



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 14 May 2019

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee convened from 7:05 pm to 9:30 pm in Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge Street, with Christie Dunbar presiding.

Attendance: Sharon Beason (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16), Christie Dunbar (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9/10 Alt), Zeynab Kazi (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W22), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Rob Janes (W2 Alt), Lynne LeBlanc (W8), Nadya Phelan (W8 Alt), Matt Forrest (W9), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Charles Zhu (W11), Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Elaine Sun (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), Gail Miller (W22)

Also present were: Trustee Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin, Trustee Dan MacLean, Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Manon Gardner (Associate Director of Education), Julian Heller (W8), Anita Vloet (W5 Rockford PS)

The following participated by electronic means: Lynne LeBlanc (W8), Nadya Phelan (W8 Alt)

Regrets: Mandy Moore (Parent Co-Chair W7), Beth Butcher (Executive Superintendent), Trustee Michelle Aarts, Nalini Singh (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5), Laura Steele Gunter (W7), Matt Forest (W9), 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 7:04 pm ● Land acknowledgment – Robin Pilkey 	
Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● nil 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moved to approve by Sarah and Wilmar. Carried. 	
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moved to approve by Charles seconded by Rosemary. 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. 	
Budget Update – Transportation, Secondary Credits	<p>Manon Gardner:</p> <p>TDSB has a budget of \$3.4 B. There is a \$25.7M structural deficit and Ministry is cutting grants of \$42.1M. Savings proposed by staff are \$67.8M to balance the budget as required by law.</p> <p>Usually go through budget process 2-3 months earlier than now. Need to produce a balanced budget by June 30. Number of challenges this year – lack of detailed information available from Ministry of Education in a timely way. From January to spring, there were a number of phone calls with Deputy Minister and staff. Technical Paper with funding details is usually sent within 2-3 days of when budget is announced. Received part</p>	

of it last Friday May 10 indicating an additional \$13M reduction is needed. Believe we have the full information now. Shortfall and potential reductions. Cuts needed to create balanced budget proposed to Trustees yesterday, Monday May 13. Information to Trustees at the Committee of the Whole at 4:30 pm tomorrow Wednesday May 15 followed by another Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) meeting. We will have three nights of delegations May 15, May 27, and June 3, leading to June 19 Board meeting to approve 2019/20 budget. What you have seen is not final. Trustees may revise. Based on budget drivers approved by Trustees, tried not to impact students. Not easy decisions.

Manon reviewed all proposed cuts from Appendix G as of May 13, 2019 including cuts to Learning Centre coaches, outdoor education, international languages, IB programs, school budgets, psychology staff, Social Workers, Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, Child and Youth Workers and Child and Youth Counsellors, IT services, Itinerant Music Instructors, caretaking, .

<https://tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/Budget/APPENDIX%20G.PDF>

NB: Appendix G link shows version revised on May 15, changes from May 13 are tracked and are a one year delay (to Sept 2020) in cutting FI/Ext yellow bus service.

PROPOSED CHANGES SPECIFIC TO FSL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Centrally Assigned Principals: 55 reduced to 42. Savings: \$2.13M

Cut to central FSL staff: 4 reduced to 3

Supplementary teachers in French and gifted. Do not necessarily staff to the Ministry caps all the time. In many instances may have a class of 15, when you count additional teachers the expense is \$12.15M. Looking to eliminate this over two years, meaning all FI/Ext classes would be at full capacity.

Need to reduce overall expenditures by \$47M to balance 2019/20 budget. Ministry allowing us to carry about \$20 M of the cuts into Year 2 (2020/21). Staff recommended cuts to make but Trustees can bring forward alternative proposals.

Transportation Services – about 20,000 students, FI, Extended, Gifted and Special Needs. Current cost is \$64.4M. Board funded \$53.6M.

Eliminating – SK to grade 5 immersion and extended bussing for students attending a program not at their English home school. Grade 6 receives no bussing or TTC (it is free). Eliminating - Grade 7-12 TTC tickets to FI/Ext.

French currently has 6,372 FI and Ext students receiving transportation - . 4,828 elementary students at \$1,771 per student total \$8.5M; secondary 1,544 provided TTC tickets - total \$1.1M. Total savings: \$9.6M

Gifted 1,577 students at \$1,844 per student – total \$2.9M. 912 elementary are bussed - \$2.4M. Secondary 665 receive TTC tickets \$0.5M. Total savings: \$9.02M Equity commitment – to students who are challenged.

What could this look like if it were to pass the way it is for September 2019 re transportation. Trustees will not be asked to vote on this until June 19. Then June 20 anybody who is bussed will be asked if they are going to drive their children or go to their local school. Local school might be full.

	<p>Many ramifications if passed as is.</p> <p>Will be provided with few alternatives, would include central staff – coordinators, coaches. Trying not to touch Special Education. Very few places to go which is unfortunate. Will be some other things brought forward tomorrow, May 15.</p> <p>It is worth noting that the FI bussing component was not added until we received the \$13M surprise additional reduction last Friday, May 10.</p> <p>Q: Would IB cutbacks and new fees be for next year?</p> <p>A: Yes, for September 2019.</p> <p>Q: Why was it decided gifted students in grades 4,5,6 be bussed?</p> <p>A: By law we are mandated to offer a gifted program. Obligations for transportation. Do not know if this can be changed.</p> <p>Q: Busses are not a French bus or gifted bus, how do you know these costs are exact?</p> <p>A: Bussing is quite complex. Mixed – special needs, gifted, French on same bus.</p> <p>Q: Some confusion which kids will be bussed and which will not.</p> <p>A: No more bussing for FI/Ext if not to your home school English. If being bussed elsewhere for FI/Ext, you will no longer get bussing.</p> <p>Q: 46% of students at Davisville are in French Immersion, legacy children</p>	
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part of a larger catchment, will this be honoured?

A: Everybody getting bussed right now while new school is being built. Bussing for Davisville is continuing due through to completion of new school. Total of 550 students.

Q: Will you use triple grade splits when teaching positions are cut in Yr 2?

A: Doubt it, but could happen. This has not been discussed. Typically, do not combine SK/1 in FI. Have combined Grade 1/ 2, but not triple. Some alternative schools are triple by choice.

Primary cap at 20, JK/SK 32 for program needs, grade 3/ 4 can go to 23, grades 4-8 now 24-28 and higher. Secondary is challenging, average is moving to 28 as directed by Ministry of Education.

Q: Are those numbers for French?

A: Only JK/SK at 32 is different – French.

Q: What is the explanation for the \$13M in unexpected cuts?

A: We would receive less money for teachers – salary range not taken into consideration. New teachers make less. We are still in a bit of a declining enrolment. Discussed briefly yesterday – this type of shortfall has happened in the past. In 2012, \$110M cut.

Q: Do appreciate clarity of budget proposals as put forward this year. Makes process more transparent. Did not have in previous years. Lot of appreciation for staff. Hundreds of staff being declared surplus. In background documents reference secondary review, consolidations, high

schools, closing sites, didn't see those budget cuts on the list, is this for later?

It is unconscionable to announce bussing cuts in May, final decisions on June 19 for implementation in September. People make decisions and register for programs based on provision of transportation.

Is there any estimate around how many expected to switch their children's program to English or will leave TDSB altogether?

A: 4,800 students are bussed, 1,500 TTC tickets. Re secondary review – 10 years from now will have 76,000 kids, have about 81,000 now. Have 110 secondary schools including alternative. Some low in enrolment, some quite large. Manon is working with planning to share a plan for secondary schools, program offerings. Some schools have created a specialized program to increase enrolment. Secondary review will look at a number of things, class size average at secondary, a number of schools cannot offer the courses they want in order to meet class size average. Asked all secondary school principals to give us a list of courses by Friday, May 17th that they can no longer offer because of the Ministry change to class size average. Number of our students from grades 9-12 will have fewer choices.

Q: Will this be on the budget page?

A: We will figure that out this week.

We only have three specialized schools – Etobicoke School of the Arts, Ursula Franklin Academy and Rosedale Heights School of the Arts. Other schools are local catchment schools plus specialized programs. We are

doing a review of optional attendance policy PO13.

We haven't looked at the optional policy since 1998, at amalgamation. Was revised a couple of times, but not in a significant way. Declining enrolment has created schools creating something special in their school to keep enrolment. In terms of consolidation there are 10-15 schools that could be closed tomorrow due to enrolment. Secondary schools should be between 1,000 and 1,200 students ideally, as with that enrolment, more programs can be offered. Not many credits can be offered in a school of 300 students. Ministry still has a moratorium on closing schools. Quite a bit of talk about lifting that moratorium. Could be \$10-15M in savings. PARCs take a year and a half. Can have an abridged process, one public meeting, but still takes a year from when you start. Could lose students to private schools.

Q: With bussing, Broadland has eight busses. Tomorrow is orientation for incoming SK students in Sept. What should be said to parents?

A: There is information on public website that may assist with language. Those are proposed changes. Decision has not been made.

Q: You talked about IB earlier, what about Elite athlete, AP, TOPs. Are these in jeopardy too?

A: No we did not talk about these as they are delivered by regular teachers. For secondary, the IB full time coordinator going to 0.5. Allocation for elite athlete coordinator would be gone; programs can continue.

Q: Who will cover IB exam costs?

A: Students covering for IB diploma program \$1,200. No change to the AP.

Q: Cuts to psychologists, occupational therapists, those who do IEPs?

A: Teachers do IEPs. Cuts, psychologists, occupational therapists, etc. have 350 support workers. Savings of \$1.7M. If we keep bussing this would be an area we have to take from.

Q: Can French be pulled from federal funding? Can you approach federal government?

A: We have not.

Q: Bussing – if this were to happen, will be fallout for sure as some people on fence about FI if not at their home school. If people decide not to continue in FI in the fall, there may be a lot of parents saying why can't they just go to their home school and do not have to leave the program? Or when opening a site in their neighbourhood? Not everyone can drive their kids to school.

A: Joining a current program at local school? Planning and Angela and Kirsten will have to figure out. This is part of the challenge. Would hope we will make as many accommodations as possible.

Q: Clarify around closing schools or selling schools. Would take time. Couldn't do quick enough. If we were to incrementally increase distance to receive bussing, would those savings make it more equitable? Why can't we do that?

A: If were to increase distance to receive bussing, it would be something we have to model. We actually have fewer schools bussed on the 1.6 km,

4,600 English bussed live 1.6 km may be in French. These would be included in the regular number, not the FI budget line. Not those who are bussed to another FI centre. Bussing 20,000 in total. Catholic Board busses 30,000.

Q: Have always planned to send kids to FI at Hilltop, will drive kids there, will have a major impact. Have to believe other creative ways to find money. Not just in English. Do we solicit money from corporations and put their brand on the buses?

A: Trustees have to make a decision by end of June or we will go under supervision by the Ministry of Education. Will not have the opportunity to do any of those things. May be the only Board doing delegations from the public.

Q: \$1,771 to bus kids in SK to Gr 5. How does this compare to other Boards?

A: Don't know. Talked to another Board about \$8-850. Also size of the bus, minivans are costing more than big busses. Taxis are provided for some students with special needs, costs big dollars.

Q: You should squeeze the providers and get price down.

A: Regular bussing is \$1,400, \$14,000 for wheelchair.

Q: Jr Ext spread out across the city. Will take a bigger hit. More diverse. FI highly concentrated in parts of former Toronto Board. Concentrated with wealth along the subway lines. Making harder and harder for average or lower income families that we are creating a FI program that some call

	<p>elite to becoming super elite very fast.</p> <p>Environmental scan around the province shows that only a handful of boards who are NOT providing transportation for French. TDSB Transportation budget is actually going up next year.</p> <p>One key factor in French programming is critical mass. In TDSB we have a policy to have two intake classes. Application of these policies has not been consistent across the board. See a lot of chaos in immediate future. Parents won't put up with it. Roughly 4,800 kids on a bus and if 2,400 don't come back, French teacher supply problem solved.</p> <p>Canadian Parents for French supports transportation to ensure all students have access to FI/Ext programs. TDSB receives annually \$30M under language grant. Included in revenue of the Board. Could offset the challenge in transportation. Please ask staff what this \$30M is used for. Should be spent on the delivery of FSL.</p> <p>A: In terms of funding, Manon has asked for a detailed analysis and will get by the end of next week, May 24.</p> <p>Q: April 14, 2004 FSLAC had a staff presentation on notional allocation of FSL funds, then around the \$25M mark?</p> <p>A: Don't have now but can get.</p> <p>Q: Will reduce revenue board gets from province. If lose bussing and has an effect on enrolment would this have a consequence by saving x dollars on savings; will you lose x + y on funding? Has this analysis been done?</p>	
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A: Don't believe so.

Q: Is transportation grant tied in any way to FI/Ext funding?

A: No.

Q: How much does TDSB get?

A: Next year \$62.1M.

Q: When did TDSB bussing contract begin?

A: Bussing contracts runs to 2022 with extension to 2023.

Q: What would the impact be in making revisions to the consortium?

A: Have discussed bell times with TCDSB.

Q: This morning "Metro Morning" brought me back to 1998 when we had home to school bussing and at amalgamation moved to school to school bussing for immersion. Every time we reduce transportation, we reduce equity. Equity of access. Every cut affects program and ripples through for a generation.

A: Valid points. Everything we do to make this balance will have a ripple effect. Doing our best to keep cuts out of the classroom.

Q: Appreciate tough decisions that will have to be made. Consider an English Home school over capacity, closed to optional attendance. FI started at another under enrolled school, bussing essential from 5 surrounding schools. Over capacity issue gets resolved, parent council was activated, fundraising was revived. Now teams now have jerseys, etc.

Shows how FI and bussing had a positive impact on a school, making it viable and helping system spread enrolment. If bussing is cancelled, this will be lost.

A: Thank you for your comments.

Q: Equity – cuts to transportation will destroy French in Etobicoke. If remove bussing will not impact everyone equally. Many people live far away. FI schools in Etobicoke are in high socio-economic neighbourhoods but accessed by all with transportation. Do we know what backgrounds will be affected the hardest?

A: We will not know until we find out who will choose to stay in FI. Has not been discussed at this time what areas will be impacted.

Q: Looking to save \$5M?

A: \$9M.

Q: Look at those kids who are not bussed, come out of a French program, then French program is impacted. Will be a Planning nightmare next year. Parents won't know, won't show up. Can you try to get ahead of it a bit? How many of those 4,600 kids could be accommodated in that grade at a school closer, maybe not 1.6 km but within the 3 km? Who is along the subway? Kids who do not have another option? Could you actually open programs where bussing would not be required? Trying to hit 50/50 in SK will end up 60/40 by grade 6. Can we look at bussing under the directive to keep as many kids as possible in the program?

A: Manon will take back to staff.

Trustee Chernos Lin: While Trustees know there are really difficult decisions to be made, everyone is still digesting what was heard last night. Really difficult to hear. FSLAC and parents need to be heard in front of Trustees in the Boardroom as delegations. Families who have made a commitment, send their kids to JK in one school then switch in SK for FI. May have to now send to another school. Bilingual piece is significant. See so many kids from different backgrounds speaking French. See us faced with something that may turn families away, and this is disheartening. Every parent who has emailed Rachel, she has forwarded the piece the FSLAC sent today re delegations. No easy answers. Want to make sure we have explored every option.

Q: If we cancel contracts with bussing companies is there a cost?

A: No, we can adjust the number of students. Will not be a problem.

Motion to extend as after 9:00 p.m.: Wilmar, seconded by Sharon. Carried

Q: Scarborough much like Etobicoke, schools are spread apart; transportation is key. Most are bussed in. Parents want to do what is best for their kids. Big problem for many was transportation. Assured parents not to worry as they would be bussed. Invested in it, love French. Equity – takes away the equity for lots of people.

A: Thank you for your comments.

Q: People travel the farthest distances are the ones who don't have a car. Can it be phased in, grandfathered? Does this create option of fees? Alternative transportation? Not in favour because causes inequities. \$67M needs to be found, upset when heard about \$8M through French. \$12M

more to hear about. What are the next steps?

Comment: May need a motion to delegate people to speak tomorrow on behalf of FSLAC? Mandy is available but is not at the meeting today and should have someone who at FBEC to go with her. Have until midnight tonight to register to delegate tomorrow.

Q: What is the other major cut to FI/Ext, besides transportation?

A: Under “supplementary teachers”, cut of \$12.15M. This savings could be reached in year two. Does not have anything to do with the French Review.

Q: “Supplementary teachers”, second paragraph: unlike other Boards in Canada, TDSB offers several entry points. Are we sure? Moving towards a different structure. Are entry points going to change? Are programs going to be lost?

A: Staff report on French Review will be going to the Committee of the Whole on June 12 instead of PSSC. All Trustees are required to attend Committee of the Whole. Not taking to PSSC because significant. Will be public the Friday before along with the secondary review report. Manon presenting both.

Q: How much are we spending on TTC tickets?

A: \$1.1M as kids under 12 are free now.

Q: Don’t know how staff can deal with everything. Parents need to consider. Too fast and too much.

	<p>Q: what are the next steps in the process for delegating?</p> <p>Trustee Pilkey: If delegation from FSLAC, you have until May 27, doesn't have to be tomorrow. Delegations start at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow, May 15. Staff report at 4:30 and then delegations are a timed item. Think there are 20 delegations so far. Community Advisory Committee do not get to go first (as at PSSC). It is first come, first served.</p> <p>Can only delegate once as FSLAC but members/alts can delegate individually. If FSLAC wants to delegate a second time, it will have to be on something different.</p> <p>Motion: that the FSLAC executive communicate with parents about the proposed cuts affecting FI/Ext and work to get the proposed cuts withdrawn.</p> <p>Moved by Wilmar, seconded by Sarah. Carried.</p> <p>Zeynab volunteered to go tomorrow May 15 to FBEC with Mandy to delegate on behalf of the FSLAC. The executive will put together some notes for the presentation.</p>	
Other Business	<p>Trustee MacLean: Ward 2 elections for FSLAC rep/alt on May 28.</p> <p>Amendments to FSLAC Terms of Reference (TOR)</p> <p>Sharon suggested adding a meeting in March next year.</p> <p>Comment: Specific meeting dates are not in the Terms of Reference, just approximate number. Interest in this will be shared with Parent Co-chair and staff as they work on the meeting schedule for 2019/20.</p>	

	<p>Trustee MacLean: CUSAC is reviewing their TOR. Next year, Board initiating a process, every committee will be asked to have a more thorough process and consistent format. Suggested Mandy or someone connect with Beth.</p> <p>Comment: FSLAC's current Terms of Reference were approved by the Board in May 2016. They meet content and format requirements from the Review of Advisory Committees c. 2012-2016 and are posted at tdsb.on.ca/fslac</p> <p>Ward 10 Issue with childcare and FI: have a new school, Jean Lumb. The day care told by TDSB they cannot accept students from Lord Lansdowne (FI school), about 3 km away. It is their English home school. Kids going to FI at a different school, should all have access to before and after school care where they get picked up by the bus. Some schools do this as noted in the 2018 French Review.</p> <p>Staff A: Colleen Russell-Rawlins oversees day cares. She would be the one for FSLAC rep to contact or email.</p>	
Staff Report	<p>Twelve students placed at the provincial final of the Canadian Parents for French Concours D'art Oratoire in May.</p> <p>Friday, May 10, 132 students did the DELF. 141 students were invited.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Moved by Wilmar. Carried.	
Next Meeting	Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 7:00 pm in Committee Room A.	