**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Committee Name: French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

Date: June 9, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

**Present:** Trustee Co-Chair Robin Pilkey; Parent Co -Chair Kristina Laperle (W17); Parent Vice Chair Matt Forrest (W9); Rob Janes (W2); Caroline Paterson (W7 Alt); Lauralyn Johnston (W8); Sarah Warden (W10); Sarah Smith (W15); Sharon Beason (W16); Peggy Dufresne (W19); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French);

**Teleconference:** Trustee Jennifer Story; Parent Vice Chair Betheney Maheu (W11)

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

**Regrets:** Kingsley Kwok (W20); William Kortleever (W13 Alt)

**Guests:** Deloris Williamson (W5 parent); Mitch Zeltzer (W15 Chester Parent); Gayle Miller (W21); Joanne Griffith (W21 &22); Randy Samuel (W17 parent): Glyden (W9)

**Recorder:** Latha John (Parent and Community Engagement Office):

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATION/MOTION/ACTION** |
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| Call to Order/Quorum / Membership Review | Meeting was called to order by Chair Laperle at 7:08 pm, welcome introductions followed. Quorum was achieved. |  |
| Approval of Agenda | Motion to approve agenda by Sarah Smith, seconded by Lauralyn Johnston. Carried. |  |
| Approval of Minutes May 10, 2016 | Motion to approve the minutes by Sarah Smith seconded by Peggy Dufresne. Carried. |  |
| **Chair’s Report**   * Newsletter * Trustee Candidate Survey | Newsletters sent out last week: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Community/docs/June%202016%20FSLAC%20Newsletter-graphics-June%202016.pdf  Articles included:   * Save the date September 20, 2016 FSLAC meeting * Story of Toronto elementary school teacher Hetti-Marie Manu at Broadlands Public School who wrote a song in French as homage to Canadian veterans * TDSB Secondary students won at the provincial and national Concours d’Art Oratoire (Speech Contest) * Lord Lansdowne Franco-Fête * Summer programs at Toronto Libraries, including TD Summer Reading Club in French * TDSB & beyond summer programs * Trustee By Elections - FSLAC Survey was sent to Trustee candidates for their perspectives on French |  |
| * Annual Report to PSSC | The report (attached) was presented to the committee by Chair Laperle.  Motion to approve the Annual Report 2015-2016 by Lauralyn Johnston, seconded by Matt Forrest. Carried. | Latha will submit report to PSSC |
| **Election**  Parent Co-chair and Vice Co-chair for 2016-17 | Nomination were received for the Executive positions 2016- 2017;  Parent Co-Chair- nomination was received from Kristina Laperle.  The following nominees for the Parents Vice Chair positions: Matt Forest, Betheney Maheu,  Peggy Dufresne.  All candidates were acclaimed to the positions.  Motion to approve the elections for the executive positions by Sarah Smith, seconded by Sarah Warden. Carried unanimously. |  |
| **Guest:**  **Chester Parent(s)** | **Parent concerns**   * Some communities and parents struggle with the placement process in French Immersion schools and can feel the process is not done with equity and fairness, not all parents able to come forward * East end schools and communities seem to get moved the most for the French Immersion placements * Parents struggle with arranging daycare spaces due to late placements in French Immersion schools * There are also ongoing bussing issues for French Immersion students to and from daycare   **Committee Feedback**  Before amalgamation there were different approaches to the French Immersion programs from the various boards. The Board and the FSLAC have extensively discussed lottery and proximity with no perfect solution. TDSB’s commitment to French Programs and expansion is based on demand and new sites are created as needed. Thirty-three new French Immersion sites have been added in the last nine years.    **Q&A**  **Q.** Is there going to be a permanent FI pathway for Chester?  **Staff response-** All FI programs have a pathway from the entry point all the way to secondary school graduation. Pathways are subject to change as the program expands and local needs change. Currently, Chester regular track students are associated to Dundas’ FI program which moves to Queen Alexandra for middle school and Malvern CI for secondary.  **Q.** Could conversion of dual track to a single track French Immersion school be possible solution to take the pressure off the different dual track schools in the area?  **Staff response-** Single-track school would not necessarily resolve accommodation challenges. Broadlands, for example, which is single track French Immersion, is over subscribed. Transforming a dual track to a single track happens through a process that involves a great deal of community consultation.  The sibling rules means that younger immersion students from the same family usually attend where the older siblings do.  FSL Staff meet with the planners in November, but the planners cannot accurately predict how many will choose French Immersion. It is a challenging to find room to accommodate all students, particularly in certain areas of the city. The Board tries to avoid redirecting students if at all possible.  **Q.** How does the Board open a new French Immersion site?  **A.** To meet increased local demand, planners identify possible French Immersion sites, ideally with at least seven available classrooms. The school principal is informed and potential applicants receive information about the new French Immersion site.  **Committee feedback on childcare issues**  Early years and childcare is now under the Ministry of Education. The Board needs to consider the integration of pathways between French immersion schools and child care. FSLAC to look at a joint meeting with the Early Years Advisory Committee, the committee has shared concerns with the Board on this issue.  **Q.** How can the issues be brought to the attention of Trustees?  **A.** Day care experiences from the communities can be shared with the Trustees. Trustees to have a session planned for late September 2016 on childcare. | **Action:** The Committee to follow through in September 2016;  Day care issues  joint meeting with Early Years Advisory Committee.  **Action**: Chair Laperle to follow up with the Trustee Pilkey on the childcare session for Trustees |
| Staff Report   * Retention in French Immersion | **TDSB retention data**   * The data shows that the retention rate for immersion at the Board in general is 46%. The French immersion retention rates at key points have been increasing. For example, SK-grade 3 was 65% in 2000, but was 75% in 2011, likely due to Ministry and TDSB work on supporting students within the program. * French Immersion program is a closed system with an exit door when compared to the regular board which has both exit and entry doors to the program. The regular program will replenish itself as some students move out the area, others move in. The Board tries to make the best possible options for the re-entry process to French Immersion. When students apply to enter or re-enter at other than the entry point, they are considered “late applicants”. Two conditions must be met: there must be proof of some form of equivalency of French instruction in the student’s prior program as we want the child to meet with success and there must be room available in the school/grade/program requested.   **Q&A**  **Q.** Does the data of the cohort include the transfers?  **A.** The data shows the total population and does not indicate the number of transfers. | **Action:** Staff to share retention rates for Jr. Extended at earliest opportunity |
| * DELF Project Update | **DELF Project Update**  Out of forty-four students who took the DELF forty-one students were successful at the level challenged. |  |
| * FSL Teachers’ Professional Learning | **Professional Learning in CEFR and Inclusion document**  Sessions were provided for teachers who were interested in the inclusion of students with special education needs in FSL programs. Invitations were targeted to FSL teachers and Methods and Resource Teacher (MART) who hold the role of the special education resource teacher in dual track French Immersion schools. |  |
| * Hollywood& Middle Immersion | The middle immersion program is moving out of Hollywood for Sept 2017 as decided through the Accommodation Review. The community has been informed of the decisions of the ARC. New location is to be confirmed. |  |
| FSLAC - Reflections   * Best Practices & Goals for 2016-17 | **Best Practices**   * Great working relationship with staff, but we need to be mindful that any requests to staff should be done as a vote or a motion from the FSLAC committee meeting, not sent to staff by individual parent or trustee members * Learning from guest presenters at FSLAC such as Toronto Public Library Staff * Get comparative perspective across the other Boards in the province from CPF Ontario * FSLAC presence at the different events * FSLAC workshops at schools * Dissemination of information about resources, such as summer camps and resources to schools and learning via website and newsletter * Collecting parents’ stories about issues FSL related issues affecting their families (FSL parent guest speakers at FSLAC meetings) * FSLAC connection with local wards   **Goals**   * Solidifying commitment to equity to FSL * ***Core French*** – Shine a light on retention after grade 9 * Improve ***retention in Extended French and Immersion for middle school and secondary***? * Monitor equity in support for FSL kids with ***Special Education needs*** * Monitor ***gifted screening*** for French Immersion students * ***Child Care*** - Revisit issues with Early Years Advisory Committee, set up a joint meeting with Early Years, FSLAC to provide some information of FSLAC-related concerns for Trustee session on childcare issues, seamless placement process in childcare for French Immersion program to eliminate confusion (possibility to create accommodations within the placement) * ***Bussing issues*** - Transportation services to be invited as guest to FSLAC, also to investigate issues with summer school bussing * ***Redirections*** - Identifying communities who have experienced high levels of displacement |  |
| * FSLAC dates for 2016-16 school year | Meeting dates (attached) were distributed to the committee |  |
| Ward Reports |  |  |
| W17 | Games night was a huge success. Other wards who want to do similar games night contact Chair Laperle for games and ideas. |  |
| W7 | The story time program at Runnymede Public Library was a success; the program was for ages 6-8, twelve registrations and was well attended. The program ran for four nights once a week.  Training session on public health and mental wellness were done by three presenters from TDSB’s Public Health program. |  |
| Next Meeting Date | Next meeting on September 20, 2016 |  |
| Adjournment | Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm by Chair Laperle, seconded by Sarah Smith. All in favour. Carried. |  |