

**MEETING MINUTES**

**To: Members of the French-As-A-Second-Language Advisory Committee**

**FSLAC Meeting -** Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7:00 pm

5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A

**PRESENT**

**Parent Members:**

Lauralyn Johnston (Parent Co-Chair, W8); Sharon Beason (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W16), Christie Dunbar (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W16), Sarah Smith (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W15), Rosemary Sutherland (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W9), Laura Steele-Gunter (Ward 7 – by teleconference), Maureen Burnett (Ward 14), Randy Samuel (Ward 17), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French)

**TDSB Staff & Trustees Present:** Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Pamela Gough (Trustee W 3), Manon Gardner (Executive Superintendent), Beth Butcher (Executive Superintendent), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Program Coordinator FSL)

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|  | **ITEM** | **LEAD** | **ACTION** |
| 1. | **Call to order - Welcome/Introductions**  Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm by Lauralyn Johnston   * Beth Butcher introduced by Manon Gardner as new Executive lead of FSLAC following this meeting | Lauralyn  Johnston | N/A |
| 2. | **Approval of Quorum**   * 7:35 pm quorum achieved * Membership Review: * Caroline Paterson (W7), Kristina Laperle (W17) and Peggy Dufresne (W19) have resigned * Request for follow up with trustees on all wards that do not have a representative * New alternate added: Christie Dunbar (W16) | Sharon Beason | Lauralyn will work with Trustee Pilkey on membership |
| 3. | **Approval of Agenda**\*\*\*Motion: Sharon, seconded by Christie, moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.   * Revised agenda adopted at 7:40 pm | Lauralyn  Johnston | Decision |
| 4. | **Approval of Minutes**\*\*\*Motion: Sarah, seconded by Rosemary, moved to approve the minutes.   * Randy Samuel put forth amendment to minutes, a revision to the W17 report * Motion with amendment carried. | Lauralyn  Johnston | Decision  Randy to send revision to her report to Linda |
| 5. | **Staff Report**  ***Update on Student Census***   * Results will not be available until at least November   ***Update on FSL review (Manon Gardner)***   * FSL program review will be starting in Spring, 2018: focus will be on successes and challenges in the Core French and French Immersion, Extended French programs. Purpose is to bring clarity to our understanding. No recommendations will be made. * FSLAC will be asked closer to that date to provide suggestions on consultation process * Recognized challenges include, among others, transportation of students, accessibility of the programs and the Optional Attendance policy * A recognized success of the programs is student retention   ***Application to FI and Jr Ext Fr Communications Update (Kirsten Johnston)***   * FI application period for 2018-19: October 30 – November 30, 2017: this will allow us to give responses to the bulk of the applications before the holiday break * Jr Ext Fr application period for 2018-19: January 8 – February 8, 2018 * Updated French program posters with the new application dates are being distributed to JK student * packages will be ready to send out to schools in early October * TDSB.on.ca homepage will be updated with FSL banner starting in October * 11 in-person and 1 virtual parent/guardian information evenings have been organized, dates to follow soon. Info nights will be in high schools. Locations chosen for geographic convenience. Most of them are ‘neutral ground’ and not connected to specific French pathways. Teachers and Principals will be invited to attend these info sessions * Parents/guardians can attend any of the meetings to receive consistent info about programming and the application process * All meetings will begin at 7:00pm * FSL info night dates will be shared with the group via the minutes, list will be circulated so members can sign up if they would like to attend and offer support to parents asking questions | All | Information  See Appendix C for Info Evenings |
|  | * Questions and Comments: * Chair Pilkey: the change to information evening process is new for Trustees; it is necessary to share these details in the Trustee Weekly; suggested that we invite someone from Transportation and Child Care to the info evenings to answer parent questions. * Trustee Gough suggested revising the nights again next year if the uptake is not great on these information evenings. Her concerns are that parents may not attend because the sessions are in high schools, as opposed to in the school their child will actually be attending next fall. Staff agreed to assess the effectiveness of the new process, and could revisit the issue next year if necessary. * Q: Once the offers have been made, will students be able to visit schools, or are we expecting parents to accept placements without having seen the school or classrooms? * A: Generally no; welcome to kindergarten events will take place after accepting offers * Q: Renovation of Davisville next year: how will this work for parents who want to visit the site, where will these students be going? * A: These plans are not finalized yet * Q/suggestion: Reference to Elmlea PS information night in the past - teacher and principal had divided parents into three groups (go into small gym and look at work grade by grade), (library demo), (in the Kindie room, teacher showed what the room looks like and what might take place). Can we model any of the 11 planned information evenings to look like this one? * A: We will do as much as we can to make everyone comfortable and offer a chance to see what the program will look like in their child’s school * Q: We are anticipating that principals will be pressured by their communities to have local information evenings. What are we doing to support individual schools? * A: We are working closely with everyone to make them comfortable directing families to one of the 11 info nights. Much later in the application process, schools will be encouraged to host welcome to kindergarten sessions for families but for now just the 11 larger sessions |  | Beth to follow up and ensure FSL info evening details is shared in Trustee Weekly  Kirsten to connect with Candice O’Grady regarding getting information evening details shared across the TDSB  Kirsten to follow up re: adding transportation and childcare to info. |
|  | ***Lauralyn shared questions on transportation for discussion at a future meeting:***   1. What are the key improvements that parents will notice in September and how are we tracking this? 2. How is the TDSB receiving feedback on new transportation program? 3. How is the amount of funding determined year to year? 4. How much did the TDSB receive? 5. Are we only able to spend this funding on transportation?  * FSL Annual report to PSSC included transportation info, some has been shared with FSLAC in the past, context needed on impact of elimination of mid-day bus runs for FI kindergarten students, FI/Ext program expansion, change to TTC fares for 12 and under * Chair Pilkey: Board has a transportation policy, if the policy needs to be reviewed and changed, this committee could bring forward a recommendation to do so to Trustees * Equity is framing French program review later this year, transportation is key to supporting participation by families without the means to transport their kids * Consensus that inviting Garry Greene to next FSLAC meeting to answer these questions would be helpful |  | Action  Beth to invite Garry Greene to next FSLAC meeting and share questions & info in Appendix B |
| 6. | **Chair’s Report**  ***End of Year Member Survey (Christie Dunbar)***   * + - * Purpose – to reflect on work of FSLAC, to improve effectiveness, to identify needs of members/alternates and priorities for the coming year       * Parent Involvement office provides a self-assessment tool with possible survey questions       * Survey was distributed on paper at the June 2017 meeting and electronically via Google Forms       * 13 responses, overall great satisfaction with efficiency, agenda, courtesy between members, understanding of mission of FSLAC and feeling that recommendations to the Board are heard       * Requests made for access to technology at FSLAC meetings: smart board, Skype access to meetings and for consistent access to the surface parking lot       * Concern expressed through the survey that FSLAC has a lack of core and extended French parent members       * Discussion topics 2017/18: unique needs of Extended French students, providing opportunities for students to enhance their French through tutoring and other opportunities, inviting TDSB Employee Services to return to the FSLAC to provide data and more information on staffing process for French speaking teachers | Lauralyn  Johnston | Information/Action  Survey Results (see Appendix A)  Beth Butcher to invite Maxine Wray to a future meeting and speak to staffing of French teachers |
| 7. | **Ward Reports**  **Ward 5:** after school French program at Tumpane has stopped this year, Principal called to say program run by Doorsteps was ending, no explanation.  **Ward 8** meeting in October  **Ward 16** meeting in October  **Ward 17:** concerned parent came forward from Tredway/Woodsworth, bussing list with children’s names was posted at the front door of the building on a list for anyone to see. Parent complained and list was removed. One class has 37 students. Q: What can be done?  **Staff A:** Speak to principal and Superintendent. Re-organization of classes to address this kind of issue is done after September enrolment is checked.  **Q:** Why do some schools choose to split grades?   * Manon: we have caps on class sizes for primary (20 students per class for primary Gr. 1-3), each principal receives projected enrolments in the spring and he/she shares that information and discusses it with Parent Council. The principal proposes a model for the organization of classes. We do not necessarily have many choices for the make-up of classes because the number of students per grade vary. Low numbers in a school/grade make splits inevitable. School principal can answer parent questions.   More information here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf>  **Canadian Parents for French**: Enrolment figures, 2015-16 indicate overall rise in enrolment of extended and immersion French and French first language schools, Ontario FI now up to 212,000 students Core French enrolment down likely due to declining enrolment in general across the province and increased enrolment in FI/Ext; Government of Ontario has announced a new Franco-Ontarian university – may be in place as soon as 2020 and may be located in downtown Toronto near Harbourfront <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/pepg/publications/ConseilPUFO-aug2017-e.pdf> (FSL page 64-65) | All Members | Action  Beth and Manon to follow up with SO of Tumpane for more information  Rosemary will follow-up with Tumpane re: CPF/Glendon afterschool program |
| 8. | **Other Business**   * **PIAC Parent Conference November 25** – Earl Haig Secondary School -FSLAC will present at two sessions, ‘How to Help Your Child Succeed’      * **Canadian Parents for French Ontario Symposium on FSL Education October 28** - Mississauga <https://on.cpf.ca/cpf-ontario-symposium-on-fsl-education/> | Lauralyn  Johnston | Information |
| 9. | **Adjournment 9:07 pm**  **Next Meeting October 10, 2017** | Lauralyn  Johnston | N/A |

Appendix A: Summary of 2016-17 FSLAC Member Reflection Survey



Appendix B: Questions for Transportation Department from Lauralyn Johnston



Appendix C: Listing of 2017-18 FSL Information Evenings

