



**French as a Second Language Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, April 15, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Williamson (W2); David Kim (W3); Lauralyn Johnston (W8); Rosemary Sutherland (W9); Kathryn Yung (Parent Co-Vice-Chair, W10); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Wilmar Kortleever (W13); Chrysoulla Srabian (W13 alt); Tanya English (W14); Jennifer Story (W15); Patricia Legrande (W21 alt); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (W22); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Alison Pearce (Program Co-ordinator, FSL); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French);

GUESTS: Matt Forest (Parent, W9), Jerry Gao (Parent)

Recorder: Amanda Tiberio

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM Roundtable introductions were made 	
Approval of Quorum Membership Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was achieved and approved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following members resigned: Aynne O'Flynn (W8), Michael Rochweg (W12), Karen Galler (W12), Fiona Gordon (W12), Saane Kaas Mason 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was approved with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent guest Matt Forest will have an opportunity to speak after approval of minutes. 	
Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were approved as written. 	Amanda will post to website
Matt Forest - Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 students at his child's school (Perth) have been directed to Rawlinson PS, which under current routes is an hour's bus ride away. A suggestion was made that an FI centre be created in the area. A comment was made that the process for a new FI centre can take years. The Melody Village Centre, expected to open in September 2013, came together through a lengthy PARC process. Staff agreed that expansion is usually a long-term process. There were some initial studies around Perth, but there isn't enough space to accommodate a dual-track school. A comment was made that if the FI program were closer, more parents would register their children. A suggestion was made to look into changing the bus route. Alison responded that she would 	

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	<p>investigate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt commented that there are overlapping radii of walking distances between area schools with FDK, but there is a void in his neighbourhood. • Staff responded that a local feasibility study would be appropriate. • A question was asked about what the mechanics are of a local feasibility study. Staff responded that next steps will be discussed by Trustee Rodrigues at a scheduled meeting at Perth on April 23. • A question was asked about the timeline for a resolution. Staff responded that there is a finite number of planning staff. It depends on priorities decided by the Planning team. 	<p>Alison to discuss alternative bussing route with transportation</p>
<p>Co-Chair and Special Reports</p> <p>PSSC Meeting – FSL Policy Motion</p> <p>Participatory Budget Reference Group</p> <p>Newsletter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FSL policy report passed through PSSC (Program and School Services Committee). It is understood that it will be on the agenda at the April 17th Board meeting. • There are concerns that not enough information is being shared to support meaningful consultation. • A question was asked about whether there was an update on the Participatory Budget Reference Group. Kathryn responded that a parent gave an oral deputation at PSSC to express concerns about the quality of the consultation and support for meaningful parent engagement. For instance, the notice given for meetings was less than a week and the documents provided did not adequately answer parent questions. • The Board needs to cut \$ 27 million from the budget. • A comment was made that bussing guarantees access to FSL programs, and it is important to watch for bussing cuts. It will be important for Trustees to hear from the community once proposed cuts of any nature are announced. • Staff commented that the FSL policy supports accessibility to the program. • FSLAC has not received responses to questions raised during Craig Snider’s presentation at the previous FSLAC meeting. It was discussed that, as a next step, it may be appropriate for a Trustee member to make a formal request. • The 2nd term FSL newsletter was distributed to 400 parents, every school that has FI and extended, select staff of TDSB, community stakeholders and others that request to be on the list. The feedback has been positive. Contributors are always welcome. • The CAC Review survey link was distributed. Results are not yet available. 	<p>Melanie/Amanda will follow-up.</p>

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<p>CAC Review(Cheryl and Kathryn)</p> <p>Special Ed Working Group (Soulla)</p> <p>PSSC Motion – Secondary Schools (David)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soulla will seek updates and feedback via email. • David presented a deputation at PSSC to support the FSLAC Secondary School motion. It was well received, and the motion passed through the committee. 	
<p>Staff Report</p> <p>FSL Working Group Update</p> <p>Secondary School Motion: Moving Forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six sessions of Concours d'art oratoire have been completed. It was impressive to hear students' spontaneous speech in response to questions. • Staff is creating a brochure using teacher feedback from the February 15th PD day which featured authentic French activities in Toronto. When complete, Alison will share with the FSLAC. • Staff is working on a Special Education network for teachers designated to FI/Extended special ed. Three sessions have been completed, with 25-30 people attending the third session. • Staff has posted exemplar projects from grades 4-8 on the website which teachers can use as prototypes, and which provide a larger view of student achievement. • Staff is working on grade 4 performance tasks for extended French to give teachers better context of what they are evaluating. They are starting to plan an inservice for next year, but there is no funding as yet. • John, Alison and 2 instructional leaders attended a session with the Ministry on the FSL Framework which included Program staff, Principals, Superintendents, and other stakeholders from other school boards. • John and Mary attended the FSL Provincial Working Group. The group includes the Ministry's FSL section, superintendents, principals and teachers and Canadian Parents for French. It is a way of getting as many stakeholders involved as possible to share information and provide feedback to the Ministry. The provincial action plan for FSL was discussed. The Action Plan responds to the Federal FSL goals which are outlined in the Federal-Provincial protocol for Official Languages which is signed by every province. The new Ontario FSL Framework document links the federal and provincial FSL goals with Ontario's goals for education and provides suggestions for school boards on areas in FSL to consider in their improvement plans. • Staff has communicated with Trustee Gough about establishing a FI secondary site at Lakeshore CI. Sustainability, viability, demand and quality are essential to successful expansion of FI. A local feasibility study is essential for gathering information. • A question was asked about whether there is retention data for students between grade 8 and grade 9. It would be beneficial to know if they would make different choices if the schools 	

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	<p>weren't hard to get to. Staff responded that there is retention data but it is not on a school-by-school basis. Retention will be analyzed within the feasibility process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comment was made that there is a lot of dropoff between grade 5 and grade 6 because parents do not want to put their grade 6 children on a bus. Staff responded that was the rationale for creating K-8 sites. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it possible to compare retention in different areas? It is not clear what "local" is. Staff responded that this type of data would be helpful. Is there is data on why students make the choices they do about which high schools to attend? Comments were made that some schools are known to have good specialty programs such as sports, arts and music. Staff responded that there are great core French programs at the secondary level. 10 out of 30 credits are in French but there are many reasons to choose a specific school for the other 20 credits. Is staff considered doing exit interviews for students who chose not to continue French in grade 9? Comments were made that: a survey could be informative if administered in Grade 9 core French; getting the Student Supercouncil involved could leverage social technology; A suggestion was made to post a survey on the TDSB website to determine if distance is an issue at Richview. Enrolment is up steadily across the Board and Richview is the only extended/immersion secondary school in Etobicoke. Kathryn and Cindy will follow up with John to determine next steps. 	<p>Kathryn and Cindy to follow-up with John about the Secondary School motion</p>
<p>Enrolment 2013 Update</p> <p>Ward Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolment numbers will be decreasing at the secondary level for the next 8-9 years. 400 secondary teachers were cut due to enrolment. Elementary is increasing now at the kindergarten and primary level. A library copy of the draft FSL enrolment report was distributed to the membership for review. Questions were asked about specific statistics in the report. A question was asked about how many French FDK classes are running in 2013. Staff responded that 26 are running this year. The FDK rollout will be complete in 2014-2015. A question was asked about what the actual numbers looked like for FDK classes. Staff responded that the average is about 25; the largest is 30 students. A question was asked about whether those numbers were consistent with the English stream. Staff responded that the direction is to not exceed 30 students. <p><u>W14 - Tanya English</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some students at Winchester are leaving to do arts-based programs at different school at the grade 4/5 level. She would like to know if there is any way to engage or enhance programs to keep enrolment up. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff responded that parents must start a conversation with the principal. It is not a typical year for extra-curriculars at the Board. <p><u>W13/W21 - Sharon Kerr</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A psychologist is coming to North York Civic Centre on April 25th to talk about suicide awareness – the link is on the Leaside website. PIAC is planning a spec ed conference and they suggested having an official representative of FSLAC there. There is a PIAC conference with the Ministry on Friday and Saturday April 19 & 20. Ricardo is the PIAC contact for Special Ed and they work together with SEAC. • Leaside CI does not have many FSL electives available. Three new electives start next year for grade 9 students but there is not much choice in the senior years. • Staff responded that the principal is working within staffing constraints. <p><u>W8 - Lauralyn Johnston</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a meeting about the Allenby PART. Over 100 parents attended. A survey showed that more were in favour of re-purposing and building new space rather than closing the day-care. Issy, the ward 8 rep is attending on behalf of the FSLAC and has not reported. <p><u>W13 – Chrysoulla Srabian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, Alison presented for parents. There was good feedback. • John Fisher used to do plays and skits during assemblies as character development tools, but have stopped because they were not in French. She would like to know how other FI school handle those tools. They used to focus on how to exhibit character and give out awards. Now they are only administering awards. Parents are willing to pitch in but administration has decided not to do the exhibition part at all. • In W22, a character trait is announced each morning. Classes are able to present it any way they want. Each month at least one class presents 1 English and 1 French skit. 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other business to report. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM. 	

Next meeting: May 23 @ 7:00 PM - 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A