



Community Advisory Committees

French Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: April 24, 2025

A hybrid meeting of the French Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee convened from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Item	Invitee Name
Attended:	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W5/W6 Alt), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice Co-Chair W11), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Devon Pool (W3), Oluwakemi Ojowa (W4), Bibi Safraw Hanif (W4 Alt), Elizabeth Carvalho (W7), Divya Chandra (W11 Alt), Aamir Barlas (W14 Alt), Gail Miller (W22). Also present: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (Canadian Parents for French Alt), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Liliana Martins (Co-ordinator, French Programs C & IL), Roni Felsen (Staff Co-Lead), Trustee Co-Chair Deborah Williams (Trustee Co-Chair W10), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2).
Regrets:	Moosa Alloo (Parent Vice Co-Chair W19), Nabil Hasbun (W1), Andrew Waters (W3 Alt), Maeve Gray (W10), Michelle Munroe (Central Co-ordinator PCEO),
Recorder:	James Jarrett

Item	Discussion	Motion / Action
1. Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acknowledgment – Lynne LeBlanc • Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes • Introductions 	
2. Quorum / Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum met with 9 out of 12 Wards present. • No changes in membership 	
3. Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharlene Henry moves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried. 	
4. Approval of March 18, 2025 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharlene Henry moves, Charles Zhu seconds. Carried. 	James Jarrett to post minutes on FSLCAC Page
5. Declarations - Possible Conflict of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Miller works as an emergency replacement person in the Board. 	
6. CPF and Ward Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward 5: Parents are not able to access alternate FI sites with Out of Area Attendance. Some families must travel two hours from the Weston area to get to their designated French Immersion (FI) high school. • We are also aware of situations where families with the same postal codes are able to get into different FI sites. • Families have appealed to superintendents and trustees and are frustrated. • Staff: There are 12 secondary FI sites. There is attrition between grade 8-9 in the FI. There are a lot of choices at Secondary, including Central Student Interest Programs. We have fewer secondary programs in FI based on demand. • Staffs: Many of the secondary FI programs are closed to Out of Area, e.g., Malvern CI, Richview CI, Lawrence Park CI, Leaside HS and York Mills CI. • Staff: In the west, we have the new Lakeshore CI program. • Staff: Some elementary and middle schools are further away from high schools. • Q: It took several years to get the Lakeshore CI site, with a lot of trustee advocacy. Can we consult with the trustees from wards 1 & 2? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff: We have a Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS). Each trustee has the opportunity to review the programs in their wards. • We also have a Program Area Review Team (PART) process that deal with moving programs and grades, e.g., the PART that led to the re-opening of Bannockburn PS. • Staff have engaged with Trustee di Dovitiis and Trustee Hastings about their wards and the programming in it, including the viability of another FI program in the northwest of the city. We don't have enough demand in that area to have a viable secondary program right now. • We can't start a program with fewer than 30 students, because students choose different courses as they move into senior grades. • Staff: We review our FI programs annually to ensure we have program viability. • Trustee Co-Chair: The planning department does an excellent job of assisting us in these processes. • Parent Co-Chair: If you build the program, then will it attract students? • Staff: At Oakwood CI we launched a program, and it didn't take off. We looked at a program at L'Amoreaux CI; there wasn't enough demand for this year. We need that critical mass of at least 30 students to open a secondary FI site. • Staff: Secondary requires a cohort of two classes to ensure sustainability. • Q: I understand the viability piece, but wouldn't it be possible to expand a program at Richview with portables? Two hour commutes are too much. • Staff: We don't want to add portables to the site. • Q: Could students be bussed? • Staff: There is no transportation for secondary FI students due to the budget. • Q: In Ward 2 there has been a conversation about Markland becoming a site for decades. We were told there's no demand in the area, but the reason there was no demand was because of the travel distance to Hilltop PS. • Staff: An example of something we're looking at right now is the new FI programs in Thorncliffe. Right now, they are routed to Glenview SPS and Lawrence Park CI. We are doing a Local Feasibility Team (LFT) study now. • We don't have a solution to the northwest area now, but we are always looking. 	


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPF: We attended the Ontario Modern Language Teachers Association (OMLTA) spring conference. • National FI Day was this week. CPF released FSL program enrolment stats from across the country. Program growth has slowed nationwide. We believe this may be because of COVID's effect. There was also a drop in core French retention after grade 9. The report is posted at https://on.cpf.ca/en/enrolment-trends-2/ • CPF is attending the presentation by the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals (ACPI) on their member survey results and needs by FI educators. • Staff: ACPI event is being hosted by TDSB at 1 Civic Centre Court in the Boardroom on April 30th. • CPF: May 1st, we are hosting a breakfast at Queen's Park, where we'll talk to MPPs about the future of FI programs in Ontario. • On May 4th, <i>Concours d'Art Oratoire</i>, CPF's annual public speaking competition for secondary students. Students can win big scholarships. • May 12th is the opening date for virtual after school French programs. Applications also opening soon for summer programs, and the information is posted on our website at on.cpf.ca. • CPF ON met with Ministry of Education finance people about core education funding for FSL programs and transportation funding for FI. Transportation is not offered equally across the province so that's an inequity we are looking to address. 	
7. Parent Co-Chair Report & Trustee's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Co-Chair: To be discussed in the CAC Review. • Trustee Co-Chair Report: <p>HERITAGE MONTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April is Sikhi Heritage Month. We have information posted about it online, including a video from the organizers. <p>NEWS</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Trustees were elected by students in grade 7 to 11 for 2025-2026. • Celine Odjig from Rosedale Heights SOA was elected as our Indigenous Student Trustee. • Ahnaaf Hassan from RH King Academy and Victor Jian from Marc Garneau were elected as Student Trustees. • The Chair of the TDSB made a statement regarding the Ministry of Education's announcement that the province is appointing supervisors to the Thames Valley DSB, the Ottawa-Carleton DSB, the Toronto Catholic DSB and the TDSB. • Boards have said that despite provincial funding at a high of \$29 billion, funding has not kept up with inflation and increasing operational costs, as well as some issues beyond Boards' control. The TDSB Chair acknowledged the Minister's remarks on the TDSB's multi-year deficit and TDSB will fully cooperate with the Ministry appointed investigator. <p>TDSB BUDGET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TDSB Budget Survey is live on our website. • 110 Parents/community members may delegate to the Finance Budget and Enrolment Committee of the Board about the Budget on April 29. Further information is posted: https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/The-TDSB-Budget <p>FUNDING ADVOCACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDSB deficit is \$70.3 million. Information from our Downtown Town Hall. • During the pandemic, school boards were asked to use their own reserve funds to cover emergency costs, and those funds haven't been returned. The Government of Ontario has not reimbursed TDSB for \$61 million spent. • You can add your voice to the advocacy for the funding. <p>Here's how you can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy the message at the link below from the TDSB Funding Advocacy Letter (or write your own) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Email your letter to the Minister of Education, Paul Calandra: paul.calandra@pc.ola.org ○ Copy (cc:) Premier Doug Ford: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org You can also call his office at 416-325-1941– we’ve heard he may respond to visible public pressure. ○ Copy (cc:) the Official Opposition’s Shadow Minister of Education, Chandra Pasma: CPasma-QP@ndp.on.ca ○ Copy (cc:) your local MPP, find them here: Current MPPs Legislative Assembly of Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: Is there a way for the public to see the written delegations that are submitted to FBEC, or can a hard copy be picked up? In other Boards, they are made available online. We have asked in previous years with no luck. ● Trustee Co-Chair: It’s a good question, I will find out. <p>2025 FEDERAL ELECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education priorities to raise with federal election candidates were identified by the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA). While public education is a provincial and territorial government mandate, federal decisions directly impact public schools. The CSBA advocates for nonpartisan actions to engage all candidates in issues that affect public education and our children and youth. ● Q: I wanted to thank the Trustees for their work in highlighting the need for French teachers in the Canadian School Boards Association federal election information. 	
8. Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff: We hosted our Board-wide contest for <i>Concours d’Art Oratoire</i>, we had two competitions on March 27th and April 1st for our east and west students. ● There were two kinds of competitions, a traditional one which is a prepared speech, and then an impromptu one, where students are given a topic. ● 50 of our students made it to the provincial competition at Glendon College on May 3rd, and are in the running for prizes that will be offered at the provincial and national level competitions. 26 were traditional speakers, and 24 were impromptu. 	.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also purchased resources for elementary schools who wished to do a mock version of this event at the elementary level. • Staff: We are offering the opportunity for students to participate in the <i>Diplôme D'études en Langue Française</i> (DELF), which is an exam that tests proficiency in 4 competencies: Listening, speaking, reading and writing against international benchmarks (Common European Framework of Reference or CEFR). • DELF results provide an additional credential that students can earn, not part of the regular curriculum. Successful students receive a certificate from French Education International or FEI. There is a website for more information. • It's open to all grade 12 French students, including Core French students, who are enrolled in a French this school year. The information is shared with school department leads in secondary schools. • There is a limit to the number of participants because of staff participation requirements. The application closed March 7, and we have 248 students participating. The written events will be happening from May 5th to May 7th, and the oral interviews will happen on the week of May 12th. • Q: In 2019 there was an FSLCAC motion to report on the DELF to the Board, because this is a good news story. We've been participating in the DELF project since 2013 and no briefing note as ever been given to Trustees. Could it be included in the Annual Enrolment Report for Trustees? • Staff: The information is included in our minutes which are public information. Would we highlight this as opposed to many other grants that we get? It's something that we can take away and discuss. We can also share the information through "Good News" stories through the TDSB site. • Q: Regarding last year's DELF how many kids were successful? • Staff: Last year we had fewer students. Most of the students that participate are successful. There are different levels, A1, B1 or B2 that they're applying to. Both Core French and FI students participate. • Q: Do you have a breakdown of which students participated. • Staff: Not specifically, but about 25-30 are Core French. • Q: Do students register online, or are they recommended by a teacher? 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff: When the application form opens, anyone can apply up to the deadline. The information is shared with key French stakeholders at our schools. The key is students must be taking Grade 12 French classes to participate. • Q: Who manages participants? Can students go to Alliance Française directly? • Staff: We are attached to the Ministry supported Ontario DELF Centre only. • Q: Through Alliance Française the testing can be done for a fee. • Staff: Our students do not have to pay a fee. • Staff: Summer school programs are available on our public website. We are offering programs for FI students at John English PS for grades 4-8, and Rawlinson Community School for grades 1-8 as well. There is remote FI for grades 6-8. • The programs run from July 2 to July 25. • Middle FI applications for entry September 2025 are closed. Late applicants go to the MFI school by address and will be admitted or waitlisted by school. You can find your FI pathway online. • We made 1161 offers for MFI this year, and 844 accepted. That represents 6% of our grade 3's. That's up 1% from last year. • We transitioned from junior Extended French (EF) to MFI during the pandemic. Next year will see the full implementation of students into MFI, with EF sunset. • Early FI had 3236 offers. The transition to JK as the entry point for EFI has been a success. Students have been solidifying their language skills in JK and SK. • In November, EFI applications will be transitioning to PowerSchool. PARS will no longer be used. • Staff: We are excited to announce that we will have an additional Centrally Assigned Principal (CAP) starting in September. We are splitting Angela Caccamo's portfolio. She will be managing central program admissions, working with Reiko Fuentes. • The new CAP will be responsible for the Teaching and Learning component, handling things like early reading screening and professional development. The new CAP is Susan Pitre, coming from Bedford Park PS. We will invite her to one of our remaining meetings this school year. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q: What credit courses in French will be offered in summer school? Staff: We're offering Civics and Careers in the summer, and that is virtually. Grade 9, 10 and 11 FI is offered in person. HSP3U, which is anthropology, psychology and sociology is offered in FI and EF. That will be an e-learning course. Q: Would this count towards a student's e-learning credit requirement? Staff: Yes it would. 	
9. CAC Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lynne hosted a virtual, informal, working meeting with available members to discuss the CAC review and reflect on being a CAC. The attached report on that discussion was shared with the CAC: 	 FSACAC_April 2025.pptx
10. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to Adjourn. Sharlene Henry moves, Devon Pool seconds. Carried. 	

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, May 13, Hybrid.