



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 11 June 2019

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee convened from 7:05 pm to 9:16 pm in Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge Street, with Mandy Moore presiding.

Attendance: Mandy Moore (Parent Co-Chair W7), Sharon Beason (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16), Christie Dunbar (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9/10 Alt), Matt Forrest (W9), Charles Zhu (W11), Wilmar Kortleeve (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), Gail Miller (W22)

Also present were: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French)

The following participated by electronic means: Randy Samuel (W14)

Regrets: Trustee Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Beth Butcher (Executive Superintendent), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL), Zeynab Kazi (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W22), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Rob Janes (W2 Alt), Nalini Singh (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5), Laura Steele Gunter (W7 Alt), Lynne LeBlanc (W8), Nadya Phelan (W8 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Elaine Sun (W11 Alt), Sarah Ramkissoon (W12), Nancy White (W16 Alt)

Recorder: Kathy Wenger

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION / ACTION
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum achieved 7:05 pm • Land acknowledgment – Mandy Moore 	
Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved to approve by Sarah, seconded by Charles. Carried. 	
Approval of 14 May 2019 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved to approve by seconded by Christie, seconded by Sharon. Carried. 	Kathy will post minutes on tdsb.on.ca/fslac
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conflicts of interest to declare. 	
AGM: Approval of 2018-19 Annual Report, Election of 2019- 20 Executive	<p>2018-19 FSLAC Annual Report:</p> <p>FSLAC voluntarily started to provide an annual report to Board to summarize its work in 2008. Now this is a requirement. Will go to next PSSC September 12. Important reference for Trustees, particularly new ones. Includes what the committee did this year and also summarizes recommendations to PSSC (Feb 2019 and April 2019) in response to the full report of the French Review.</p> <p>Motion to approve 2018-19 FSLAC Annual Report. Moved by Sarah, seconded by Mandy. Carried.</p>	

	<p>Election of 2019-20 Executive:</p> <p>Sharon Beason and Rosemary Sutherland chaired this part of the agenda as Mandy is running for re-election as Parent Co-Chair. Elections for 2019-20 took place. Results as follows:</p> <p>Parent Co-Chair: Mandy Moore; Parent Vice-Co-Chairs: Matt Forrest, Zeynab Kazi, Charles Zhu</p> <p>Motion to approve 2019-20 Parent co-chair and vice-co-chairs. Moved by Sarah, seconded by Christie. Carried.</p> <p>Mandy resumed chairing.</p> <p>In odd years, the FSLAC renews membership, including appointing our non-voting community member, Canadian Parents for French at the AGM of the FSLAC.</p> <p>Motion to re-appoint Canadian Parents for French representative Mary Cruden with Rosemary Sutherland and Sharon Beason as alternates. Moved by Sarah, seconded by Charles. Carried.</p>	
<p>Budget and French Review Recommendations</p>	<p>Update on 2019-20 Proposed Budget:</p> <p>Trustees considering proposals for cuts at Committee of Whole meeting which started at 4:30. Staff analyzed and came back with three to keep: International Languages on weekends, French transportation SK-8, Outdoor Ed.</p> <p>Sept 2019 removing TTC tickets for grade 9-12. Recognition of equity issue so families in need can apply for tickets.</p> <p>Sept 2020: TDSB will be adjusting school bell times system wide, so buses can make</p>	

	<p>multiple runs and further cut costs and will also make teacher cuts of \$12.15 M</p> <p>Further changes are possible as meeting is going on. Final vote on 2019-20 budget is June 19.</p> <p>Discussion of 2019-20 Proposed Budget:</p> <p>TTC tickets – thousands of families still do not know about this cut. Much wider issue. More needs to be communicated. A lot of parents will find out on the day they expect to get their tickets.</p> <p>Possible some students get driven and pocket the tickets but a significant number of families cannot afford the tickets, especially if family has 2 or more kids. Can still request tickets but what about stigma?</p> <p>How do we communicate this? Many school councils have already had their final meetings. Consensus that if cut to TTC is decided, that Mandy email Kathy Witherow, cc Manon, Beth re our concern how this is going to be communicated and request to know when and how communication will go out and how parents in need can continue to access TTC tickets.</p> <p>Equity fund is approx. \$500,000. We do not know much about this. Seems to be for individual students, not for schools. May be for TTC and also for IB fees which are being imposed.</p> <p>Approximately 66% in FI or Ext families have an income of \$100,000 or more. What about the 34% below that where TTC will be is a big hit on the monthly family budget?</p> <p>This could affect enrolment in French. FI/Ext students may drop out of program or even TDSB. Board will lose FSL revenue and even Pupil Foundation Grant.</p>	<p>Action: Mandy to email Kathy Witherow about parent communication of TTC ticket cut if cut passes at Board.</p> <p>Action for Sept FSLAC meeting: Consider recommendation to PSSC to check impact of TTC cut on FI/Ext secondary enrolment.</p>
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	<p>Suggestion for FSLAC recommendation to PSSC in early September that staff report in fall to determine if FI/Ext secondary enrolment has declined because of budget cuts? What is the fallout?</p> <p>Suggestion to lobby TTC for free tickets up to and including grade 8 students rather than just for grade 6 and younger.</p> <p>Current proposals sound better for bussing but not great. Every student in an intensive French program brings in extra money for TDSB. Would like a breakdown on how this money is being spent. If not all the \$30M is being spent on French, budget cuts will lead to enrolment decline and less money to TDSB. How much does it cost the TDSB when students drop out of intensive French programs?</p> <p>Trustee MacLean asked at FBEC meeting where the \$30M FSL allocation is spent. Doesn't seem to have been answered. In the past CPF wrote to all 60 English school boards in Ontario asking same question. Directors either did not respond or said they would not track French expenditures until the Ministry of Education required it. Only money that is sweated is the Special Ed money. All other monies go into the pot except Official Languages (FSL) special project money.</p> <p>FSLAC asked for info and expenditures on the FSL allocation at the May meeting and Manon said she would give us this information. Mandy/Matt to follow up.</p> <p>How many kids have been sent to an FI/Ext school where bussing is required even though there is a closer school with same program? After grade 2 we have a bit of room everywhere. Returning to your designated FI/Ext school is not really allowed. Need to keep kids in the French programs at all locations.</p>	<p>Action: Mandy/Matt to follow up with Manon on expenditure of \$30M FSL allocation.</p>
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Update French Review Recommendations:

Staff recommendations were posted the evening of Friday, June 7 with the agenda of the Wed June 12 Committee of the Whole meeting:

1. Restructure the Board’s Intensive FSL Programs leading to a single intensive French Immersion (FI) Program model with two entry points, and elimination of all other entry points;
2. Establish a minimum intake and a maximum cap at the entry points to ensure program viability and account for attrition rates;
3. Develop a Core French Action Plan;
4. Ensure Inclusive Practices in all FSL Programs;
5. Strengthen the current Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of FSL Teachers.

Recommendation also includes a redistribution plan, transportation plan, Core French plan and rewrite of PR597 which would come back to Board for information only, not decision.

Only opportunity to delegate is tomorrow. Can submit a written delegation tomorrow morning that will go to all Trustees. Mandy and Matt are registered to speak. CPF Ontario also delegating. Final decision is expected June 19.

Questions were sent to Manon prior to this FSLAC meeting. No staff available to come tonight. Staff will present and answer Trustee questions at the Committee of the Whole meeting tomorrow. No opportunity for questions from FSLAC or public.

As presented in staff report, once Trustees pass recommendations tomorrow and again

on June 19th, it is completely out of the Trustees' control.

Discussion of French Review Recommendations:

Recommendations 3, 4, 5 are ok, aligned with FSLAC recommendations in April.

Recommendations 1 and 2 lack really important details. What about equity of access and inclusion? What about growing the French programs? There is not enough information in report for Trustees to make an informed decision.

Not right to make huge changes without bringing back to parents and communities. Should defer 1 and 2 until October and staff come back with a developed plan and Trustees set direction.

Maybe formally request they postpone the vote. There is no rush to do this.

Minimum and caps – if classes don't reach the minimum will the program still go ahead? Is this a one-year thing or over 2 or 3? If reach the max, will a new site open? What about immersion schools with no feeders? Will applicants be redirected as they are now? At least now, redirects get a bus to next closest site.

Not enough information. There are a lot of unanswered questions.

We have a presentation tomorrow before we have had a chance to hear staff talk about their recommendations. Will be up to Trustees to determine if their questions have been adequately answered.

PR597 rewrite is huge for parents. What happens if there is no sibling rule anymore? No guaranteed spot? No transportation at all? Important commitments.

Since amalgamation, and since 2009 in practice (when PR 597 was adopted), TDSB has had a spot for all. We have had 30 new sites since 2009 because of PR 597. PR 597 came

from Trustee, staff and FSLAC collaboration.

Redistribution plan: no information at all about what this really means.

Huge changes on a short timeline. Review takes 2 years plus and recommendations get 5 days to consider in the middle of budget season?

Don't have time to take back to our communities. Outcome will be very shocking to a lot of people. Grade 3 students who didn't apply for grade 4 extended in Sept 2019 will be out of luck as grade 7 entry won't be there when they get to grade 7.

Mention of teacher shortage. Is there any mention of how many teachers we are short? Is this already solved by the class size increases? If not increasing Immersion, is there still a shortage?

Seem to be relying a lot on some responses to consultation surveys but not all from full report

<https://tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/TDSB%20French%20Programs%20Review%20Mar082019.pdf>:

P. 49 - 47% of Core French parents said if there was a more intensive program at their home school they would have registered their child there. Idea that parents want more and better French at their local school, is same in every board in Ontario. 25% of students not in FI/Ext wish they were. If coming out with less, we are not meeting the expectations of the French Review.

P. 8 and P. 53 – Parents do not suggest eliminating entry points. Parents pick the one that suits them and don't know much about others.

Proposing entry at JK. When will they need to register? SKFI applications are in Nov-Dec, JK-SK English register in February? Will it go back to local registration, ie, not on-line,

	<p>due central FSL staff reductions? How will this be operationalized? Will every parents be offered a choice of English or French JK? As soon as Trustees vote on the entry point as JK, there will be parents asking how they can register. Is staff ready?</p> <p>Suggestions to include in FSLAC delegation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment declines will mean less funding • Limited, less attractive programs could mean declining enrolment • Recommendations 3,4,5 in line with our recommendations, Recommendations 1 & 2 are not. • Timing issue. Just came out Friday. Will upset a lot of parents. • Minimum and maximum class sizes – what is the impact- lost sites? • Redistributing existing programs to different schools is problematic, what about efforts made by parents, students and staff to get them and build them over many years? • Not enough detail to move forward on the recommendations. • Positive consultation – spent 2 years on it, don't rush this through now. • No intention stated to continue to expand FI. • Stress that a lot in the review is what we have advocated for years. • Current plan for recruitment and retention of teachers will be strengthened? Sounds very similar to what is done now. • Investments need to be made. Have \$30M every year to spend on FI. What is the \$30M being spent on? • Operational details are key for how this works for families. Where is the commitment to what parents value in current offerings and procedures? 	
<p>Ward/CPF Reports</p>	<p>Randy (W14): Grade 4 boys won city finals for relay which Randy has been coaching.</p> <p>Christie (W16): Main and Gerrard children's French bookstore is looking for a co-tenant.</p>	

	Christie to send information to group.	
Other Business	<p>June 2019 Newsletter: Under normal circumstances, the 3rd newsletter of the school year is out by now. Consensus to try to do it, if volunteer time permits, after the Board meeting June 19 to include update on budget and French Review.</p> <p>Year-End FSLAC Reflection: CACs required to do a year-end reflection. Members/alts sent google survey link and paper copies made available at the meeting. Survey results will be shared at the Sept FSLAC meeting and then with the Board via Sept report to PSSC.</p> <p>Proposed meeting dates for 2019-20: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 Tuesday, October 15, 2019 Tuesday, November 12, 2019 Tuesday, January 14, 2020 Tuesday, February 11, 2020 Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Tuesday, April 14, 2020 Tuesday, May 12, 2020 Tuesday, June 9, 2020 (*Note-Aug 2019-this meeting is now Monday, June 8, 2020)</p>	Dates have been booked in Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge Street.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm. Moved by Sarah, Christie. Carried.	
Next Meeting	Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 pm in Committee Room A.	