



## French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date: October 15, 2024**

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Committee Room C/3<sup>rd</sup> Floor West Meeting Room and via virtual Zoom meeting, with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Item	Invitee Name
<b>Attended:</b>	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W5/W6 Alt), Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice Co-Chair W2), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice Co-Chair W11), Devon Pool (W3), Andrew Waters (W3 Alt), Divya Chandra (Ward 11 Alt), Moosa Alloo (W19), Gail Miller (W22). Also present: Rosemary Sutherland (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt), Trustee Dan MacLean (Trustee Co-Chair W2), Audley Salmon (Staff Co-Lead), Roni Felsen (Staff Co-Lead), Trustee Dennis Hastings (W1), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Vice Principal, Valley Park MS), Liliana Martins (Co-ordinator, Secondary), Julie Liu (Learning Coach, Elementary)
<b>Guests:</b>	Randy Samuel, Renatha Singh,
<b>Regrets:</b>	Michelle Munroe (Central Co-ordinator PCE), Mary Cruden (CPF), Elizabeth Carvalho (W7), Cheryl Batty (W8 Alt), Maeve Gray (W10), Madelaine Hamilton (W16), Zuojun Han (W20).
<b>Recorder:</b>	James Jarrett

Item	Discussion	Motion / Action
1. Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Land acknowledgment – Lynne LeBlanc.</li> <li>● Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes.</li> <li>● Introductions.</li> </ul>	
2. Quorum / Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Quorum met 8 out of 11 Wards present.</li> </ul>	
3. Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharlene Henry moves, Charles Zhu seconds. Carried.</li> </ul>	
4. Approval of September 10, 2024 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharlene Henry moves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried.</li> </ul>	James Jarrett to post minutes on FSLCAC Page
5. Declarations - Possible Conflict of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None</li> </ul>	
6. Ward/CPF Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In Wards 5/6, there is fear in the city, with violence in the Weston CI Community.</li> <li>● There is conflict in the community, and it is being brought into the schools.</li> <li>● Trustee Hassan has been taking time to educate people in the ward.</li> <li>● My son is afraid to travel to his middle school.</li> <li>● School support.</li>   <li>● There will be a combined Ward 8 and Ward 11 meeting on October 28. It will be an in-person ward forum where the FSL local rep will have an opportunity to speak regarding French programs.</li> </ul>	
7. Chair Report Trustee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Parent Co-Chair:</b> We attended the CPF event a couple of weeks ago.</li> <li>● We had submitted Kirsten Johnston for the McGilvery award for leadership in FSL, and Charles Zhu (Ward 11) and Lynne LeBlanc (Ward 8) were pleased to cheer Kirsten Johnston's acceptance at the event.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Trustee Co-Chair:</b> Director Russell-Rawlins has retired but is officially still with us until the end of the month with time owing.</li> <li>● Two of the Associate Directors have been covering in the interim. First AD Sirisko was covering, and currently, AD Zucker is covering the role.</li> <li>● Board of Trustees has appointed AD Zucker Interim Director until we hire the new one.</li> <li>● The application process has opened and will close November 3. The committee will start the interview process soon after, and we are hopeful that with it will be a completed quickly.</li> <li>● There will be a hybrid SEAC town hall on November 4. We are looking for students with Spec. Ed. designations to share their experiences.</li> <li>● We have two webinars on personal mobile devices in schools, October 22 at 1 pm, and October 24 at 6:30 pm.</li> <li>● October has three heritage month designations, Islamic Heritage Month, Latin American Heritage Month and Somali Heritage month.</li> <li>● Our Board reorganization meeting is on November 13, 2024. There may be a new co-chair for this committee.</li> <li>● There has been lots of talk about adding an Indigenous Trustee.</li> <li>● Currently, we have 22 trustees the maximum allowed by the Education Act.</li> <li>● There are different ideas about how to accomplish this. We have asked permission from the province for a 23<sup>rd</sup> Trustee, for which there is no funding.</li> <li>● There are 25 wards in the city, three Trustees cover two wards. We could create a 4<sup>th</sup> double ward in order to add an Indigenous Trustee.</li> <li>● We were having these conversations privately in the Board, and now we are going public with them. We're technically not any closer to making this a reality, but we're starting to knock the dominoes down.</li> <li>● Elsewhere, we've had the reaction to the Grassy Narrows Protest field trip.</li> <li>● For a week, we were the lead story.</li> <li>● The event happened on a Wednesday, we had staff responses on Thursday and again on Friday.</li> <li>● The Acting Chair of the Board made a statement about it.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Ministry of Education released a statement calling the trip disgraceful.</li> <li>● On the following Tuesday, Minister Dunlop ordered an investigation; normally it would be internal. The last word is that the investigation has not started yet</li> <li>● On the following Wednesday, Acting Director Sirisko again apologised for the harm, and the issues around trust.</li> <li>● We agreed to fully cooperate with the investigation as required. We've asked that it be done in a timely manner. We're looking for shared learning and an opportunity to change the page.</li> <li>● Trustees have some policy control over field trips. Normally, policies come up every 4-5 years to be reviewed. This policy was not due, but we are now going to review it this year. Staff will create procedures in relation to the policy.</li> <li>● This happened in the middle of September, there was another week before the Board met.</li> <li>● Out of an abundance of caution, the Senior Team suggested that schools not participate in trips where protests might happen, in order to avoid a repeat scenario.</li> <li>● 4 Days later there was National Truth and Reconciliation Day, with events to pay tribute. Some of these events were modified or cancelled. As an example, a secondary school had an event on their grounds, and they didn't leave the school grounds.</li> <li>● We have to try to repair the confidence in communities affected.</li> </ul>	
8. CPF Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CPF: We wanted to share how CPF can help with FSL.</li> <li>● We're a national organization that focuses on increasing bilingualism and supporting French learning. We come from all walks of life looking to support kids.</li> <li>● Our national office is in Ottawa. We have a shared strategic plan.</li> <li>● We're looking for youth participation in French programs, more membership and donors. We work with school boards and all levels of government.</li> <li>● We offer a unique opportunity to help kids, e.g., the DELF. We're here to hold decision makers accountable. And try to amplify parent voice.</li> <li>● The national office runs different initiatives, including a magazine. CPF Ontario is headquartered in Mississauga. Our website has lots of advocacy information, the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>state of FSL, enrolment trends, advocacy research. Our main goals are to provide equal access to programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have our Say Oui website to help people Become a French teacher.</li> <li>● We talk about what students can gain from a bilingual education.</li> <li>● We have a big mailing campaign, and this presentation can be shared with the membership in this committee. If you're interested, you can volunteer with CPF.</li> <li>● We have two Toronto chapters, with 3-4 parents per chapter. These chapters receive funds for what's in their communities. We can help get you started.</li> <li>● We also have smaller two member teams. There are 10 of them. They bring activities to schools. Teams can also apply for funds. There are 15 total chapters.</li> <li>● Some of the activities that can receive funds are for arts presentations, STEM presentations, baking workshops, French camps, fun days, game nights, fitness programs, literacy programs, homework help, reading programs.</li> <li>● Workshop can be held virtually. We had to move to virtual programs 4 years ago because of COVID. We launched virtual programs for kids SK-12 during the school year. We run on Zoom, 8-week sessions in the fall and winter- each session is 45 minutes.</li> <li>● In the spring and summer, we run these sessions for free with Ministry funding.</li> <li>● There are thousands of kids in our programs, developing communication skills.</li> <li>● We have a reading circle program, with written exercises. We have Vive La Parole, conversations and debates.</li> <li>● There is a parent workshop on October 30 from 7-8 pm for dyslexia in French.</li> <li>● Other webinars will be posted. Our public speaking contest is in it's 40<sup>th</sup> year.</li> <li>● The TDSB is very actively involved. We have sent the most students of all boards to Concours d'Art Oratoire.</li> <li>● We are doing a career fair in November for high school students. We have youth leadership programs aimed at matching volunteers with young reading buddies.</li> <li>● It's an excellent way for high school students to earn hours towards their graduation requirement for community hours. We have 250 students registered.</li> <li>● We have social cultural grants up to \$1500, and receive Ministry funding for in school events, e.g., chef à l'école.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We aim for events to be fun, so that kids use French outside of the classroom.</li> <li>● Membership with CPF is now free. Our contact information is <a href="mailto:rsutherland@on.cpf.ca">rsutherland@on.cpf.ca</a> and <a href="mailto:mcruden@on.cpf.ca">mcruden@on.cpf.ca</a>.</li>   <li>● Q: Are the events wholly funded by the Ministry?</li> <li>● CPF: The funding is a mixture of Ministry funds and donations.</li>   <li>● Q: Where are the Toronto Chapters of CPF?</li> <li>● CPF: We have the Toronto East Chapter and the Midtown West Chapter.</li>   <li>● Q: I have 5 kids in FI right now. There is very little participation from the parent communities where my children attend. FSL is important, I'm looking to promote.</li> <li>● CPF: We have resources for non-francophones to support parents. Chapters manage a bank account; teams were created to simplify the process, where it can be a few parents that do not have to manage a bank account, yet access funds for an event (or a few events) at their local schools.</li>   <li>● Q: My middle child transitioned to FI in the COVID era. I enrolled in CPF and the experience was amazing. Many kids were having trouble, and my child is now thriving. There is a shortage of French teachers, which is all over the news.</li> <li>● CPF: The youth leadership programs have done a lot. Student feedback: high schoolers say they want to be French teachers.</li> <li>● Staff: We share information in our Google Classrooms with educators</li>   <li>● Q: Are there training sessions for the student volunteers?</li> <li>● CPF: We host orientations and guidelines are shared. There are teacher coordinators, we give teachers age-appropriate materials. Students choose the grade level they want to work with.</li>   <li>● Q: Is CPF affiliated with Infos-Jeunes?</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff: There is a TDSB subscription to Infos-Jeunes. It is available to all schools in the Virtual Library. If you're in French immersion, you have access.</li> <li>● Q: Do you have a list of vendors or recommendations for chapters to access?</li> <li>● CPF: Yes, we have many options.</li> </ul>	
9. Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff: Applications for Early French Immersion are approaching. The application process this year opens November 4 to 29, for children born in 2021, with entry into JK.</li> <li>● We work with our manager of Strategic Communications, Stacey Lewis, to inform school communities through a variety of methods.</li> <li>● Focuses on reaching a broad audience by using a layered, targeted, culturally relevant, and responsive approach to communication.</li> <li>● TDSB public website and schools websites - promos on multiple pages, Our Early French application webpage has been streamlined for ease of access to families</li> <li>● Direct email to a variety of audiences and distribution lists, including: Community Advisory Committees, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, Child Cares and EarlyON Centres, Community Support Workers, Settlement Workers, Urban Indigenous Education Centre, Toronto Public Libraries, etc. We have paid advertising on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, in many languages, including BlogTO and Toronto.com.</li> <li>● We have select media ad buys in multicultural publications; some running in the community language</li> <li>● Live webcasts available to all parents/guardians/caregivers</li> <li>● To date, we have opened 8 new EFI programs, many in underserved communities.</li> <li>● Q: What are the underserved communities?</li> <li>● Staff: We identified specific geographic gaps in the TDSB. The programs that were opened were at White Haven PS, George B Little PS, Mason Road JPS, Gracedale PS, Brookhaven PS, Fraser Mustard ELA and Kingsview Village. Scarborough and northwest Etobicoke were particularly identified as underserved.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Q: You communicated with faith-based communities, how do you select them?</li> <li>● Staff: Through support of the Community Support Workers and community flyers.</li>   <li>● Q: For the programs that have opened up. Are all the communities now served?</li> <li>● Staff: We are holding on opening more sites right now as we monitor the opening of the recent openings. I wouldn't say we have hit everywhere in the TDSB, but we've addressed the glaring gaps in the system. Any future openings would require reviewing further data.</li>   <li>● Q: Would you say that the data is holding back further openings?</li> <li>● Staff: There are many things to consider for viable programs, including staff availability and demand data.</li>   <li>● Q: There's a shortage of French teachers, it doesn't make sense to expand.</li> <li>● Staff: We are definitely looking to stabilize programs before we open new ones.</li>   <li>● Q: How do you reach kids before they turn 4? Do you email ECE associations and Nursery schools?</li> <li>● Staff: Yes, we do.</li>   <li>● Q: Parents take the initiative to get the student registered in JK. Is there a way to reach out to them before registration deadlines to get parents excited.</li> <li>● Staff: We've had that discussion over the years to come up with a plan that broadcasts the program. We are currently working on migrating the platform from PARS to PowerSchool. Along with that is the integration of the application and registration to kindergarten; hopeful to align the application and registration periods in the near future. Additionally, families do enter the TDSB at various different points in the year. Therefore, the TDSB does have an additional entry point for students who miss the JK entry point. It is the Grade 4 Middle French</li> </ul>	



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	<p>Immersion. This is a very similar program in terms of intensity and subjects taught in French, it just begins a little later.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have been consistent in our approach for 10 years. If you do a Google search for French in the TDSB, the registration page pops up.</li> <li>● We have 10 percent of our students in FI. Not all boards offer the dual entry.</li>   <li>● Q: It's gotten better every year, and we see the notices in the libraries.</li> <li>● Staff: We are working on testimonials from families. We hope to share those.</li>   <li>● Staff: The Draft enrolment report is going to PSSC on October 23.</li> <li>● As per the Multi Year Strategic Plan, the report speaks to growth in the 79 EFI and 40 MFI sites. Both are referred to as intensive French in the MYSP, with at least 25% of the content delivered in French.</li> <li>● Core French is Ministry mandated for grades 4-9 and is offered in most schools to Grade 12.</li> <li>● The complete report shows how many students applied, how many spots in each program, and how many students were redirected. The total number of EFI applicants is slightly down this year but the proportion of the total potential JK applicant pool in 2024 (20%) has remained consistent with that of 2023. 2967 applied out of 14,599 total JK students.</li> <li>● For MFI, the 1133 out of 14343 students applied from grade 3, which is 8 percent.</li> <li>● There were slightly more redirections this year, which is space dependent. Typically, between 5-10% of applicants are redirected. 282 were redirected, 158 accepted.</li>   <li>● Bannockburn PS has opened this year. It is currently K-3 French Immersion centre and will grow a grade each year to grade 6.</li> <li>● The school looks fantastic, with some minor things still to be completed.</li> <li>● The site was reopened because of accommodation pressures in the Yonge-Eglinton area.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Annual Enrolment Report</a></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trustee Co-Chair: Do we have a mechanism to flag the redirected families that don't accept, so that they are made aware of other program options?</li> <li>● Staff: Right now, there is no mechanism in PARS, the current application system. We're transitioning to PowerSchool registration next year. We can ask if we can track those parents who were redirected. We contact all grade 3 parents for MFI. They do receive an email specifically about the MFI application process.</li>   <li>● Q: What if parents miss a newsletter or other communication.</li> <li>● Staff: The communication to Grade 3 parents is sent through school messenger, so all parents receive an email.</li>   <li>● Q: The number of redirections seem to be high this year.</li> <li>● Staff: It is within the 5-10% that we typically see. Last year it was 4%, the year before it was 2%, and the year prior to that it was 5%.</li>   <li>● Q: Where do we stand with core French teachers having their own space, as opposed to teaching on a cart.</li> <li>● Staff: The situation varies, based on the enrolment pressures at individual schools. We would like Core French teachers to have their own space, but it's not always possible, and don't know how many teachers are in each modality.</li>   <li>● Staff: The CAC review process continues. Tomorrow, we will be presenting our 3 reports at GPC. The reports are similar to the templates and survey.</li> <li>● The agenda is available from the Board's public site. The Parent Co-Chair will be deputing to the Board.</li> <li>● FSLCAC has existed as a community advisory committee since 2005.</li> <li>● This is the first time that the Board will be making decisions on the committees. The committee will either continue into the November cycle or be dissolved.</li> <li>● Things that will be investigated is how often does the committee reach quorum, what is meeting attendance like, among other things.</li> <li>● The name change proposed will also be presented tomorrow.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trustee Co-Chair: It's fair to keep in mind that there is no predetermination of what will happen. We are investigating what the committees do, whether they still have value to the Board. There is no rubric to figure out who the top 10 are.</li> <li>● This is a new process, and we're waiting to see how it will ultimately play out.</li>   <li>● Q: Do you have any predictions about how this will work out for this committee?</li> <li>● Trustee Co-Chair: It will be tough to imagine some committees being cut and others remaining without having reviewed all the committees. Real decisions will come at the end of the 2nd year of reviews.</li> <li>● Staff: This will go to Board tomorrow; Angela's report will be posted late Friday.</li> </ul>	
10. Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Co-chair: We'll move the transportation discussion to the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
11. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sharlene Henry moves, Lisa McAvoy seconds. Carried.</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	November 12 @ 6:30 PM, Hybrid Meeting @ 5050 Yonge St., Committee Room A.	