



## Community Advisory Committees

**Name of Committee:** French As A Second Language Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** 13 November 2018

A meeting of the French As A Second Language Advisory Committee convened on 13 November 2018 from 7:07 pm to 9:01 pm in Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge Street, with Mandy Moore presiding.

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**Attendance:** Mandy Moore (Parent Co-Chair W7), Sharon Beason (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16), Christie Dunbar (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9/10 Alt), Rob Janes (W2 Alt), Matt Forrest (W9), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Wilmar Kortleeve (W13), Sarah Smith (W15), Gail Miller (W21), Zeynab Kazi (W22)

Also present were: Trustee Abdul Patel, Beth Butcher (Executive Superintendent), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Manon Gardner (Associate Director of Education), Joanne Griffith (Parent, Iroquois PS W21), Nadine Omokaro (Parent, Alexander Stirling PS W21)

The following participated by electronic means: Polina Osmerkina (W9), Gail Miller (W21), Lisa Smecca (Parent, John Fisher PS W13)

**Regrets:** Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Pamela Gough (Trustee W3), Melanie Amadasun (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W3), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Nalini Singh (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5), Laura Steele Gunter (W7), Lauralyn Johnston (W8), Nadya Phelan (W8 Alt), Sarah Ramkissoon (W12); Sudha Takaki (W13 Alt), Betheney Maheu (W13 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Randy Samuel (W17)

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ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION / ACTION
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quorum achieved 7:07 pm</li> <li>• Land acknowledgment – Mandy Moore</li> </ul>	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved. Moved by Sarah Smith. Carried.</li> </ul>	
Membership Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Minott and Jane McGrath have resigned.</li> </ul>	
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No conflicts of interest to declare.</li> </ul>	
Chair's Report	<p><b>PSSC Meeting November 1, 2018</b></p> <p>Wilmar, Mandy attended to present annual report of FSLAC from June 2018.</p> <p><b>FSLAC name change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without notice or discussion, name of FSLAC changed to FSLCAC (French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee) in Board documents and on TDSB webpage. Discussions subsequently took place with Beth to outline the work involved to do a name change and discuss the lack of collaboration on this change. Board Services then agreed that the name will remain FSLAC in all current uses, except official reports to PSSC.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Q: Is PIAC designated as a community advisory committee?</p> <p>A: Beth: PIAC and SEAC are not community advisory committees. They are legislated statutory committees. FSLAC has always been a Community Advisory Committee</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned that no one had heard about the “name change” prior to it being shared</li> <li>• FSLAC voting members are not representatives from community organizations. We are parent representatives. Continued recognition of this is important.</li> <li>• Concern that having 2 names, one for PSSC and one for everything else is confusing, FSLAC identity has been established since 2005 with newsletter, gmail address, materials templates, Terms of Reference at TDSB and beyond.</li> <li>• Beth reviewed the process for bringing this to Trustees through a recommendation to PSSC</li> <li>• With the Board voting on their bylaw on Nov 28, 2018 with FSLCAC listed and no PSSC meeting prior, no time to do a formal recommendation</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Consensus of group that Mandy email all Trustees prior to their November 28, 2018 meeting to ask that the name remain FSLAC for ALL uses.</p>	<p>Mandy will email Trustees prior to November 28, 2018 to ask that name remain FSLAC.</p>
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	<p><b>Sharing info on FSLAC at Trustee Orientation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twelve new Trustees out of 22. Trustee orientation is December 1 and 2, December 3 swearing in for new Trustees. As suggested by Trustee Pilkey at the October FSLAC meeting, 2 page briefing document on FSLAC is drafted for the Trustees. Outline was sent to Lori Barnes on October 30.</li> </ul> <p>Beth: in conversation with Lori Barnes about putting this in Trustee orientation materials. Once Beth has received the draft document she will review and determine what will be shared with Board Services for them to decide what might be shared with Trustees at the Orientation.</p> <p>Manon: will be at Trustee orientation December 1 and 2. Advisory Committees will be mentioned in preparation for December 3 Organization Board meeting when Trustees decide who is on what committee.</p> <p>Trustee Patel: New Trustees will have a lot to read. Suggest inviting them to a FSLAC meeting.</p> <p>Q: Can the committee get a copy of draft Trustee orientation document to use as talking points?</p> <p>A: Good idea as most of us attend our Ward meetings.</p> <p><b>Ward Changes as of December 1, 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With change in Wards, will be some Trustees without reps as well as existing vacancies to fill. Important to get something out to Trustees.</li> </ul>	<p>Mandy to share draft Trustee orientation document with members</p>
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- Membership list by new TDSB ward circulated to members for review and corrections.

**PIAC conference Saturday, November 17**

- Many parents signed up for the French workshop on helping your child succeed in French, which has resulted in three French workshops, instead of two: 10 am, 1 pm, 2 pm.
- Volunteers needed at FSLAC/Canadian Parents for French booth with Mandy, Sharon and Rosemary. At Earl Haig beginning at 9:00 am. Matt and Sarah will try to attend.

**Survey Data re: Cosburn Pathway**

- A survey was done this past spring by TDSB of parents at Diefenbaker PS, RH McGregor ES and Cosburn MS asking parent input on French program pathways. The survey results and findings have not been shared with any of the school communities. Many parents are asking ward rep and trustee for the results and an update on the pathway discussion. At last FSLAC meeting, ward rep inquired and was directed to Superintendent for follow-up. Trustee, Superintendent and ward rep met and agreed the survey data and findings should be shared with parents in the surveyed school communities. To date, that has not happened. It is common practice for TDSB to seek community/parent input and subsequently share back findings with those surveyed in the spirit of community engagement and transparency.
- Angela: survey that went out to the 3 communities was not a voting mechanism, but a tool for staff and they looked at the

	<p>pathways. Staff procedural process, no commitment to parents to share results.</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Agree, not communicated as a voting mechanism, community had numerous communications but no feedback on outcome. Strongly suggest that feedback be provided back to community to close the loop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manon: will connect with Kathy Witherow about sharing the information at the next FSLAC. Do not have to put forward a motion.</li> </ul> <p>Q: sounds like a commitment to share with FSLAC, can we do both – bring back and track to PSSC?</p> <p>A: Manon: yes, timing needs to be planned.</p> <p>Moved by Sarah: that survey results and findings re: secondary pathway be presented to the communities of the three schools involved as soon as possible. Communities include: Diefenbaker PS, RH McGregor ES and Cosburn MS. Seconded by Christie. Carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NB: This recommendation to PSSC, will go in report on this FSLAC meeting to the next meeting of PSSC, tentative date January 16, 2019.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendation to PSSC:</b> That survey results and findings re: secondary pathway be presented to the communities of the three schools involved as soon as possible. Communities include: Diefenbaker PS, RH McGregor ES, and Cosburn MS</p>
<p>FSL Program Review: Summary of Findings –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to those who attend PSSC November 1. Manon would like to be on the FSLAC agenda for the next few months as a timed item. Will come back to next FSLAC meeting in</li> </ul>	

<p>Manon Gardner</p>	<p>January with focussed questions. Special Education, expansion of programs, best practices, different entry points, status of core French at elementary and secondary, equity balance – who are the students we have, leaving for what reasons, dual or triple track.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of Findings very well received by Board of Trustees. Most not surprised by the findings. Intent was to have a sense of our system French programs. To come back with recommendations in Spring 2019, to PSSC then to Board. Multi-Year Strategic Plan – need to ensure followed before putting recommendations together. Also want to put forth something realistic, but with a plan so people know if a program is going to be phased in or phased out. Trustees need information to decide and 12 new Trustees up to date on the French programs. Other Boards called about recommendations. Summary of Findings also shared with Ontario Public School Board Association.</li> <li>• Comments from Trustees were about entry points, lack of resources, French à la carte. Grade 1 Core French question how much would it cost to start in Grade 1 rather than Grade 4? Do not have an answer yet. Secondary retention rate, current funding. Will have an analysis for next meeting.</li> <li>• Summary of Findings were distributed to FSLAC members. Would like FSLAC feedback from the report. What are the pieces that will inform our next steps? Want to accumulate more and more information. Want to know about the experience you have had. Based on the report, what are the findings you think we have to consider in recommendations? What are the most</li> </ul>	
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challenging issues we should look into?

Q: For parents with children who passed gifted test in FI, have to give up FI to go into gifted. Difficult decision for parents to make. Why is there no gifted and FI?

A: Manon – very fortunate to have options. We do offer quite extensive programs. A French Gifted program would not be realistic. Don't think it is part of the findings in the report. If in a lot of the feed back, then would consider. Number of considerations to put forth. The teacher would need French and Spec Ed qualifications. In a discussion yesterday re gifted parents want students to stay at local school. How do we address these needs? Applies to English and French. Need to cover all needs in the classroom. In terms of best practices, our Board is doing quite a bit. Trying to meet the needs, fine tune and get better at it, taking into account what we have heard from parents and students. We get the calls from other Boards wanting to know what we are doing.

Q: Are there other alternatives? Is there a liaison with the French school board to arrange an entry point in the French school board if we cannot find a place for them in the TDSB?

A: Can't do this. We lose funding if kids leave our Board. Don't believe the Francophone Board has a gifted program.

Comments:

- Student who passed gifted and other parents in same situation. Want their children to have the best of both worlds but can't. IB schools have a rigorous program. Not officially gifted but the next best thing.



- Two years ago introduced universal screening. What is the impact on FI? What would parents do if they had this choice?  
Comment: Staff: appreciate this perspective. Just got input from 10,000 people so need to look at that. A lot of these suggestions could be made into recommendations.

Q: How big is the full report?

A: Manon: Approximately 120 pages.

Q: There is no mention of the DELF in the Summary. Do we know if this is in the findings?

A: Manon: Not sure.

Comments:

- If Manon is coming back in January, need focussed discussions. Would be helpful to know where the comments from this committee were in your thinking. More equitable expansion of programs in Scarborough and Etobicoke – should be a discussion in January. Number of things in the report hope will become more clear when we see the full data. Need to see numbers and survey response breakdowns. Transportation and child care are frustrating to parents – need to see what is in the data.
- There is lot of work in this review. Looking forward to seeing more detail in the longer version of the report. Want to see conclusions. Don't believe all stakeholder groups said the same thing. Stakeholders want later entry points reduced. Not all parents would want this reduced.
- Major topics for discussion: Entry points, solving equity issues

	<p>and student achievement issues. Location of programming. Page 12 in report, 25% of parents do not feel well served in dual or triple track schools. Would like to see what this is. Need to work on integration or have more single track schools? Concerned about status and performance and everything around Core French. Doesn't have much status when elementary French teachers on a cart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grade 7 boy was identified in grade 3 with a learning disability. About half of school is FI. Parent told by admin that they don't get funding for French support. Constant need for parents to advocate for support that is needed and funded. How do you keep students and teachers supported?</li> <li>• A SK boy was described as being diagnosed with a learning disability. A week later teacher called to tell parent he wasn't doing well and suggested she pull him out. Feels teacher said this after finding out about his disability. If there is anything standing in the way, pull them out. This is not the answer.</li> <li>• Another parent said no supports in French so pulled her daughter out to be in gifted. Drastic change can be painful and can resolve many things but lose French.</li> </ul> <p>Q: Would it be possible to have a special meeting in December to look at the full report material?</p> <p>A: Manon: cannot commit to that yet. Report not available for a couple of weeks.</p> <p>Q: even if Manon not available may be available to meet informally, a working group meeting to prep for January meeting discussion. Can Manon provide some guidance from our 'Suggestion' list</p>	
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	<p>during the Review as to what looks promising for a well-received recommendation from the FSLAC?</p> <p>A: Manon: can look at it. Might want to do a carousel style meeting in January to ask staff detailed questions on full report.</p>	
<p>Staff Report</p>	<p><b>Applications for September 2019</b></p> <p>Angela – well underway with SKFI parent information meetings. SKFI on-line chat last week, well attended, at one time of 78 people. Had 112 questions submitted. Some were repeated questions. Last date November 26. Sent out information to TDSB connects, principals, and in print to every JK parent. If you haven't received this information in your school, please let Angela know.</p> <p>Jr. Extended French application process: opens January 7 for any students wanting to enter Grade 4 Jr. Extended in Sept 2019. Information packages are out to administrators including how to find OEN for doing on-line registration and paper to distribute to every grade 3 parent. Also will include in TDSB connects. Application deadline February 4. FSL team going out in January to do parent information evenings, see attached schedule. Also on-line evening on January 15 from 7:00-8:00 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Communications to parents re: deadline – can information be prominent on TDSB website? Has not been updated on <a href="http://www.tdsb/French">www.tdsb/French</a> website. Might be helpful to have dates here as well.</li> </ul> <p>A: Kirsten: will continue looking at and improving communication.</p>	

Q: Can repeat questions be posted on the website with answers?

A: Can look into a FAQ. Transcript of the meeting is available on line.

### **FSL Teacher Recruitment**

Kirsten: at end of October, Kirsten and other staff were at a job fair at Harbour Castle. TDSB had a booth. Ongoing efforts to recruit FSL teachers to the TDSB.

Q: OPSBA – Labour Market Study that came out in June has a number of different ideas about recruiting. Do we have a way to tap into TDSB network of French teachers to ask if they have any friends who are French teachers? Are you referencing Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR-language proficiency benchmarks) in testing French efficiency when recruiting teachers?

A: Angela: recruitment and hiring is with Employee Services. Proficiency testing not currently linked to CEFR, conversation on-going

Q: a teacher (also a parent) educated outside Canada, in Paris, could not get a job here, got a job in Durham. Are we recruiting outside Canada?

A: Kirsten: no we are not doing this yet.

Comment: Federal government is providing new funding to support FSL teacher recruitment and Francophone immigration to Ontario is very well supported. Why not tap into these possibilities.

	<p><b>DELFL (Diplôme d'études en langue française-proficiency test)</b></p> <p>Kirsten: DELF is week of May 6-10. Don't know yet how many students will be funded in the project. Q: Do teachers inform students when this is done.</p> <p>A: yes, teacher needs to work with students to understand what the levels of the CEFR are. Need to know how they are defined as students choose to challenge a specific level.</p> <p>Q: Are there only a certain amount of spots available?</p> <p>A: yes there are. There were about 50 last year.</p>	
<p>Ward/CPF Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W9: new incoming Trustee had an interesting session, because now combined 2 city wards, may be a good idea to make a note where elections are required.</li> </ul> <p>Note: In FSLAC Terms of Reference member/alternate elections have to take place in odd years. Up to Trustees to facilitate this at ward meetings in 2019. CPF Mary: CPF report on the State of FSL Education in Canada with a focus on FSL teachers came out in October. Teacher retention issues examined as well as info from Ontario Labour study on FSL teachers:</p> <p><a href="https://cpf.ca/en/files/State-of-FSL-Education-Report-Web.pdf">https://cpf.ca/en/files/State-of-FSL-Education-Report-Web.pdf</a></p> <p>Q: Which areas of the city currently have an active CPF chapter?</p> <p>A: Mid town, west end. Looking to re-ignite in in east end.</p> <p>W16: new Trustee. Attended SKFI information night at Birchmount Cl. 27 parents, 3 children. Many asked about the gifted program,</p>	

	<p>DELFI, parents had a lot of sophisticated questions. Was in cafeteria which had a lot of echoing. Perhaps meeting in a carpeted library would be a better option.</p> <p>W13 – have our last meeting with outgoing Trustee Gerri Gershon on November 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilmar thanked Sharon for sharing W16 newsletter. Want to know how to better share info with parents in the ward. Can we add a paragraph to PIAC newsletter?</li> <li>• Will be doing FSLAC newsletter probably second week of December. Can we stay in touch with PIAC about helping to distribute newsletter?</li> </ul> <p>Q: SAC chair wanted to know if they can sign up on the website?</p> <p>A: yes, people can sign on and they will receive the newsletters. Can also send to your ward SACs and ask them to sign up.</p>	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of minutes from October 9. Note change in formatting for attendance, now in the same format as for reports for PSSC.</li> <li>• Moved by Wilmar. Carried.</li> </ul>	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:01 pm. Moved by Wilmar. Carried</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 7:00 pm in Committee Room A.</li> </ul>	

**Junior Extended French (Grade 4 Entry)**

**Parent/Guardian Information Evenings**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
George S. Henry Academy 200 Graydon Hall Drive	January 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm
Etobicoke CI 86 Montgomery Road	January 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm
<b>Online Information Session</b>	<b>January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019</b>	<b>7:00-8:00pm</b>
Central Tech School 725 Bathurst Street	January 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm
Albert Campbell CI 1550 Sandhurst Circle	January 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm
Forest Hill CI 730 Eglinton Avenue West	January 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm
Birchmount Park CI 3663 Danforth Avenue	January 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm
Danforth CTI 800 Greenwood Avenue	January 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	7:00-8:00pm