



**French as a Second Language Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Dina Pizolinas(W2); Aziz Walji(W2); David Kim(W3); Kathryn Yung(Parent Co-Vice-Chair); Lauralyn Johnston (W8, Alt); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Tanya English (W14); Andrea Demchuk(W14, Alt); Jennifer Story(W15); Sarah Smith(W15, Alt); Rita Camacho-Lomeli(W16); Kristina Laperle(Parent Vice-Chair, W17); Debbie Lynn Hoste (W22)

**TDSB STAFF:** John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL);

**VISITORS:** Cindy Kenyon (W14); Minaz Asani Kanji (Parent); Sophia Ruddock (W9)

**REGRETS:** Wilmar Kortleever (W13); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Pamela Gough (Trustee)

**RECORDER:** Linda Mendonca

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1. <b>Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions</b>	Meeting was called to order at 7:15PM Roundtable introductions were made. Members who attempted to call in via tele-conferencing were unable to participate in the meeting due to technical issues with the tele-conferencing unit.	
2. <b>Approval of Quorum</b>	Quorum was achieved at 7:22 PM.	
3. <b>Approval of Agenda</b>	*** <b>MOTION:</b> Dina, seconded by Jennifer moved to approve the agenda as written. All approved. Motion carried.	
4. <b>Approval of Minutes from September 12/13</b>	*** <b>MOTION:</b> Jennifer, seconded by Sharon moved to approve the September 12 13 minutes. All approved. Motion carried.	Recorder will post the minutes to the website.

<p><b>5. Co-Chair &amp; Special Reports (Kathryn Yung)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special Education Report</li> <li>▪ Community Advisory Committee</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Ontario Consultation – “Great to Excellent”</li> </ul>	<p><b>Special Education Report</b></p> <p>Jennifer reported that she has made contact with the SEAC Chair in the context of working with parents at the SEAC table to provide opportunities for children with Special Needs to continue with French programs. Striking a committee for SEAC/FSLAC was discussed at SEAC’s last meeting.</p> <p><b>Community Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>Kathryn confirmed that the model for CACs is currently under review. A report will be made available as to what the structure and support for CACs will look like.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Ontario Consultation – “Great to Excellent”</b></p> <p>Kathryn reported that the Ministry has entered into a consultation called “Great to Excellent” for redefining the vision, aspirations and goals of education in Ontario. It includes the opportunity for on-line submission to the survey by stakeholder groups. FSLAC brainstormed responses from a language learning perspective. The FSLAC Submission will be posted on the FSLAC webpage under ‘FSLAC Newsletters and Reports’, ‘Other Reports’.</p>	<p>Jennifer will report back at the next meeting with an update regarding SEAC/FSLAC Working Group.</p> <p>Kathryn will summarize the responses to the brainstorming questions and provide the responses to the Ministry of Education by November 7<sup>th</sup>. [Note to draft: deadline was extended to Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>]</p>
<p><b>6. Staff Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FSLAC Website Update</b></li> <li>▪ <b>New FSL Curriculum</b></li> <li>▪ <b>FDK Report</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>FSLAC Website Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Steps are being taken to bring the new website to full functionality. The link to FSLAC has been fixed.</li> <li>▪ A comment was made that the web team really needs to look at the clarity of communication and to carefully consider the user perspective. It should be easy to find your school, the application section, materials that would otherwise be in the bottom of the backpack etc...</li> <li>▪ There will be a big main banner on the TDSB landing page during the first week of November to support Junior extended applications. The application information will be on the site for all of November. SK application information will be posted for all of January.</li> <li>▪ The FSL department will be tweeting. General communications will be responsible for the posts.</li> </ul> <p><b>New FSL Curriculum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The new curriculum came out on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a shift from a language learning perspective, e.g. the document says that “language learning is for everyone”. The</li> </ul>	<p>John will provide the FDK report at the next the meeting.</p>

	<p>principle is of learning strategies for retaining language skills as opposed to ‘these are the verbs you learn in Grade 1...’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional learning is underway with the early years and staff is being recruited for kindergarten, including early childhood educators for French immersion.</li> </ul> <p><b>FDK Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Ministry has lifted the moratorium on capital improvements, and work is underway at several schools to ensure there is space for FDK at FI schools. FDK report will be discussed further at the next meeting.</li> <li>▪ A question was asked whether there were enough French supply teachers. Staff acknowledged that they are in demand. Supply teachers are able to decide on a day-by-day basis whether they will accept a placement.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Ward Reports</b></p>	<p><b>***MOTION:</b> To extend meeting at 9:00 was approved by consensus.</p> <p><b><u>Ward 1:</u></b> Nothing to report</p> <p><b><u>Ward 2:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There was a huge turnout at first Ward Council meeting for French Immersion students. French immersion bussing was on the agenda. Millwood families that go to Hilltop for grades 6-8 are concerned about the distance and safety.</li> <li>▪ Trustee advised parents to come to the Board to do a deputation about their concerns and their interest in having a closer middle school.</li> <li>▪ Concern expressed that some students who leave the country are losing instructional hours. Students who return may find they have fallen behind and their success in FSL is at risk.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ward 3</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ John English is experiencing bussing problems.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ward 9 ( Report by Ward 9 Visitor, Sophia Ruddock)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child care is a concern at Rawlinson</li> </ul>	

**Ward 10**

- Nothing to report, apart from a parent concern (regarding placement and transportation) that has already been communicated to staff.

**Ward 13**

- Leaside is bursting and there is still a concern that there are not enough academic courses to meet demand and have a great French program.
- A comment was made that the FSLAC is working on a survey to investigate secondary school choices as a result of last year's motion. We want to maintain the current high enrolment levels in French immersion as elementary students move up through the system into secondary. These students have many choices at secondary levels, and French programs need to be designed so that they will compete for students' attention next to arts and other programming alternatives.

**Ward 14**

- Winchester PS: There are concerns that kids are leaving in grades 3-5, moving to English speaking classrooms. Gifted assessments are having an impact as it is either immersion or gifted. What about the possibility of gifted FI?
- Trustee Sheila Ward currently having a meeting regarding LOI Funding for underprivileged schools (i.e Nelson Mandela, Model Schools). Parents are confused about how funding happens. Parents feel that promises relating to funding have not been met.
- A question was asked about how we can help parents understand how funding works for schools.
- Staff responded that schools receive funding from the Board. Staffing costs) of \$2.9B are distributed annually by the Staffing Allocations Committee. The balance of \$500B is spent on books, laptops, etc. There is very little discretionary budget at the school level once these allocations are made.

**Ward 15**

- At R.H. McGregor -facilities has been to the school to assess space for FDK – school has 800 students.)
- Can choose to have students attend a half day or full day
- Pathways: East York Collegiate was put forward by the Trustee as a possible site. FSLAC proposed, and the Board agreed, to a broader look at the secondary program.

	<p><b><u>Ward 16</u></b> Nothing to report</p> <p><b><u>Ward 17(Kristina)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brian SP Principal presented on Gifted Students (info, and how to qualify)</li> <li>▪ Getting two new classrooms</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ward 21</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FDK Rollout is expected in 2014</li> <li>▪ In 2015 – Ward 21 (Trustee Shaun Chen's Ward) will split into 2 as it is the largest geographical area – to create Ward 23</li> <li>▪ A suggestion was made that people should drive around in these areas to look at geographical concerns affecting these Wards. The distances are vast</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Ward 22</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nothing to report</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Other Business</b>	No new business	
<b>9. Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM</li> </ul>	