin-programming or ‘double majors’ be provided (i.e. Sports, Arts, Robotics with French Immersion programming)? Why are there no ‘specialty’ ie, single track schools for French at the secondary level?</i> ▪ <i>A number of high schools are capped; with no acceptance of other students in certain schools (i.e. Harbord Collegiate), where there is no room.</i> | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Will Strategic Planning look at course selection at secondary level and will it be equitable?</i> ▪ <i>Course selection in subjects taught in French is very limited after Grade 10 in certain schools (i.e. Leaside), and French courses (i.e. in Math, Science, etc.) are not available. Will that be taken into consideration?</i> ▪ <i>French needs to follow students where they want to go.</i> <p>OTHER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns were raised over how long-term occasional instructors are selected. Focus needs to be on best teacher for the job, not seniority. This is especially true where FSL is concerned. ▪ How is information communicated to the parents about the various French Programs and support available? | <p>FSLAC to write to the Ministry about concerns on Reg 274-hiring of occasional teachers.</p> <p>Kirsten to have further conversation off-line to come up with next steps for improved communication on immersion and enrolling.</p> |
| <p>6. Co-Chair & Special Reports (Kristina Laperle)</p> | <p>Member Briefing Book</p> <p>Members were provided with a copy of the Member Briefing Book which was updated from last year. It includes information on Roles and Responsibilities of FSLAC members; FSLAC Membership & Chair & Co-Chair information; Ward maps; and Trustee information. Members were also sent documents through Google Drive.</p> <p>Website Update</p> <p>The FSLAC website was missing reports. The overall TDSB protocol is keep information current, within two years. Some FSL reports have a much longer shelf life and have been put back. The layout is better than before in terms of finding things. FSLAC Documents are approved and posted through the Teaching and Learning office to IT. FSLAC information can be found at www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac with link to FSL supports (i.e. CPF, dictionaries, academic supports, FSL Homework Toolbox) and FSLAC materials. The FSL program pages can be found at www.tdsb.on.ca/french and you can link to the FSLAC page from there also.</p> <p>E-mail Addresses</p> <p>TDSB created parent council e-mail addresses. Principals have to activate the accounts to have the</p> | <p>Members to let Co-Chairs know if they have any suggestions for any additional information to be added to the briefing book and/or FSLAC webpage.</p> <p>Kristina/Kathryn/Linda to follow-up on school council e-mail implementation.</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>name of the School Council Chair associated with the address.</p> <p>FSLAC Executive Update – Vacant Position</p> <p>FSLAC is currently looking for assistance for the Executive as Jennifer Story stepped down.</p> <p>Jennifer was working on newsletter. Wilmar has stepped in to assist in the mean time</p> <p>Greenholme Update</p> <p>It was a pleasure to go to Greenholme Junior Middle School (in Ward 1) to see Nicole and Millicent’s leadership in the community. They created a flyer to do outreach in the community and provide information regarding FSL.</p> <p>Melody Village PS Meeting and Update</p> <p>Melody Village has been in the Ward 1 PARC (pupil accommodation review committee) and there were about 13 meetings. One of the PARC recommendations is to start early French Immersion at Melody Village and to gradually convert the school to a FI Centre. Some community members attended and shared concerns at an information night at Melody Village on the recommendation. The PARC recommendations will be reviewed at one more public meeting in January and then it will go the Board for a decision.</p> <p>CAC Review</p> <p>The Community Advisory Committees are still under review. Staff are looking into aligning and maximizing efficient supports for all CAC’s (i.e. overlapping memberships, etc.)</p> <p>FSLAC Response to “Great to Excellent” Survey</p> <p>The official notes from the FSLAC response to the Great to Excellent survey is ready to go to the Ministry of Education tomorrow. It will be posted in .pdf format on the FSLAC webpage.</p> | |
| <p>7. Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ward 1 PARC Update ▪ Update on Ministry Projects ▪ Update on | <p>Ward 1 PARC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A special thanks to those who were in attendance ▪ Looking forward to Melody Village opening SKFI in Sept 2014 to better serve North Etobicoke | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Professional Learning</p> | <p>Update on Ministry Projects</p> <p><i>Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)</i></p> <p>Three regional meetings with teachers from 8 Boards are planned for January, May, and April to further build awareness of CEFR and to link with new FSL curriculum and deepen understanding. TDSB is a lead board for this phase of implementation.</p> <p><i>Proficiency Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry and CSC (Curriculum Series Canada) working with TDSB and other boards ▪ Survey student confidence and correlate it to DELF level ▪ TDSB will have students and teachers (correcteurs) participating. Number of TDSB correcteurs to increase from 7 to 33 ▪ Going into 12 secondary schools to present the DELF to the grade 12 students ▪ All these students will be invited to participate from every FSL programs ▪ It is voluntary and students have to identify the level they will challenge and so a fulsome explanation of the levels is necessary ▪ Project Schools Include: AY Jackson; Norman Bethune; Cedarbrae; CW Jeffries; Harbord; Jarvis; L'amoureux; Lawrence Park; Leaside; North Toronto ; Richview; Riverdale <p>Update on Professional Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently in phase 3 of 3 ▪ 185 new teachers – very few of those are LTO`s ▪ Creating a professional learning network around Special Education within FSL, using the 2012 Canadian Parents for French report on 'Including Academically Challenged Students in FSL' as a starting point for discussion. ▪ Working with 30 FI in FDK schools on engaging and inquiry based learning in an SKFI class | |
| <p>8. Ward Reports</p> | <p><u>Ward 1:</u> Reported earlier in the meeting (See Greenholme Update, Melody Village Update, and Ward 1 PARC).</p> <p><u>Ward 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Millwood parents expressed concerns regarding transportation distance to Hilltop Middle School at the October ward meeting attended by the Superintendent and Trustee. Millwood parents advised by trustee to take concerns to Planning and Priorities committee of the Board. At P & P, parents were advised to consult with FSLAC, and to go to PSSC, if necessary. Dina and Mary have offered to meet with Millwood parents and have followed up with Aziz Walzi the FSLAC rep ▪ Islington Junior M.S. is being considered by staff as a possible FSL program site in response to growing demand. <p><u>Ward 8</u></p> | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sept 2014 FDK will begin in French Immersion and accommodation continues to be a community concern <p><u>Ward 9</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regal Road P.S. is supposed to begin FDK in September 2014 and needs 2 more rooms to accommodate needs ▪ No response received from TDSB permits office regarding day care in the school, provided by third party. Why can't this space be used? Members noted that every school seems to have a different set of complicated policies and agreements with day care providers. <p><u>Ward 10:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interested in twinning Secondary Program – FI + other programs of interest, not necessarily arts in French but offering both special arts & FI <p><u>Ward 13:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaside Pathway – next year will be running beyond capacity, then what? <p><u>Ward 17</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building two new classrooms to support FI and FDK ▪ Ward meeting held last week. Contentious issue – Board may be selling off part of the field at Don Mills <p><u>Ward 21</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaside has a Parent Leaders Training Program which Trustee Chen is hosting. The info is posted on his website ▪ Concern raised about the Brooks Road building being closed & North A. FDK start ▪ 6 schools went back to Redway <p><u>Ward 22</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early Years Centre, run by province receiving inquiries for FSL ▪ Meeting will be held with Early Years programs in the area | <p>Discuss with John re: Leaside Pathways have no room.</p> <p>Kirsten will provide update at next meeting on Brooks Rd and North Agincourt and Redway.</p> |
| 9. Other Business | Postponed | |
| 10. Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM | |