



**Name of Committee:** French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Date:** 13 October 2020

A meeting of the French As A Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened on October 13, 2020 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm via virtual Zoom with Parent Co-Chair Mandy Moore presiding.

<b>Attendance:</b>	Mandy Moore (Parent Co-Chair W7), Matt Forrest (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Sharlene Henry (W5/W6 Alt), Lynne LeBlanc (W8), Polina Osmerkina (W10); Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Gail Miller (W22 Alt) Also present were: Trustee Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (W11), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (Canadian Parents for French), Manon Gardner (Associate Director), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Program Coordinator)
<b>Guests:</b>	Alexander Brown (Board Chair), Trustee Trixie Doyle (W14), Claudette Fava, Shalone Hendrix
<b>Regrets:</b>	Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Jennifer Tse (W8 Alt), Sarah Smith (W15), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt)

**Part A: Recommendations**

Nil

**Part B: For Information**

**The following reports (attached) were presented. Motion carried to move to PSSC.**

1. FSLAC Annual Report 2019-2020
2. Member Reflection Results, Oct 20, 2020

**Election of New Executive**

Parent Co-chair elected: Lynne Leblanc

Parent Vice-chairs elected: Matt Forrest, Charles Zhu, Lisa McAvoy and Sharlene Henry

**Status of Virtual School and FSL**

Staff updated the membership with the latest information regarding in-school and Virtual School. Virtual secondary schools have 18,000 students, 164 in FI and 236 in Ext. French. Elementary virtual schools contain 63,000 students, while 106,000 are in-school. FI and Ext. French students make up 6,000 of the virtual elementary registrants. Recently, 42 French teachers moved from in-school to virtual but 48 FI or Ext. French classes remain without a French teacher. English occasional teachers are supporting these classes, to give the students a connection, and connection to classmates. As of Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, approximately 1000 students were without a French teacher. The French teacher roster is depleted. While staff tries to recruit more French teachers through a variety of means, hiring the

quantity of teachers required will take time. It continues to be a moving target, as teachers are hired and others leave through resignation, illness, leaves, etc. Virtual teaching is new to many teachers and many find it challenging. Professional Learning sessions have been offered to support the pedagogy behind learning online. The long-standing issue of French teacher shortages across Canada has only exasperated the task of placing French teachers to all in-school and virtual classrooms at the TDSB. Staff is looking at options to meet the gap including teaching multiple classes, blending classes, acquiring teachers from Faculties of Education to assist, inter-provincial hires, utilizing teachers that are not fully accredited and an option that has been used in other jurisdictions is live streaming however this has union concern. The membership raised options to staff for consideration: Smash Education, 12-month calendar, ensuring strategic teacher assignments, such that teachers land where they are needed most.

The Ministry requires students to have 600 hours, and FSL students most at risk are the late entry GR 7/8 students. With 3 years of core French, their accumulated hours are less. Also tabled with the Ministry is the concern that the FI teacher shortage will result in less funding.

With 48 FI and Extended French classes without teachers, there is a possibility that not all will get a French teacher in a timely manner. While the TDSB will honour all FI/Extended French student commitments for next year, the feasibility of virtual French programming is of great concern.

### **Cosburn Pathway Motion and French Review Status.**

The Cosburn Motion was passed at Board so that current GR 4/5 students have the option to select GR 7 Ext. French. Please see details on the link <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Other-Programs> All consultations were paused (past 5 months). No additional work has been done regarding re-distribution of FSL programs but a revisit is likely.

### **Transportation**

Trustee Pilkey reports that by September, all eligible students received their bussing as expected. Contributing factors: changed bell times (fewer busses), staggered start times, no courtesy seats.

### **Professional Learning Updates**

PD is available to virtual and in-school teachers when they wish to engage in learning. Training supports teachers coming to/out of core French, into FI or Ext. French, always with a virtual lens.

### **JK/SK FI Registration for 2021-22**

Three informational registration sessions are posted on the public website. Promotion of the program is provided through Messenger to virtual school students and information packages provided to all in-school JK students. A banner on public website, ads to public newspapers, including community papers, continued coverage in Trustee Weekly, tweeting/social media through administrators offered.

For further detail, see Oct 13th meeting minutes at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>.

### **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

Nil

**Report Submitted by:** Manon Gardner