



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

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012

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

IN ATTENDANCE: David Kim (W3); Heather Jordan (W7); Issy Vlaykov (W8); Kathryn Yung (Parent Co-Vice-Chair, W10); Sindy Preger (Parent Co-Chair, W11 alt); Sharon Kerr (W13); Wilmar Kortleever (W13); Chrysoulla Srabian (W13 alt); Tanya English (W14); Jennifer Story (W15); Kristina Laperle (Parent Vice-Chair, W17); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (W22); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Alison Pearce (Program Co-ordinator, FSL); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Adrienne Lee (W15 Parent); Kourosh Houshmand (Student Trustee); Hiran Zafari (Student Trustee)

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 7:02 pm. • Roundtable introductions were made. • Student Trustees spoke first due to time commitment. 	
Approval of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum was achieved and approved • Membership: Chrysoulla Srabian has been added as a alternate for W13. This is her first meeting as an official member. • The status of the Ward 12 representative will be determined by co-chairs. 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agenda was approved with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Membership review was added as part of quorum approval 	Membership review will be added to agenda under Approval of Quorum in the future.
Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were approved with the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Replace information in W15 report with the following: <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? 	Amanda will post to website
Student Trustee Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Trustees Hiran Zafari and Kourosh Houshmand spoke about their idea for a student-led initiative on staying in French. In the Trustees' experience, they have observed that many 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>students who do not take French classes past grade 9 regret not doing so. Students do not see the benefits of taking French until it is too late. If students were shown a clear list of potential benefits for their futures, more would be willing to continue studying French until grade 12. They believe students will be motivated if they are able to connect short-term actions with long-term goals. They would like to see the use of posters, videos and social media in a fun and relevant way to create this motivation in their peers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: • It was suggested that the Trustees present to PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee), as they receive Ministry funding. An FSLAC representative will speak with PIAC members about this possibility. • Canadian Parents for French held a student conference in Windsor recently to increase retention in FSL to grade 12 which was funded by the Ministry of Education. Written and video materials are being produced for every high school in Ontario. Distribution will be in Dec/Jan which could help the students with their concept. • Targeting students prior to making high school choices in grade 7 and 8 is also important. • The Trustees were asked to follow up with the initiative by attending the next FSLAC meeting or emailing updates. 	<p>Mary will follow-up.</p>
<p>Parent Co-Chair Report</p> <p>- Community Engagement Policy</p> <p>- K-12 Strategy Consultations</p> <p>- Briefing Book</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A glossary of TDSB/FSL terms was shared with the membership to help with understanding the content of the meetings. It will be a living document that will be available through google docs in the briefing book. Members were asked to add to it during the meeting. • The committee has received an invitation for one representative to attend a meeting regarding the Community Engagement Policy which was approved in June. They are asking for input on the new policy from all community advisory committees. The meeting will be held on November 13th and will cover the consultation process for creation and changes to TDSB procedures. If anybody would like to volunteer to represent FSLAC at the meeting, please send an email to Sindy or Amanda. • The K-12 Strategy Consultations are taking place across the Board at meetings and on-line. There is a direct link to the information on the TDSB home page. The FSLAC will draft a list of key points for each member to bring forward in the consultation process. See attached invitation for dates and times of the consultations. • It was suggested that the FSLAC invite Karen Grose, the staff member running the consultation to attend the next FSLAC and speak to the group. • The briefing book is complete with all documents except for the school distribution list, which has not been published. • Each member received a hard copy of all documents and a link to the book at google docs. The membership list should be kept confidential. • A question was asked about committee members accessing the internet during meetings. 	<p>Melanie will investigate possibility of bringing the consultation to the next FSLAC mtg and bring findings to Sindy.</p> <p>Sindy will circulate an FSLAC draft response to the K-12 survey to the group.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>FSLAC-City-Wide Consultations.pdf</p> </div> <p>Amanda will look in to having WIFI at FSLAC mtgs.</p>

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
<p>- PIAC Conference</p> <p>- CPF National Conference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristina and Cheryl will be attending the PIAC conference at Earl Haig SS on November 17th. Cheryl will be manning the table. Heather, Mary and Wilmar volunteered to help cover the table. • Kristina and Mary will be conducting workshops on FSL resources and homework help. • All who wish to attend must register at www.torontopiac.com. Childminding and bussing (from some areas) will be available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristina and Mary attended the CPF National conference in Ottawa in October. Over 200 parents attended from across Canada. • A CPF report was distributed which contained statistics and research about academically challenged students in French programs. It provided 6 key focus areas, including dedicating funds to research, creating a virtual resource centre, and outreach to show FSL is accessible to all learners: http://cpf.ca/en/research-advocacy/research/the-state-of-fsl-education-in-canada/ • Discussion: • A question was raised about how the FSLAC can relay the information from the research to the right TDSB staff. Depending on the school, not all students who need support in FSL are getting it and parents are still asked to choose between FSL and special ed. • Mary commented that from the view of CPF, TDSB is ahead of many other boards in terms of supporting special needs students in FSL programs and that individual parent engagement and the FSLAC play a huge role in making sure students get the support they need within French programs. • The timing of registration can cause parents to panic and make last-minute decisions based on the “fit” of their child and an FSL program. Staff advised that there has never been a list of attributes for an “ideal” FSL student that has been distributed centrally. Any schools who are distributing this information should not be doing so. There is no research that confirms any particular attributes of a student prior to entering the FSL program will contribute to success. 	
<p>Staff Report</p> <p>- FSL Policy Progress</p> <p>- Provincial CEFR work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Teaching and Learning staff presented a briefing note to Academic Council one week ago, including information on the consultation process, the initial draft of the policy that was used for the consultations, and the final draft which resulted from the feedback received at the consultations. The policy was very well received. The final draft will go to the Board for a decision in early 2013. • A question was asked about whether the Board keeps data about Spec. Ed. resources available in FSL programs. Staff responded that it can be requested. It is important that everyone understand that when a child is having problems in FSL, pulling him or her out of the program is not the solution. A memo is sent out at the beginning of each school year to outline the steps that should be taken to support a student staying in an FI or extended program. • Ontario and the TDSB are continuing to work on implementation of the Common European 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>Framework of Reference (CEFR). The CEFR is a tool for defining, tracking, and recognizing progress in learning a language. It will be embedded in the new core/extended and immersion curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ottawa-Carleton public board is examining the outcomes from testing students in DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) from France. The DELF is set with the CEFR levels from A1 to C2. Students in core grade 12 French are achieving A2 and, some, B1. Extended and Immersion students are achieving B1 and B2. The student must declare the level they believe they can achieve before taking the test – a student cannot be graded higher than that grade unless they are tested again. TDSB Teaching and Learning staff are taking training to be markers (correcteurs) for DELF. The intent is not to administer the DELF but to learn from it and to bring a sharper focus on the development of authentic communication skills in the classroom. • Grade 9 core teachers are part of a professional learning community where new teachers can observe experienced ones. Classroom management can be very challenging and they are working on ways to make programming relevant and more engaging. • Exemptions for core French are down due to the clear direction in the TDSB that all students benefit from learning French. The exemption process is comprehensive and the school must explain how they are going to use the student's extra time to better suit and benefit the student. • FSL department is developing a network of FI Spec. Ed. providers. Some ideas include offering a session to talk about IEPs, and ideas for advocacy in the school community with a focus on FI. Spec. Ed. support in FI schools is improving. • Alison has contacted a representative from the Toronto Public Library, and she will attend the December FSLAC meeting. • The department is finishing preparation of the registration packages for grade 4 extended and middle immersion programs. Principals are responsible for distributing the packages to all grade 3 students. PARS (on-line registration) will open on November 12. • There is concern that some of the Information Nights will not be attended by teachers due to the current labour situation. The department has prepared a PowerPoint presentation and handouts for the schools with information about FSL programs and the TDSB approach and process. • The first FDK SKFI network meeting is taking place tomorrow. This year there are 15 classes of FDK SK-FI. • A question was asked about a statement on the K-12 document that was released in June, which suggests introducing technology for language learning from K-12. How is this relevant to kindergarten and French? Staff responded that it is about enhancing media and technology in classrooms. Many teachers will need support to move forward on this. 	<p>Sindy/Alison will confirm prior to Dec 4 meeting.</p>
<p>Ward Reports</p>	<p><u>W3 – David Kim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are wondering how to start the process of considering adding new FI/EXT high schools such as Lakeshore CI, to alleviate the numbers at Richview. There are many students in FI programs at who have every intention of pursuing the program but the distance to Richview is a deterrent. Staff responded that the department is always listening to parents' concerns about 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>accommodations. They must ensure there is a critical mass of students to allow for enough choices before a new program is built at a school. They consider space, location, and enrolment numbers. These issues should be brought to the Trustee's attention.</p> <p><u>W7 – Heather Jordan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent members of the ward 7 council have set up Google mail accounts to communicate with each other more easily and effectively. The parents are excited about this opportunity. <p><u>W8 – Issy Vlaykov</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parent council at Issy's child's new school is enthusiastic and glad there is a parent representative on FSLAC who has students in a French program. They are looking for information, resources and any additional ideas to help support the students. • A question was raised about whether a CEFR certificate would be recognized for University credit. Staff responded that it would not be used for credit but it would be recognized for placing the students into different levels of programs. • It was reported that a student was pulled out of FI at Allenby because of Spec. Ed. needs. Allenby has one qualified teacher who provides support in Spec. Ed and FI. Space is a problem at the school. • Allenby is looking for a parent to represent W8 as an alternate parent representative at future FSLAC meetings. <p><u>W10 – Kathryn Yung</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p><u>W13 – Sharon Kerr</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is talk of Cosburn being rerouted from Leaside and parents want to know if this rumour is true. Staff responded that there has been no discussion on changes specific to these schools, but there are questions looming about space accommodation across the Board. If primary programs are expanding, eventually, intermediate and secondary programs must be expanded as well. The parents need clarification between "Honours" and "Regular" certificate from Cosburn – although many seem to understand "Honours" as a program within itself, principals must clarify that it is not a separate program. <p><u>W13 – Wilmar Kortleever</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report. <p><u>W13 – Chrysoulla Srabian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Fisher is going through an SSON process. In 3 days, 1/5th of the school community has already responded. She would like to share the results, with permission from the parents, when the survey is finished and data is collected. • John Fisher school community is wondering what the standards and expectations there are for an FI centre. Due to high level of turnover of administration over the past 4 years, the school is looking for guidance from FSL staff. There is an understanding that the school should be able to do French with more focus than a dual-track. Staff responded that students and parents should have the same satisfaction with either dual-track schools or centres, and there is no list of expectations specifically for FI centres. 	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p><u>W14 – Tanya English</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents are wondering when FI meetings will be taking place. Staff advised that meetings will take place during January, as the deadline for applications is set for January 31st, 2013. • Parents are wondering where to go to for in-person French homework help for low-income families. Staff said that the Board will not recommend tutors. They do encourage on bring in secondary students to help younger students using engaging activities and assisting them with relevant, specific problems from school. Members suggested the Odyssey program might be able to help with providing a French speaking university student. • A comment was made that some parents are frustrated trying to figure out why their children are not succeeding. Hiring a tutor who also does not know what the problem is will likely cause more problems in the end. • A comment was made that it is important to stress to parents that they should not panic about homework issues. There are many resources online, such as the Homework Toolbox, which can help with basic homework problems. Communication with the classroom teacher is really important. <p><u>W15 – Jennifer Story</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a few parents who are willing to become W15 alternate representatives on FSLAC • Parents have heard that there is a new Core French curriculum about to be released which has been in the works since 2009. Their understanding is that this is why there has not been an updated textbook for the last 4 years. Parents want to know whether there new books are coming or if this is a misconception. Staff responded that it is being released in Winter 2013. The publishers have been changing the materials to be better organized to meet the needs of programs with integrated CEFR components. <p><u>W17 - Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison Pearce spoke with parent council last school year, and they were wondering if she will be following up with some enquiries. Alison responded that she will be following up in January <p><u>W22 – Debbie-Lynn Hoste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report. 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other business to report. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. 	

Next meeting: December 4, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m. - 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A