

June 14, 2010

To: Trustees

From: French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)

Re: Planning and Priorities Committee, June 14, 2010

ARCs with recommendations affecting Extended/Immersion (Ext/Imm) French programs:

1. JR Wilcox CS, Cedarvale CS, Arlington MS, Rawlinson CS, Humewood CS

Dear Trustees,

The French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) has reviewed the ARC and staff recommendations for Extended/Immersion programs as outlined in the power point presentation from the JR Wilcox ARC community meeting of June 7 which is on the TDSB website. We are pleased to see that the expansion of elementary French programs in ward 11 is supported by the community and staff.

The following specific recommendations affect Extended/Immersion French programs and warrant further consideration as the details are decided and implementation begins:

1. Close Arlington and move Extended 7 to JR Wilcox
2. Add SK French immersion program to Humewood
3. Consider adding Middle immersion program to Humewood
4. Rawlinson becomes JK-8 school.

**For further consideration:**

1. Reviewing flow of students to Arlington, Winona and other local French program schools would help determine optimal French program locations that will continue excellent programming and sustainability.

This can be done using the report called 'Count of Students Attending a School by attendance Area of Home Address' (SAHA). SAHA provides attendance numbers broken down by regular and French programs by the home school of each student. It shows how far students are travelling and the area of the city from which they are coming (example attached).

2. Will Humewood have sufficient space to have 2-3 SK French immersion classes flowing through?

3. What schools will be in the Humewood SK immersion catchment? How would a middle immersion catchment be configured to increase French opportunities while maintaining sustainability of existing programs in the area?

4. Is there an opportunity for pooling resources and improving programming by aggregating French programs in a French centre?

5. What impact will changing Rawlinson to a JK-8 have on Winona? Can Winona maintain a strong French immersion continuation in 7/8 with only Regal Rd students?

**In general:**

If the Board adopts any of the staff and/or ARC recommendations affecting Ext/Imm French, the FSLAC asks that it be conditional and that further input be sought and considered from Ext/Imm parents and the FSLAC before implementation is finalized. Strong buy-in from the affected

parents and the broader community is essential to maintaining and building the solid attendance that leads to exemplary Ext/Imm program delivery. FSL programs have been growing in absolute terms, against a TDSB backdrop of declining enrolment. To lay the foundation for successful transitions and continued growth, there are 4 key areas for consideration:

**Transportation** – school bus routes and TTC proximity need to be assessed for new sites to meet the needs of the students and their families.

**Pathways** – the sites chosen for continuation of programs affects the number of students who stay in the program to graduation. A successful Ext/Imm program at secondary is dependent on sufficient enrolment to maintain course selection. Pathways need to be carefully evaluated with input from the local communities the programs serve and the FSLAC.

**Communication** – current and prospective Ext/Imm parents, as well as teachers, office staff and administrators need to be informed of the changes.

The best ambassadors for TDSB programs are current parents. Prospective parents (preschool – grade 6) need the information as soon as possible so that they may plan for everything from daycare to preparing students to be on the school bus or the TTC going to an unfamiliar school.

Notification needs to be coordinated with board-wide timelines for FSL program application and registration periods.

**Continuity & Predictability** – Moving a program to meet the needs of the broader system rather than for specific needs of the program itself, is disruptive and carries the risk of deterring prospective parents and undermining past success. To encourage and maintain enrolment, there needs to be a strong, clear and demonstrated commitment from the Board that these moves are not short term and that Ext/Imm programs are rooted in the communities they serve.

Working together for our students. Travaillons ensemble pour nos élèves.

Tami Oudendijk  
Parent co-chair 09/10

Trish Murphy  
Parent co-chair 10/11

French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

Attachments:  
Rawlinson, Regal Rd and area SK Immersion Feeder Map  
Rawlinson Extended 4 Feeder Map  
Arlington, Winona, Glenview Extended 7 Feeder Map  
SAHA Example: Rawlinson 2008-2009 – 001 & 002