



**French as a Second Language Advisory Committee**

**Informal Meeting Notes**

**Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014**

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

**PRESENT:** Kristina Laperle (Parent Co-Chair, W17); Kathryn Yung (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W10); Dina Pizolinas (Ward 2, Alt); Rosemary Sutherland (Ward 9); Wilmar Kortleever (Ward 13), Sharon Kerr (Ward 13); Cindy Ewins (W17, Alt); Cheryl Wilson (Ward 19); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (Ward 22); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Melanie Dickstein

**TELECONFERENCE:** Pamela Gough (Trustee); Millicent Quist (Ward 1), Laura Steele- Gunter (Ward 7)

**GUESTS:** Sam Sotiropoulos (Trustee); Betheney Maheu (Davisville parent); Sharon Beason (parent); Julie Dale (parent)

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

**REGRETS:** Cindy Kenyon(Ward 14, Alt); Nichole Jonas (Ward 1);

**RECORDER:** Vandana Bharti, Committee Assistant (Parent & Community Engagement Office, TDSB)

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1.	<b>Call to Order – Welcome/Introductions</b> Meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm.	
2.	<b>Approval of Quorum</b> Quorum was achieved. <b>Membership Review</b> No changes.	
3.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> The agenda was approved.	
4.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> January 9, 2014 minutes were approved.  February 20, 2014 informal meeting notes were accepted.	Vandana will post the January minutes to the website.  Melanie/Vandana will confirm procedure for informal meeting notes.
5.	<b>Special Guest: Karen Falconer</b> <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Innovation/SummerPrograms.aspx">http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Innovation/SummerPrograms.aspx</a> <b>Elementary Summer School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>53 International Languages serving 32,000 students during the school year</li> <li>11 sites will be offering international Languages in the summer to 2000 students</li> <li>Google analytics show that 2 weeks ago summer school was the number 1 word that was searched.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community based decision making for local summer programming begins in January with April registration</li> <li>• Principals volunteer their schools and then principal/teaching jobs are posted</li> <li>• Elementary programs give beginning teachers chances to work with experienced teachers</li> <li>• 25 sites were planned, now up to 28 sites, increase in North East due to 2013 waiting lists</li> <li>• Registration is online and in one place on the TDSB website</li> <li>• Summer school is open to non TDSB students</li> </ul> <p><b>K-8 FSL schools this summer:</b>  Humbercrest (K- 8 French Immersion ½ day programs); Cassandra (Grades 1-8 French Immersion &amp; Extended ½ day programs); JB Tyrell (Grades 6- 8 Core French ½ day programs); The Waterfront school (K-8 for different entry levels of French – full day program); Westmount (Grades 7-8 French immersion-1/2 day programs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended to be a less structured and more creative approach than the regular school year programming</li> <li>• Bussing is not provided</li> <li>• Information is posted on school sites, notices sent out one month earlier than last year</li> <li>• Parents can start to register their kids after the Easter weekend and registration will continue until the end of June</li> <li>• Programs run if enrolment target of 125 students per site is met</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary FSL this summer</b>  York Mills CI with 4 credit courses:  French Immersion grade 10; Introduction to psychology; Functions (Math); Canadian History</p> <p><b>TDSB Partnership for FSL Credits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with EduTravel: Get your Civics and Careers credit in French Immersion or Extended French while you travel to Montreal, Ottawa and New York City. The program costs \$1400 and runs from July 2-16, includes 7 days of travel. <a href="http://www.edutravelforcredit.com/">http://www.edutravelforcredit.com/</a></li> <li>• Credits are given by the TDSB.</li> <li>• Course is taught by a qualified teacher using Ministry of Education curriculum</li> <li>• A principal in Continuing Education supervises to ensure the quality of the program.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>e-Learning Courses (on behalf of Brian Hill, program co-coordinator e-Learning):</b>  <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GoingtoHighSchool/eLearning.aspx">http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GoingtoHighSchool/eLearning.aspx</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-learning courses are available to High School students and adults, including nonTDSB students.</li> <li>• There are 2 sessions that run from June 23rd to July 25th, and July 23rd to August 22nd</li> <li>• One FSL course available through 'e-Summer School': Grade 11 Physical Geography Immersion with registration from April 1st to June 2<sup>nd</sup> and a start date of June 23rd</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Co-chair Report</b>  <b>Parent Academy Conferences April 5, 2014:</b>  East-Cedarbrae CI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debbie Lynn &amp; Kristina attended for FSLAC (and CPF)</li> <li>• TDSB FSL Staff, Sylvain Gagnon, did a successful presentation with lots of parent questions about the French programs</li> <li>• Sylvain presented in the morning and due to a scheduling mix up, there was an unexpected group of parents for an afternoon presentation as well. Kristina stepped in and lead the parents in a discussion about FSL programs and the FSLAC.</li> <li>• 13 new names were collected for the FSLAC newsletter</li> <li>• a connection was made with a Boys and Girls club in Scarborough offering a French Program</li> </ul> <p>West- Thistletown CI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dina, Diana &amp; Gurstwinder attended for FSLAC (and Cherie for CPF)</li> <li>• TDSB FSL Staff, Luc Sauvignon, did the presentation</li> <li>• Good turnout, there were lots of questions about entry point for Senior Kindergarten and Grade 4.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance notice of other Board conferences for parents would be helpful to avoid last minute scramble</li> <li>• FSLAC has no materials for a presentation table like a pull up banner or a poster about who we are</li> <li>• FSLAC parent volunteers produced conference specific newsletters but has no access to colour printing at the board</li> <li>• Suggestion made that PIAC might be able to fund FSLAC needs for parent conferences</li> <li>• Suggestion made that an application could be made for a regional PRO grant</li> </ul>	<p>Vandana will bring this to Michelle Munroe's attention so FSLAC can be in the loop going forward.</p> <p>Kristina and Cindy will look into PRO Grant.</p>

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	<p><b>June FSLAC Newsletter Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilmar - Years of Action summary</li> <li>• Summer school and e-learning information</li> <li>• French in the summer months including Toronto Public Library, Franco-Fete</li> <li>• 5 Tweets about what you love about learning about French</li> <li>• Kristina - TDSB FSL Trivia</li> </ul>	<p>Members with ideas for the June newsletter or with interest in helping out should get in touch with Kristina.</p>
7.	<p><b>Staff Report</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Planning in French (SPIF) Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• positive results for Phase I, hotspots where applications exceed the spots allocated by Planning are being addressed</li> <li>• Phase II next school year</li> </ul> <p><b>Ministry Projects on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DELF(Diplome d'etudes en langue francaise) Student Proficiency Project – 30 students from core, extended and immersion programs will do the DELF French proficiency exam at the end of April as part of a Ministry of Education research project. Successful students will receive an internationally recognized certificate of French proficiency in the CEFR categories. More CEFR/DELf info here: <a href="http://on.cpf.ca/resources/for-parents/cefr-and-delf/">http://on.cpf.ca/resources/for-parents/cefr-and-delf/</a></li> <li>2. TDSB is the lead board for the CEFR for 8 GTA boards.</li> <li>3. A retired program coordinator and instructional leader have been brought in to work on a Ministry funded project that will result in the creation of secondary assessment tasks and tools which will be shared provincially</li> </ol> <p><b>Professional Development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSL instructional leaders are organizing learning modules for teachers that are very well attended on the new FSL Curriculum <a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/fsl18-2013curr.pdf">http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/fsl18-2013curr.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Enrolment for Sept 2014 and PARS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 central FSL staff are managing the application process for SK and grade 4 entry FSL programs</li> <li>• approximately 6500 new people are coming into the system, 90% of applications are processed without any problems, about 10% (approximately 600) require individual attention from the 3 staff members</li> <li>• Enrolment Report will be released in May</li> <li>• enrolment process continues to be challenging: applications at specific sites can vary greatly from year to year, so it's not</li> </ul>	

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	<p>always easy to predict where the demand is going to be; it takes time to identify and negotiate new sites to meet the demand. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSL staff prefers a proactive approach but with so many variables, sometimes have to be reactive</li> <li>• board offers transportation according to Policy 20 &amp; 80 to support equity in immersion/extended</li> </ul> <p><b>Five New SK Immersion Sites for September 2014:</b></p> <p>1. Melody Village - new SKFI site in North Etobicoke as a result of Ward 1 PARC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked member of the committee and especially Trustee John Hastings and Dina Pizolinas, FSLAC Ward 2 Representative</li> <li>• Will become French immersion centre with English program to be gradually phased out</li> <li>• There is a lot of support from FSL parents who participated in public meetings</li> <li>• Melody Village has 2 SK immersion classes in Sept.</li> </ul> <p>2. Islington JMS- catchment of John English split, Islington has 1 SK immersion class in Sept.</p> <p>3. Blake Street – to help with overflow from Earl Beatty and RH Mc Gregor, Blake has 2 SK immersion classes in Sept</p> <p>4. Bowmore – to help with overflow from Duke of Connaught, Bowmore has 1 SK immersion class in Sept</p> <p>5. Perth-to place 21 applicants from Perth who will not fit in Regal Road, Perth has 1 SK immersion class in Sept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perth needs to create more classroom space as students move up grades, looking at the library to make a 4th class, reconsidering space leased to Toronto Catholic DSB and possibly adding portables</li> </ul> <p><b>Two New JR Extended Sites for September 2014:</b></p> <p>1. Chester – to help with overflow from Diefenbaker &amp; Wilkinson in the Don Mills area</p> <p>2. Rene Gordon – to help with overflow from Cassandra and Dunlace in East York</p> <p><b>Registration Dates and Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff is considering switching the dates for registration of Junior Extended Immersion to January and Early Immersion to late fall. This would allow improved planning and adaptation of programs in response to enrolment numbers.</li> <li>• Staff has noted that most acceptances on PARS seem to come right at the start of the registration process</li> <li>• FSLAC members suggested that parents be surveyed on when they make the decision to enrol their children in French.</li> <li>• Trustee Gough expressed concern that the fall may be too early for parents to make the decision. Their children only just started JK and at the TDSB and parents may want to see how their children are adapting to school life before adding FSL .</li> </ul>	<p>FSL Registration Dates Discussion to be continued at the next meeting.</p>

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8.	<p><b>Ward Reports</b></p> <p>Ward 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPF adult French class ran in January and last fall.</li> </ul> <p>Ward 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FDK at Regal Rd in Sept but space is a big problem, they are waiting to hear back from the Planning Department</li> </ul> <p>Ward 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Went to a PART meeting at Lord Lansdowne, which is bursting with French students. Positive meeting with good discussion. Considering creating a French centre and redirecting English primary students to Kensington (currently at 20% capacity)</li> </ul> <p>Ward 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Fisher: enrolment is up for Sept to 117 students in SK; French talent show scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>; oldest standing elementary school in the TDSB, it was built in 1816 and has held the name John Fisher since 1915</li> <li>Davisville: Math Wars on April 29th</li> </ul> <p>Ward 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CPF new partner – Education Academy – they engage in the Chinese community and have after school programs</li> <li>3 more portables at Broadlands</li> </ul> <p>Ward 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lots of interest at parent information nights; CPF chapter has successfully opened in the ward</li> </ul> <p>CPF- Ministry of Education is publishing a new parent guide for French immersion/extended that will be a companion to the parent guides on Literacy and Numeracy. It will be available for principals to order and on the Ministry website.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Question raised on staffing for math in French and the transition to doing math in English in secondary grades. Staff said that by the senior grades in secondary, math teachers must be specialists; that immersion students handle the transition to math in English without problems and their EQAO results indicate that they are stronger than average in math.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>No other business reported.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> May 15, 2014</p>	<p>Meeting notice will be sent via e-mail.</p>