



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

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Laura Steele-Gunter (W7; via teleconference); Lauralyn Johnston (W8); Kathryn Yung (Parent Co-Vice-Chair, W10); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Andrea Demchuck (W14); Tanya English (W14); Jennifer Story (W15); Kristina Laperle (Parent Vice-Chair, W17); Cheryl Wilson (W19); Patricia Legrande (W21 alt); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (W22); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French);

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 7:01PM Roundtable introductions were made 	
Approval of Quorum Membership Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was achieved and approved. Membership remained unchanged 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was approved as written. 	
Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were approved as written. 	Amanda will post to website
Co-Chair and Special Reports Update on Participatory Budget Work Group Update on CAC Review Special Ed Working Group (Soulla)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FSL Policy-P080- was approved by the Board on April 17, 2013: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/Detail.aspx?id=1798 Alison Pearce was acknowledged as the recipient of the TDSB Excellence Award in April. Kristina presented at a 2nd meeting with Winchester parents on how to support your child in French immersion. Trish Murphy, (past parent co-chair) and Jennifer Story attended the last Participatory Work Group meeting. Jennifer commented that the process is a good process idea but many questions could not be answered due to lack of available resources. Minutes from the Participatory Work Group meeting will be distributed to the membership once they are posted. A question was asked about how the process compares to having a panel of trustees and staff take presentations from different TDSB advocacy groups. Jennifer responded that a mix of both methods would be beneficial. There was no update on the CAC review. There was no update due to Soulla's absence. Amanda has been in contact with PIAC representative Ricardo F. and has shared his contact information with Soulla. 	

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<p>Ministry PIAC Meeting Update (Sharon) and ensuing discussion on parent-teacher communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon sits on PIAC as the W21 representative. She attended the PIAC Parent Conference on April 19th in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. • It would be informative for all parents. Information kits dedicated to Safe Schools and Building School Engagement can be ordered through the Parent and Community Engagement Office by school administration. Many school boards in Ontario are French-only. Maybe the TDSB could find out where they get their resources to get resources in French for us. • A question was asked about whether new teachers are given an orientation with parent engagement resources. Staff responded that there is a program called the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) that supports all beginning teachers and provides professional learning and resources. Staff stated that it is also important that every principal take responsibility to support the induction of new teachers into the school. As new teachers must deal with policies and procedures and putting together new programs, they may not be taking advantage of parent engagement resources. Some beginning teachers have participated in “Ready, Set, Go” sessions with the FSL department. All teachers have two evaluations in their first two years of teaching. Sample evaluation forms can be found online on the Ministry of Education’s website. Part of the evaluation involves parent engagement and communication. (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teacher/induction.html) • Additional comments were made noting that different schools have different practices regarding parent engagement, and schools cannot always be compared because they have different needs. Teachers and staff need to prioritize their time. One needs to think about trade-offs, i.e. what the school will have to stop in order to satisfy a new parent engagement initiative.. • Kristina stated that in a meeting with the ministry earlier this year about kindergarten report cards it was suggested that the first contact with parents should be a meeting with the teacher so that he or she can explain how the classroom works and what the report card means. • At Jackman, the teachers and principal would send weekly notes to the parents. Now that a new principal is arriving, they would like to set some communication guidelines. The teachers can’t be forced to communicate, but there needs to be a bigger push for next year. Staff advised that they should bring these issues to the Superintendent. • A question was asked about whether PIAC has developed a parent communication guideline. It was suggested that once elected, next year’s co-chairs should coordinate with PIAC to bring the issue of communication to the next level. 	
<p>Submissions for June Newsletter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristina suggested some ideas for articles for the June FSLAC newsletter including: TDSB winners of Concours Oratoire, FSL summer activities, information about conferences, and student stories. Andrea and Sharon shared stories from their children that would be good potential articles. Other topics for next year might include: Brief description of PARTS and PARC, ongoing expansion of French programs and how enrolment provides revenue, Special Education and FSL • The deadline for submissions is Friday, June 7th. Mary will format the newsletter. Jennifer volunteered to help edit. • A comment was made that Leaside semester 2 FSL students cannot participate in the Concours because of timing issues. Please see attached document for a staff response. 	

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<p>PART Updates</p> <p>Professional Learning for Teachers</p>	<p>teacher. It could be an occasional teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee Hastings called a meeting on April 18th regarding the Elmlea PART that took place last year. He commented on the value of the work all the members had done, even though it has not gone to Board yet. The recommendations remain in place, and as soon as the capital funding freeze is over, Melody Village will be recommended as an FI centre school from K-8. There were 7-8 public and private meetings held for the W8 PART. It was a transparent process and allowed participants to share concerns. • The ward 8 PART is complete. There is a change in catchment for Allenby but it remains dual-track. There were other boundary changes as well that do not affect FI/Ext programs. • For Professional Learning, 50 core French teachers came together in a small group instruction for primary teachers working on guided reading. Over 7500 students participated in French experiences outside of the classroom. This was funded by the ministry with the Official Languages in Education grants. Teachers took French excursions with Instructional Leaders to AGO, Harbourfront, Toronto Public Library and Cabbagetown to explore ways to have French field trips within Toronto • A group of teachers from 27 FI sites have met 3 times under the FSL department, in collaboration with Spec. Ed. This initiative is intended to help students receive support in FI classrooms. 	
<p>Ward Reports</p>	<p><u>W22 - Debbie-Lynn Hoste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Birchmount, parents of children are saying that they will not send them to a French Immersion high school because there are not enough choices. Because of this and other reasons, parents are not looking favourably at FI programs at the high school level. <p><u>W15 - Jennifer Story</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents at R.H. McGregor have concerns about principal transition issues. There have been many temporary principals and staff changes and the rollout of Full Day Kindergarten is adding additional pressure. Staff commented that part of the Allenby PART was a space review. It involved getting parents, teachers and administrators to walk through the school and consider the use of existing space. The group ended up finding space for 5 classrooms in a school that was originally thought not to have any space at all. • A question was asked about whether anything has changed in regard to the budget. Staff responded that there is nothing new at this time. <p><u>W17 - Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian PS did not participate in the Concours d'Art Oratoire but they participate in other contests including Turning Points. Several students won awards including one who competed nationally. <p><u>W14 - Tanya English</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus in her ward for next year will be on Spec Ed 	

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<p>Planning for 2013-2014</p> <p>Approval of Meeting Dates</p> <p>Planning for Elections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A schedule of tentative meeting dates was distributed to the membership. These dates were agreed to: Sept 12, Oct 17, Nov 21, Feb 20, Apr 8, May 15 and June 17. A date will be added in January. • Kathryn and Kristina expressed interest in running for parent co-chair. • The election will be for a parent co-chair and a couple of vice co-chairs. A former parent co-chair will chair the election portion of the meeting. • The election will be a timed item on the agenda to facilitate any members who wish to participate via teleconferencing. • The year-end report will be drafted by Kristina and will be circulated to the membership with the June 25 meeting agenda and minutes. 	<p>Amanda will book a January meeting date and post all dates on the FSLAC webpage.</p> <p>Kristina will draft the year-end report and it will be circulated to the membership with the next meeting agenda.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other business to report. 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM. 	

Next meeting: June 25 @ 7:00 PM - 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A