



# Community Advisory Committees

**Name of Committee:** French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** 9 February 2021

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm via virtual Zoom meeting, with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

<b>Attendance:</b>	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W5/W6 Alt), Matt Forrest (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Crystal Stewart (W6), Mandy Moore (W7), Geordie Sabbagh (W8 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Hans Bathija (W10 Alt), Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), Gail Miller (W22) Also present were: Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee Co-Chair W11), Trustee Robin Pilkey (W7), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt), Curtis Ennis (Interim Associate Director), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Linda Edwards (Centrally Assigned Principal, Virtual French Programs), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator)
<b>Guests:</b>	Trustee Sriskandarajah (W22), Shalone Hendrickson, Lorna, Sabrina, Brenda Lee, Lauren Chang McLean, Zachary, Faith
<b>Regrets:</b>	Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W2), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt)
<b>Recorder:</b>	Linda Stockdale

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION / ACTION
<b>Call to Order / Quorum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land acknowledgment – Lynne Leblanc</li> <li>• Introduction of Participants. Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes only and to be deleted afterward.</li> <li>• Quorum achieved 7:13pm</li> </ul>	
<b>Membership Changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystal Stewart (W6) is a new member</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add French Review Update (10. below) Moved by Doug, seconded by Randy. Carried.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of Jan 12, 2021 Minutes</b>	<p>Edits: Add Membership request to contact FI no-shows from JK registration in Feb 2020, when contact information available; Add Early and middle immersion promotional/ad campaigns conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Randy as edited, seconded by Wilmar. Carried.</li> </ul>	Linda will post minutes on <a href="https://tdsb.on.ca/fslac">tdsb.on.ca/fslac</a>
<b>Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilmar Kortleever is a W11 parent and FSLAC alternate and is also employed by the TDSB as a Shared Services Liaison, a casual position in which he supports the Board and Trustees, e.g., by helping organize and taking minutes at public meetings.</li> <li>• Randy Samuel is a supply for a Lunchroom Supervisor at the Board.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>6. Staff Update:</b> <b>Angela</b></p>	<p><b><u>SK FI registration numbers</u></b></p> <p>Staff shared an excel spreadsheet showing applications for Sept 2021 and from previous years by ward and school.</p> <p>Early FI applicant numbers are lower by 29% and 18% compared to those for 2020-21 and 2019-20 respectively. The applicant pool for SK FI 2021-2022 is 2865 + 194 (late applicants). Regarding the lower number of applicants, there are several mitigating factors to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approx. 2338 difference in enrolment for beginner students from 2019 and 2020</li> <li>• 2019-20 JK cohort (applicant pool) larger (17,049) than this year (14,746) – Trillium Monthly Enrolment Report.</li> <li>• 2126 under projection for JK/SK enrolment suggests students have chosen to stay home/home schooling or other because of pandemic/virtual school concerns, etc.</li> <li>• 2020-21 SKFI registration period was open for 5 weeks vs 4 weeks (the norm), extra week provided due to timing of transportation decision.</li> </ul> <p>On-time applicants are currently being placed. Space permitting, late applicants will be offered placement.</p> <p>Defined entry points limit the options for students to rejoin FSL programs. French and English registrations are tied to funding. Staff will continue to be flexible – sending offer of placement for late applicants, where space permits, and keeping PARS registration open for as long as possible – Feb 26th. Staffing timelines and requirements are established in March. Staff are working with the Trustees to get the message out that late applicants are welcome. FSLAC are welcome to share message as well. Staff will reach out to FI families - if we have the communication channels available (the student registered with us). There are cases/school communities where the students don't register in advance, rather register at the start of the school year.</p> <p>Members expressed concern about the decrease in registration numbers; how to reach students not in the system which will also be a challenge when JK becomes the entry point.</p>	
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Members expressed appreciation for the spreadsheet, asked for a copy after the meeting and would appreciate info on a map as suggested by Trustee Sriskandarajah; suggested promo banners at FI schools as done in the past.

Trustee McLean is concerned that lower enrolment numbers will require us to surplus qualified French teachers that will be picked up by other Boards. How can we retain our French teachers, given that students can return in September?  
Staff to deliberate this further. Assoc. Director Ennis added that they will think outside of the box and be creative about keeping French teachers.

A guest parent shared that parents want FI to be all French with no English spoken by teachers) for the program to be truly FI and encourage registrations.

<p><b>7. Staff Update:</b> <b>Angela</b></p>	<p><b><u>SK Waiting Lists Sept 2020</u></b></p> <p>The SK FI 2020 Wait List expired in December 2020. However, given the impact of the return to French survey and consideration for exceptional circumstances due to the pandemic, the Wait List will remain active until Sept 30, 2021. The local Principal will offer placements to students from this list, space permitting, after realignment in September.</p> <p>The waitlist students will be able to start FI in GR1, without having attended FI SK, (pandemic right of return), if the student left by January 2021, or did not start, but had registered. Staff acknowledge that there will be varied learning experiences, given that many students may have experienced disruption to the learning environment this year e.g., virtual vs bricks/mortar and FI staffing challenges.</p> <p>In preparation for September 2021, staff will focus on PD for teachers to address student learning gaps, student learning needs, and what we need to do to support all learners including racialized students and students with special education needs. Staff are collecting data, comparing signs/indicators regarding virtual/bricks and mortar for English and French to identify pandemic needs.</p>	
<p><b>8. Staff Update:</b> <b>Angela</b></p>	<p><b><u>Middle FI Registration Update</u></b></p> <p>Registration closed Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, with 999 on-time applicants. PARs online portal remains open until the end of Feb. for Middle FI. Late applicants will receive an offer of placement, space permitting, after all on-time applicants are accommodated. All 40 sites have generated at least one class! For comparison, Junior Extended French had 1672 on-time applicants last year. This is the first cohort where Ext. Fr. Grade 4 is no longer offered. This is a new program, given layered considerations due to the pandemic and travel requirement, a slower start is not surprising – may take a year or two to build it up, and generate expected numbers. This MFI program provides another entry point for families electing not to enroll for SK FI.</p> <p>Membership celebrated news that all MFI sites will run; expressed concern that numbers of applicants are considerably lower than the last class of Ext. Fr. Grade 4 and noted that these Grade 3 students will not have the Ext. Fr. Grade 7 program either.</p>	

<b>9. Staff Update:</b> <b>Linda Edwards</b>	<u><b>Sept-21 Right of Return Action Plan</b></u> Students who were registered in or left FI/FE programs until January 2021, will be sent a survey to find out their intent to return to French program, so that they can be re-registered at their original school of placement for Sept 2021. The survey will go out after VS-Bricks/Mortar switching takes place. The survey will be sent to those that left French programming for English (794) and those that left French and the TDSB (786). These students may return to the original school where they were offered placement and will receive communication from the school once they complete the survey if they choose to come back to re-register for Sept 2021.	
<b>10. Staff Update:</b>	<u><b>French Review</b></u> The virtual consultation process (for use in any consultation, not specifically for French) is before the Trustees for approval. Staff is meeting with the Planning Dept. with regards to topics: distribution of programs and JK entry.	
<b>11. Ward/CPF Reports</b>	<b>W2</b> – emailed School Councils to remind them of FSLAC, should they require assistance. <b>W11</b> – Thorncliffe French Academy launched on Jan. 16, providing student FSL support for one hour each Saturday in conjunction with the YMCA Friendship program. <b>CPF</b> – Consider joining CPF. Membership is free due to pandemic. Provides access to online programs, including teacher candidate led programs for FSL students; French classes for adults; and supports advocacy work to strengthen FSL programs.	
<b>11. Parent Co-Chair Update</b>	Lynn presenting at PSSC on Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> . Requested that SKFI application spreadsheet with registration numbers by ward and school shared by staff at the beginning of the meeting be distributed to members electronically after the meeting. Curtis reminded the group that we need to be mindful of staff workload at this time re: one-off report requests.	
<b>Other Business</b>	nil	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Moved by Charles, seconded by Randy. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 7pm, Virtual Meeting	