

Community Advisory Committee Report

Community advisory committee:	French As a Second Language Advisory Committee
Meeting held on:	Meeting held on: June 21, 2011
Time:	From: 7:00 PM To: 10:30
Location:	5050 Yonge Street
Chair:	Trish Murphy (Parent Co-Chair); Trustee Sheila Ward (Co-Chair)
Members present:	Trish Murphy (Parent co-chair); Sheila Ward (Trustee co-chair); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Josie D'Agostino, Issy Vlaykov; Sherry Biscope; Cindy Preger (Parent vice-co-chair); Julian Heller; Fiona Gordon; Hagit Fry; Cindy Ewins; Sharon Kerr
Members not present:	Frances Hincenbergs; Lise Snelgrove; Sue Fox, Francois Routhier; Beverly Way

The committee decided to make the following recommendations:

Topic: Year End Report

The committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Year end report be shared with the board for information.

Background or Supporting Information

FSLAC Parent Co-chair's Year End Report

1. Membership

There are 25 parent members and alternates on the FSLAC from 15 wards and 1 non-voting community member from Canadian Parents for French (Ontario). Sheila Ward is our trustee co-chair and FSL program staff attends all meetings. In addition to the parent co-chair, we have a parent vice co-chair and a lead parent for Communication. The parent vice co-chair was added this year to help address the growing workload of the committee and to share the many demands to attend meetings and consultations.

2. FSLAC Activity at the Board

The FSLAC met 7 times in the 2010-11 school year, attended numerous immersion/extended information nights to meet new parents and to support the presentations of principals and FSL staff, participated in PARCs and met on an on-going basis with TDSB staff including FSL program staff and superintendents. FSLAC members also supported students, parents and staff through school and community based French events.

Meeting notices, agendas and minutes are posted on the FSLAC page on the TDSB website. We receive limited administrative support from the Parent Engagement Office including updating our TDSB webpage.

Our communications lead parent maintains the FSLAC gmail account. The address is posted on the FSLAC TDSB webpage. The gmail account facilitates communication with parents and stakeholders and distribution of the FSLAC newsletter which we produced 3 times this year. The newsletter goes to approximately 100 schools with extended/immersion programs, trustees, approximately 300 individual parents and FSL stakeholders who have signed up. The communications lead and the parent co-chair respond to many inquiries, the majority of which are about how to access programs and what staff member to talk to about issues in FSL programming.

3. FSLAC Participation in Pupil Accommodation Review Committees

As a result of Board motions passed in June 2010, the FSLAC was invited to participate in the implementation phase of the ward 11 ARC which included the Extended 7 program at Arlington and the possibility of a new SK French Immersion site. FSLAC members had attended all public ARC meetings and parent meetings at Arlington.

The FSLAC is participating in the on-going PARC in ward 14 and is ready to participate in the ward 1 PARC when it gets underway.

4. Current Opportunities

Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR):

The CEFR is a tool for defining, tracking and recognizing progress in learning a language. It was developed in Europe, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada and is currently being piloted in various classrooms across Ontario, including Core French classrooms at the TDSB. Dr. Enrica Piccardo of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education presented the CEFR to the FSLAC at the November meeting. This built on the knowledge and interest generated by the previous presentations by Dr. Laura Herman of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) who is developing assessment tools for teachers to use in FSL classrooms across Canada.

Full Day Kindergarten (FDK):

One SK immersion site opened with FDK in 2010 and more sites are planned for 2012. TDSB staff did a presentation to the FSLAC on the implementation of FDK at the April meeting. FSL program staff reported that the first class is doing very well and will be a model of best practice in second language learning at 100% French instruction and in early learning with a play based curriculum.

Extended/Immersion Program Expansion:

In September 2011, 5 new SK immersion sites will open. We congratulate staff and local trustees on these successful expansions to meet demand. The FSLAC participated in several meetings with staff and trustees on how to meet demand for SK immersion spots in the Palmerston area and in the Humewood area. There are, however, still year-over-year 'hotspots' where demand indicates opportunity for expansion. There are also areas of the city where programs have very large catchments including Scarborough and north Etobicoke. Close monitoring of the Annual Enrolment Report and the particulars of each site will continue by local FSLAC members and the committee as a whole.

5. TDSB FSL Annual Report:

The Board recently received the FSL Annual Report which provides data for analysis and discussion in the coming months, particularly retention of students until graduation in Core, Extended and Immersion.

6. 2011-2012 Plans

Trish Murphy from ward 15 was acclaimed at the June meeting as parent co-chair with Cindy Preger from ward 11 acclaimed as parent vice co-chair. Hagit Fry from ward 14 will continue as the communications lead. Efforts will continue to work with trustees to fill vacancies in wards that do not send members to the FSLAC. Trustees may contact the FSLAC at fslactoronto@gmail.com.

7. Upcoming meeting dates: September 19, October 25, and November 22, 2011

Trish Murphy, FSLAC Parent Co-chair

Report submitted by: Partheepan Sivakumaran

Submit to Giselle, Basanta Senior Manager, Board Services, who will ensure that the item is placed on the appropriate standing committee agenda. E-mail Giselle.basanta@tdsb.on.ca