



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

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2013

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dina Pizolinas (teleconference, W2); David Kim (W3); Laura Steele-Gunter (teleconference, W7); Bonnie Joynt , W8); Kathryn Yung (Parent Vice-Co-Chair, W10); Sharon Beeson (W11); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Wilmar Kortleever (teleconference, W13); Chrysoulla Srabian (teleconference, W13 alt); Andrea Demchuck (W14); Tanya English (W14); Kristina Laperle (Parent Vice-Co-Chair, W17); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Matt Forrest (parent); Sharon Beason (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 7:08PM Roundtable introductions were made 	
Approval of Quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was achieved at 7:36 PM. Co-chair report was presented in the interim, and agenda was approved after quorum was reached. No changes to membership were made 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda was approved as written. 	
Approval of Minutes from May 23, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were approved as written. 	Amanda will post to website
Co-Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report to PSSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft of the annual report was distributed to the membership. It included information such as the number of meetings held, wards represented in the membership, milestones and ongoing projects of the committee. Once approved, the report will be finalized and sent to Board Services to be included at PSSC in the fall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion to approve the report was moved by Kristina Laperle, seconded by David Kim; motion carried. Reported on a meeting attended by John Tancredi, Alison Pearce, Trustee Gough, Mary Cruden and Kathryn Yung to discuss next steps in relation to the secondary school motion. There will be another meeting in August to work on the Grade 8 exit survey to determine what the graduating students' needs are and find out what might draw them in to a secondary FI program. 	 2013 Annual Report

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swansea has launched a new program for Grade 3 students as an initiative to get them familiar with the building and the new program prior to starting grade 4 extended. London's Catholic school board has created an FSL framework working group and has invited parents to the table. The framework is be a stepping stone to great opportunities like this for parent engagement and discussion. Mary attended a conference in Ottawa to hear Keith Spicer, the first Commissioner of French Language in Canada, sponsored by Graham Fraser, the current Commissioner of Official Languages. Spicer talked about the great contributions of parents across the country to French second language learning and official bilingualism in our schools. Spicer sponsored the first ever Parent Conference for FSL parents and out of that, Canadian Parents for French was born. 	
Election of 2013-2014 Parent Co-Chair and Vice-Co-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last year it was decided that the FSLAC would be led by a single Parent Co-Chair and one or two Parent Vice-Co-Chairs, along with the Trustee co-chair designated by the Board. Kristina Laperle self-nominated for the position of Parent Co-Chair. Andrea Demchuck seconded the nomination. No other nominations were received. Kristina was declared Parent Co-Chair for the 2013-2014 committee year. Kathryn Yung was nominated for the position of Parent Vice-Co-Chair by Kristina Laperle. David Kim seconded the nomination. Jennifer Story was nominated for the second position of Parent Vice-Co-Chair by Kathryn Yung. Tanya English seconded the nomination. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NB: Jennifer was not present at the meeting but had expressed interest in running for the position. No other nominations were received. Kathryn and Jennifer were declared Parent Vice-Co-Chairs for the 2013-2014 committee year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion to declare the unanimous support for the incoming co-chairs was moved by Andrea Demchuck, seconded by David Kim; motion was carried. 	<p>The following were elected as Co-Chairs for the 2013-2014 committee year:</p> <p>Parent Co-Chair Kristina Laperle</p> <p>Parent Vice-Co-Chair Kathryn Yung</p> <p>Parent Vice-Co-Chair Jennifer Story</p>
Member Reports on Participatory Budget and Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items were held over to the next meeting.. 	
Staff Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolment Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft of the enrolment report was shared with the membership; the drafts were library copies that were returned to staff before the end of the meeting. The report went to Administrative Council, which is the last stop before the Board of Trustees. It must be approved by Trustees before it can be distributed to the public. The draft included brief explanations of programs, a summary of the number of total 	

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<p data-bbox="102 824 464 881">Recommendations to revise Enrolment Report</p> <p data-bbox="102 1393 491 1417">Equal attention to core French</p>	<p data-bbox="558 164 1619 188">registrants, number of sibling applicants,, acceptance numbers by school and redirections.</p> <ul data-bbox="522 204 1650 1490" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="522 204 1650 443">• A comment was made that even though students are guaranteed a spot in the program and have bussing to support transportation, schools are growing fast and don't have room. Many parents are not accepting offers because the location is not accessible, and bussing isn't always an option due to day care in the mornings or afternoons. Staff responded that it would be ideal to have students who are in the catchment of the program get to the designated school. Every year, Teaching and Learning meets with the planners to discuss this topic. Sometimes class sizes can be increased with an exemption (the cap is 20 but 10% of the ½ day SK and grade 1 to 3 classes in system can be up to 23 students).. <li data-bbox="522 459 1650 516">• The Board has been declining in enrolment, but participation in FI/Extended programs has increased between 2000 and 2013. <li data-bbox="522 532 1650 678">• A question was asked about why the number of total applicants is up a lot from last year but acceptance is only up a small amount. Staff responded that many people change their minds, including those offered a redirect. There are situations where parents may apply without being confident in their decision. For example, all applicants to Allenby were offered a spot at the school, but of 84, only 57 accepted. <li data-bbox="522 695 1650 751">• A comment was made that the next enrolment report should include another column displaying the total applicants that were redirected and didn't accept the offer. <li data-bbox="522 768 1650 824">• Recommendations for changes in the content of the enrolment report should be sent to Melanie who will compile them and send them to John for review. <li data-bbox="522 841 1650 898">• A comment was made that the FSLAC should look at surveying the parents that don't accept offers.. <li data-bbox="522 914 1650 995">• It was suggested that it would be more useful to parents to have the information earlier in the school year. Staff responded that the numbers are constantly changing. Staff are always analyzing the information and work on problem areas as soon as they are visible. <li data-bbox="522 1011 1650 1092">• A comment was made that a key issue to watch next year is the status of schools that performed a proximity lottery for enrolment purposes, which occurs when the number of applicants from the catchment exceeds designated spots. <li data-bbox="522 1109 1650 1166">• A suggestion was made that the name of the proximity lottery be changed to "home school lottery", as only the applicants from the home school are included. <li data-bbox="522 1182 1650 1263">• A comment was made that FI/EXT programs should be reasonably available to everyone but not all programs have been made fully available across the amalgamated Board. The TDSB is the biggest board in Canada and should be able to fulfil its amalgamation commitments. <li data-bbox="522 1279 1650 1458">• A comment was made that a lot of energy is being spent on immersion and extended programs, and we forget about core participation. Core participation has gone down while immersion is going up. Students that drop out of immersion may not even do core. Staff responded that they spend a lot of time looking at numbers for immersion and extended because of the report, but they also spend lots of energy, time and resources on core French. 2 of the 6 Instructional Leaders currently focus on core French. <li data-bbox="522 1474 1650 1498">• A comment was made that there is a fast succession of boomer retirement occurring and the 	<p data-bbox="1669 862 1990 987"><u>Recommended changes to the Enrolment Report should be sent to Melanie.</u></p>

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<p>FSLAC panels / working groups</p> <p>New FSL Program Coordinator, Kirsten Johnston</p> <p>Summer FSL Programs</p> <p>Perth Issue Revisited</p>	<p>number of staff to be replaced in the next few years will grow to be very high. It will be important to push for higher French education in our next generation of teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comment was made that the issue in core French is that parents aren't driving it. The new FSL curriculum will be launched in the fall for the elementary panel, and 2014 for the secondary panel. It will modernize core French, immersion and extended, and will have a strong Common European Framework (CEFR) influence. • The final report will be uploaded on the FSLAC website by Amanda once it is received by Trustees. • A comment was made that during past discussions it was suggested that the FSLAC create working groups, ie. to look at transportation, math and other issues in FSL. • A suggestion was made to try and get the voice of core parents around the table. It was also suggested to focus on the credit options of secondary FI students. • Alison Pearce is retiring; her work and dedication were recognized by the FSLAC and a gift certificate for flowers is being delivered to her office: the new program coordinator starting in September is Kirsten Johnston and she will attend the first FSLAC meeting with John. • A French summer program will be offered at two sites by the Con. Ed department this summer. One will be held at Humbercrest in the west, focusing on SK-Grade 8 FI. The other will be in the east end at JB Tyrell, with a focus on extended French. They are enrichment programs to help the students keep skills up over the summer months. They are advertised on the TDSB Con. Ed website. • A question was asked about whether there were any updates on the Perth issue. Staff responded that a parent meeting was held and the possibility of grade 4 entry was discussed. • A comment was made that there is now more than one mechanism needed to start a program. In the past there was no PR597. Community members can always lobby in other ways. • 	<p><u>Amanda will upload Enrolment Report to FSLAC page once it is public.</u> <u>Consider creating FSLAC working groups in 2013-14</u></p>
<p>Ward Reports</p>	<p><u>W14 Tanya English</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is starting to have conversations about gifted FI programs. Parents didn't realize that assessments would only be for the English program. Staff responded that a student needs to be in the 98th or 99th percentile to be gifted, and, statistically, it's very hard to make a program out of that; it is a critical mass problem. • IEP meetings should have a better agenda, and parents should , leave with more information about the process in a document they can easily read and digest. Staff responded that these concerns should be directed to the Spec. Ed. department. • A number of students are leaving Winchester to go to the English program or to private schools. Many of these students are identified with a learning disability. FSLAC should have active engagement in SEAC. 	

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	<p><u>W14 Andrea Demchuck</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No ward news. She suggests that there should be 4 schools with gifted FI programs – one in each quadrant. <p><u>W17 Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian will be expanding in September 2014 with 2 new FI - FDK classrooms. <p><u>W10 Kathryn Yung</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When many parents hear the word “program” they interpret it to mean the FI program at their local school. At presentations to new parents, staff were talking about guaranteeing acceptance into the “program”. As an FSLAC member, she understood what was meant, but many of the new parents did not. It was suggested that phrasing of “program” be changed to something more descriptive, e.g. students will be placed in French Immersion, but not necessarily at their local school. Staff responded that Teaching & Learning will be revisiting a lot of things and putting together key points for review. 	
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 9:04 PM. 	

Next meeting: September 12, 2013 @ 7:00 PM - 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A