

# French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee

# Meeting Date: Jan 17, 2023

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.

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| **Item** | **Invitee Name** |
| **Attended**: | Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee Co-Chair W11), Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), ), Divya Chandra (W11 Alt), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W5/W6 Alt), Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice-Co Chair W2 Alt), Mandy Moore (W7), Randy Samuel (W14), Gail Miller (W22); Also present were: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt), Linda Curtis (Staff Co-Lead), Roni Felsen (Statf Co-Lead), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Linda Edwards (Centrally Assigned Principal, Virtual French Programs), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator) |
| **Guests:** |  |
| **Regrets**: | Frances Shawera (W2), Crystal Stewart (W6),Cheryl Batty (W8 Alt), Sarah Smith (W15), Christie Dunbar (W16), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt) |
| **Recorder:** | Linda Stockdale |

| Item | Discussion | Motion / Action |
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| Call to Order | * Land acknowledgment – Lynne LeBlanc * Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes. |  |
| Quorum/Membership Changes | * Katherine Fisher-Laxa (W3), Hans Bathija (W10) and Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13 Alt) representatives have retired. * Quorum met |  |
| Approval of Agenda | * Agenda moved by Lisa, seconded by Randy. Carried. |  |
| Approval of Oct. 2022 Minutes | * Minutes Moved by Charles. Seconded by Randy with addition of footnote: Bannockburn French Centre opening in **Sept ’24.** | Linda to post on tdsb.on.ca/  fslac |
| 5. Declarations - Possible Conflict of Interest | * Randy Samuel is a supply Lunchroom Supervisor, and Emergency Replacement Person at the Board. |  |
| 6. Ward & CPF Reports | Ward Reports: **W2** – Interim Administrators at Millwood have left. VP from Bloordale moved to Millwood.  **W8 –** Bilingual VP at Davisville has been promoted to the role of Principal at Hodgson.  **Canadian Parents for French Report:**  CPF Ontario President, Executive Director and Chair of Ontario Advocacy Committee (Mary) had meeting with Minister Lecce staff. Next meeting regarding access with parliamentary assistant to Minister. While great at TDSB, access to FI lacks in other Boards including Peel DSB (hard cap which has turned away 7000 students over 10 years ).  **Roni Felsen** – SOE for LN6 joins FSLAC as the Staff Co-Lead. Extensive French background: core French secondary school graduate, Trois Pistoles, Quebec-Western University summer FSL bursary program including working in French, Masters in French Linguistics at Glendon with a concurrent degree in education, starting fulltime career as a French core teacher. At Malvern CI, taught FI, Fr. Ext., core and at Humberside CI, French computer science and politics then finishing teaching at Oakwood CI, co-ordinating excursions to Europe/France. Also worked at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at University of Toronto, Queens University delivering Advanced Qualification FSL courses for teachers and Curriculum Services Canada doing curriculum correlation comparisons in Ontario and other jurisdictions. |  |
| 7. Chair, Trustee Reports | Chair Report Membership had an informal meeting in December. Discussed in-person meetings, initiating Ward elections with introductory letter to Trustees-- update Trustees with Ward members and contact information. Linda Curtis shared that CACs may now choose to hold in-person meetings. Members noted that in the 2021 and 2022 member reflection, the majority of parent members/alts preferred in person meetings and the remainder preferred hybrid. No one preferred Zoom as the only option.  **Trustee Report**  Recent Board responsibilities includes extensive budget work because of deficit. Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) renew and refresh project underway, including consultations -- one of the goals to make it more streamlined, including more specific/targeted goals. |  |
| 8. Staff Update: | **French Review**   * Early FI, preliminary registration numbers are just under 3000 registrants. Staff are looking at late applicants where room is available * Middle FI, 700 applications received in first week. MFI informational webinar held Jan 16, was attended by 130 participants. Over 100 questions answered in the interactive event. * Jan 19, 7pm, in-person MFI session to be held at Woburn CI. * Media/Communications plan for MFI very similar to that done for EFI application. * Membership wants to know plan to get EFI participation from 3000 to 4000 (matching the 2020-21 peak). At present, membership notes that there is * need insight as to why the enrollment numbers are down to address the causes. For example, there are some parents who thought that EFI registration was now going to be available in both JK and SK – pointing to a lack of clear communication. Although eventually parents will understand that the registration is a JK entry, without clear and purposeful messaging, the communication will become parent to parent. * Staff note that during the pandemic, TDSB moved the EFI entry point and that there was a reduction of 10,000 students in the general elementary panel. This year, general enrolment numbers are trending upwards. MFI still has 3 weeks to go for registration.   Membership is looking forward to the enrollment data for MFI.   * Membership indicates that reporting on enrolment number as a percentage of eligible enrolment, would be informative for the year over year picture as approximately 2,000 JK/SK students had not returned to school during the pandemic. Of those, what percentage were in EFI VS English enrollment year over year? * Staff indicates that while data is looked at yearly, full evaluation of enrolment trends tend to look at a 3–5-year span of data to derive conclusions. Raw number decline in EFI enrolment, MFI vs Jr Ext can be explored with Research/Planning. Lots of factors are at play including the fact that there is only 1 year worth of JK data to include e.g., numbers can be impacted because of inaugural JK entry year. * Staff explain that the application period is a finite time so that Planning Dept. can plan for staffing (English and French). EFI application window goes as late as it can, noting MFI application period can start later because the process is simplified with the students already in Gr3. Must be early because of guaranteed placement. It was once in January, but it did not allow the time required to place the students. * Early Years, EFI registration tied to the same landing page with aligned messaging and the 2 processes can be fully aligned once PowerSchool can accommodate. * Membership asked if there is value in promoting registration publicly in June and Sept.? Staff to review. * Membership supports a less complicated FI application process (full integration with the Early Years) with a start date for the application period that is the same as ‘Kindergarten registration month’ for English -- can only assist with equitable access of programming. * Staff supports the concept but have to work within the PowerSchool platform. * Chair Chernos Lin reminds responsible registration window is paramount. Nothing disappoints parents like re-organizations. Without a window, accepting students up until the end of September, will surge re-organizations. * Membership is keenly aware of challenges with respect to enrollment and placement. Not asking for rolling admissions (like English) rather that ALL kindergarten registration is announced and opens on the same day. Unclear why EFI still needs the extra 8 weeks or so to do placement as there were no redirections for Sept 2023 and it is centralized. * Ideally, parents/caregivers reach the landing page for registration, there is very clear communication and they tick a box for English or Early French Immersion enrollment, noting that EFI enrollment is only open for 4 weeks. This would not impact the English registration – and may actually assist with kindergarten registration across the school board – limiting re-organizations at the kindergarten level across the school board. * Membership appreciates that messaging on the TDSB website has been updated to reflect this process, but having 2 distinct timelines and messaging for registering for kindergarten is confusing to parents and caregivers -particularly challenging for new families to the TDSB and to Canada who are not familiar with the TDSB or its processes. * Staff assured membership that goal is to remove as many barriers to participation as possible. A streamlined approach is possible with PowerSchool, and hope that it will be available in the near future. * Projected general enrolment report coming to FBEC in February. FI enrolment report comes in May-June | **Standing Item** |
| 9. Membership Discussion | **Speakers for 2023**  Membership suggestions:   * Ottawa University professors working on bringing diversity, equity and inclusion to French resources. * Ontario Human Rights Commission: Right to Reading Report is attracting a lot of attention and impacting reading instruction. Speaker who could teach parents how to support reading at home. A Zoom workshop might attract potential FSLAC new members. Angela has worked closely with Early Years, regarding Right to Read, how we support educators in the classroom, rollout professional learning. * People who have excelled in their professional life with their FI experience * MYSP – in the Fall, after next version completed. * Language exchange opportunities for students * Post-Secondary/Education opportunities. |  |
| 10. Membership Update | **Outreach to Trustees – Membership/Elections Rep.**  Parent Co-chair indicates a succession plan to be worked on, to have a focus on growing the Membership. Introduction letter to Trustees introducing their Ward and Alt. Ward representatives to go out asap. | Lynne will email Trustees to initiate 2023 FSLAC member/alt elections |
| Adjournment | Randy moves to adjourn the meeting, Charles seconds at 8:59pm |  |
| Next Meeting | Tuesday, Feb 21, 2023 at 7-9pm, Virtual Meeting |  |