



**French as a Second Language Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Sindy Preger (Parent Vice Co-chair, W11 alt); Dina Pizolinas (W2); David Kim (W3); Heather Jordan (W7); Kathryn Yung (W10); Sharon Kerr (W13); Wilmar Kortleever (W13 alt); Tanya English (W14); Andrea Demchuk (W14); Jennifer Story (W15); Kristina Laperle (W17); Cheryl Wilson (W19); Patricia Legrand (W21 alt); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (W22); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Coordinating Principal); Alison Pearce (Program Coordinator, FSL); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Chrysoulla Srabian (John Fisher parent).

Recorder: Amanda Tiberio

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. 	
Approval of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was achieved and approved 	
Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved with the following additions: approval of quorum, approval of agenda and approval of minutes from June 19, 2012	
Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were approved as written 	Amanda will post to website
Co-Chair Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sindy met with parent Vice-Co-Chairs and communications leads in August to discuss roles, ideas for 2012/13 and communications. All members are invited to bring information or ideas to the group. Kathryn is working on a Members' Briefing Book that includes tips for ward representatives, based on the feedback provided from members last June. It will contain insight on the responsibilities of members, ideas on how to disseminate information to schools in the ward, and other background information pertaining to the committee. A draft copy of the tips was distributed to the committee. The Members' Briefing Book will be made accessible electronically to members on Google Drive. Details TBA in Oct. The Toronto Public Library (TPL) is consulting on their strategic plan. FSLAC members are encouraged to join in the conversation. Upcoming consultation meetings are September 20th at North York P.L., and September 24th at Richview P.L. Sindy will forward details to any members who are interested. This is an opportunity to talk about French resources and programs that the FSLAC and the community would like to see in libraries to support students who are learning French. It was suggested that the committee invite a representative from the TPL to a future FSLAC meeting to share information about French resources and programming. 	Alison will explore TPL interest in attending an FSLAC meeting with TPL staff and get back to Sindy.

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TFO (Télé-Française Ontario – French language educational channel, like TVO) is launching more on-line resources for children in French Immersion. It was suggested that the FSLAC invite a TFO representative to a future meeting to introduce them to parents of the TDSB. The 2012 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee Conference will take place on Saturday, November 17th at Earl Haig Secondary School. For the FSLAC, Cheryl is taking the lead in developing a workshop for parents of students in French programs. Further discussion will take place with John and Alison and Canadian Parents for French Ontario. The FSLAC will also be hosting a booth. Members who are interested in helping should contact Cheryl or Sindy. 	Sindy will follow up on TFO for an upcoming meeting.
Staff Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John reported that the school year is off to a good start for FSL. Staff is in place at new senior kindergarten immersion sites. Nine SK immersion sites with 15 classes in total became full day kindergarten (FDK) in September. FDK will continue to roll out in Sept 2013 and by Sept 2014, all senior kindergarten immersion sites will be full day. Currently the department is helping Employee Services to find bilingual staff for full day kindergarten with Early Childhood Education certification. They have suggested recruiting from Collège Boréal, a French college in Toronto and they are working with the Min. Of Ed. To allow a Letter of Permission for Bilingual teachers to act as ECEs for a year without certification. Need for bilingual ECEs has been raised by FSLAC members since FDK was announced. Suggestion was made to staff to take a look at the apprenticeship program which was in place for Aboriginal ECEs for potential Francophone candidates. Canadian Parents for French has brought the need for bilingual ECEs to the attention of Jim Grieses, the Ministry of Education lead on the implementation of FDK and to the former Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowski. CPF is continuing to push to keep SK immersion needs before the province. Supt Gen Ling Chang requested program departments to prepare a system plan of Professional Development for teachers in June and finalize it in September, so that courses can be advertised to teachers. There will be very few 1-day PD sessions for teachers. Most are developed through modules, in which a group of teachers will attend a multi-day session. These will be starting very soon. There will be a strong focus on beginning teachers using Exploration Classrooms (formerly demonstration classrooms), in which experienced teachers with certain expertise or strategies open their classroom doors for other teachers to observe. The teachers have discussions before and after the observation on best practices with an instructional leader for FSL. 	
FSL Program Policy Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John and Alison lead the FSL Policy Consultation. Feedback from all consultation sessions will be compiled and considered in the revision of the draft policy. The goal is to have a foundation document in place that will guide any future reviews of procedures and practices. 	Sindy will share the revised draft policy with the membership. Target is Sept 24-28.
Ward Reports	<p><u>W2 - Dina Pizolinas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richview CI hosted a barbecue night, attended by teachers despite current situation with negotiations. Extracurriculars will continue. Children in higher grades are being given TTC tickets instead of ability to take school busses. 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>Staff advised that bussing is only offered to grade 5, and, depending on the major streets that are crossed, offers seats to grade 6 students in some cases. The empty seat policy is only in place to ensure busses are full, and it is at the discretion of the principal</p> <p><u>W3 - David Kim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A school BBQ and Curriculum night was cancelled at one of the schools because teachers made it clear they would not show. In many schools, extracurricular activities, lunch activities and sports are cancelled, but everything is normal at some schools. <p>Trustee Goodman joined the meeting and spoke about the current situation with teaching and staffing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustees do not know anything more than the public does about union activities. Every school is different, and each change from one day to the next. Many teachers feel one of their fundamental core beliefs has been betrayed with the Ministry of Ed overriding provincial legislation. Teachers are angry and hurting, and the best thing to do would be to remind them how important they are to your children. • Ontario Regulation 274/12 was passed, making it nearly impossible to hire any teacher who is not at the top of a seniority list. The HR Committee passed a motion recommending the TDSB write the Minister of Education and request that 274/12 be rescinded. <p><u>W7 - Heather Jordan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p><u>W10 - Kathryn Yung</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p><u>W11 - Sindy Preger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback was received from Trustee Laskin on the FSL policy. • There is discussion about the redevelopment of the Davisville site, and disagreement between the Trustee and City Councillor. If development goes ahead as planned, the French Immersion program will have to be moved. • At Brown PS, the bilingual Special Education teacher retired and there has been a complete turnover of the special education department - none of the special ed teachers speak French. Question raised as to the process for allocating special education teachers. <p><u>W13 - Wilmar Kortleever and Chrysoulla Srabian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is talk about the K-12 Strategy which is being planned at the Board. There will be consultations forthcoming. It will likely affect French Immersion with changes in operations and boundaries. W13 trustee raised the issue. <p>Sindy noted that the Ward 11 trustee had concerns about moving forward with the FSL policy before the K-12 Strategy was in place. It was suggested that when the K-12 Strategy is ready to be revealed, FSLAC should invite a staff representative to a future meeting to discuss the implications.</p>	<p>On behalf of Trustee co-chair Ward, Melanie will follow up on status of K-12 and report back to Sindy.</p>

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Fisher parents are concerned about the quality of their immersion program. Some families have left the program. This issue is being discussed with parent council and school administrators. Suggestion made that the parents connect with parents at other FI centres to find out if there are common challenges and discuss possible solutions. <p><u>W14 - Tanya English</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p><u>W15 - Jennifer Story</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morse Street PS is open and no problems reported. Trustee will be holding consultations this year on how to meet FSL and FDK space needs and maintain access. Concerns being raised by parents about quality, and perception of quality – do we offer same resources, tools and supports for children, teachers and parents as English stream? How can FSL foster further improvements in quality? <p><u>W17 - Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new principal at Brian PS. Curriculum night is happening but the new principal suggested not bringing children along. Instead of the usual barbecue, parents will be providing dinner for teachers. • The school's soccer team is up and running, but had to create two teams because there are no other teams to play. <p><u>W19 - Cheryl Wilson</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p><u>W21 – Patricia Legrand</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterling has opened with 2 classes, but is not at full capacity yet. • Trustee Shaun Chen is hosting an evening at William Osler PS. All are invited to attend to discuss any issues. Agenda will be released very soon. RSVP is required as dinner will be provided. <p><u>W22 - Debbie-Lynn Hoste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home school for bus pick up for immersion kids changed. Staff and principal not being very welcoming, not allowing parents in the school to wait for bus and not allowing bus parents to park, etc. School community wants to know if the principal is allowed to do this. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. 	

Next meeting: October 25, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m. - 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A