



**French as a Second Language Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2012
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

IN ATTENDANCE: David Kim (W3); Heather Jordan (W7); Kathryn Yung (W10); Sharon Kerr (W13/21 - by teleconference); Wilmar Kortleever (W13); Chrysoulla Srabian (W13 alt); Jennifer Story (W15); Kristina Laperle (W17); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (W22); Pamela Gough (Trustee, W3 – by teleconference); Melanie Dickstein (Constituency Assistant); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Alison Pearce (Program Co-ordinator, FSL); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Trustee Harout Manougian (W17), Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher (W16), Lauralyn Johnston (parent, W8), Sarah Smith (parent, W15) and Alicia Leyva (parent, W7)

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 7:06 pm. 	
Approval of Quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum was achieved and approved. • No changes were made to the membership. 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agenda was approved with the following additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Trustee Cary-Meagher spoke about bussing issues after Approval of Minutes 	
Approval of Minutes from October 25, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were approved with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Replace information in W13 report with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (...) Due to a high level of turnover of administration over the past 4 years, the school is looking for guidance from FSL staff. (...) 	Amanda will post to website
Trustee Cary-Meagher – Bussing Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee Cary-Meagher is attempting to add French programs in W16 as quickly as possible. She will be putting forward a motion to turn East York Collegiate into an immersion secondary school. EYC sits between Riverdale, Leaside and Malvern, which are all at capacity. Trustee Gough added that she would like Lakeshore CI considered as an additional site in Etobicoke. • In W16, FI students from the north part of the ward are being bussed past FI schools in order to get to a FI program at the south part of the ward. Trustee Cary-Meagher is interested in rationalizing bussing. The process may take years, but eventually, would like to see students attending FI in schools closest to their homes. The goal is to have every student within walking distance of an elementary FI program. • Staff advised that the procedure is to add sites as demand increases, reducing catchments. In order to achieve the trustee’s goal, the movement of students needs to be examined and a process to change the bussing that is attractive to parents and workable for the system would 	

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	<p>have to be developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A question was asked about whether changing catchments requires PARCs or PARTs. Staff advised that this level of change only requires that the community be notified under Policy 68, page 12: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/uploads/files/live/88/1731.pdf Comments were made that consideration would have to be given to whether students who are established at their schools would be moved, and whether it would be optional. It was also noted that most parents would not react well to something that did not involve choice. Consideration would also have to take into account the sibling rule – the Board’s ongoing commitment to keep siblings together. Local consultations would be needed to avoid any anxiety and misinformation- - each ward would likely have a different view on this, depending on their specific conditions. Trustee Cary-Meagher advised that she was looking for support and suggestions from FSLAC. 	<p>Co-chairs will include this topic on a future FSLAC meeting agenda.</p>
<p>Co-Chair Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Distribution List K-12 Consultation Input WiFi Access for CAC Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amanda has compiled a school distribution list which includes Ward and Trustee contact information, Family of Schools and Superintendent contact information, and school addresses. Three versions are available, each sorted by one of: Ward, Family of Schools, and alphabetically. A copy of the FSLAC response to the K-12 Strategy survey (attached) was distributed with the minutes and is available on the FSLAC webpage. Sindy and Mary met with Karen Grose, Coordinating Superintendent - Strategy and Program Planning, to discuss the implications of the K-12 strategy on FSL programs. The K-12 Strategy is a 3-5 year plan, and this phase is to collect information before any decisions are made. Karen had not received any negative feedback about French programs and language learning in general. A question was asked about whether the K-12 Report is still scheduled to go forward in December. Trustee Gough responded that this is still the case. A question was asked about how much of the K-12 report will actually be used for capital planning if it is a 3-5 year plan. PARCs have been postponed until the K-12 consultation is complete, allowing community members to assume that the document would include practical recommendations and imminent plans. Trustee Manougian responded that the K-12 consultations were held to receive information, and PARCs will be put on hold only until a longer-term vision is clarified. The process of granting TDSB guest access to members is complicated and as of yet, there is no procedure put in place to facilitate it. 	<p>Mary will post the school directory on FSLAC Google Drive.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>K-12 Survey FSLAC Response</p> </div> <p>Amanda will continue to investigate Wifi.</p>

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<p>Member Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIAC Conference • Participatory Budget • Community Engagement Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl, Kristina and Mary attended the PIAC conference and set up an FSLAC table for participants to meet us in the main hall. Kristina presented a workshop for the parents: 'French Helping Your Child Succeed'. It was well received, and Kristina volunteered to present again to individual schools. She has been asked by the Principal of Winchester PS to present the workshop at the school. Powerpoint is under 'Resources' at www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac. • Heather attended the Participatory Budget Reference Group meeting that was held on November 2nd. The meeting was an information session about the budget and the timeline. • Attendees made many requests for more detailed information about how money is received and where exactly it is spent. • There was no clear direction about how/whether the information would affect the Trustees' decisions in the spring. • The FSLAC was invited to the Community Engagement Procedure consultation but did not attend. Mary reported that the documentation laid out the different types of consultation, was clear and did not present any cause for concern by the FSLAC. 	
<p>Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Tancredi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next phase of Full Day Kindergarten is underway. Information is being shared with principals of half-day kindergarten programs. • In phase 1 (Sept 2010), only 1 FI school had an FDK class. In phase 2 (Sept 2011), no additional sites were added. In Phase 3 (Sept 2012), 8 sites were added. We currently have a total of 9 FDK SKFI sites. In Sept 2013, 17 will be added. In Sept 2014, phase 5 will roll out FDK to the remaining sites. The department is tweaking the parent information letters to suit the FDK SK-FI programs. The letter will include a link to a survey of interest on before and after school care. Bussing will only be provided for an 8:30 a.m. start and a 3:30 p.m end. • A comment was made that the reason why most schools were slotted for FDK roll-out in the final phase was because this would allow more time to make extra space for the programs in those schools. There are currently many capital issues in the TDSB and new additions, if any, might be PortaPacks instead of bricks and mortar. Staff responded that construction for schools that need it is still possible. New SKFI sites will likely be opened and the Board will be able to accommodate the demand even if they can't create more space in existing schools. • A comment was made that any extra classrooms that are built should be long-lasting, quality solutions. These decisions will greatly affect the schools that were pushed to the last phase due to lack of space. • A question was asked about whether French students are more likely than English-stream students to be bussed out of a school to make room for FDK. Staff responded that it is most unlikely that English students will be bussed but there is no talk of any situation that would remove a French program from a school to make space for FDK classes. • FI FDK will have the same optional attendance status as the school it is in starting in Sept 2013. Staff clarified that if a child is in a daycare at a school with FDK, that student is given a spot in the school's English FDK program regardless of whether it is their designated home school. For FI at the same school, the child would have to apply under optional attendance. • Trustee Gough commented that closing FDK schools to optional attendance was causing many problems. There were cases where families used subsidized childcare centres outside of their 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison Pearce 	<p>homeschool areas, but were not allowed to have their children in the nearest school because their was no optional attendance allowed. This meant parents had to stay home with their children because without subsidized childcare, they could not work or attend school. In the upcoming year, 75% of schools will be offering FDK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about whether a student would be able to defer acceptance into an FI program until grade one if their assigned FI program is half day, but they require FDK. Staff responded that this would not be possible. • A comment was made that students may have to go from FDK in JK to half-day in SK- FI, which may cause a great hardship for families. It would be beneficial to find out whether this is causing a reduction in demand, or causing parents to choose between FDK and FI. Staff responded that it would be possible to find out how many half-day SK-FI classes are being fed by FDK JK classes. There are some parents who are finding FDK to be too much for their children and would rather have them in half-day programs. • The application period for grade 4 FI/EXT programs closes December 12th. Almost all meetings have taken place. A PowerPoint presentation and handouts about transportation were provided for the meetings, and at some schools, libraries were opened so that parents could receive live assistance with online registration. • Information about evening meetings for SK-FI will be uploaded to the website next week. They will begin the second week back from the holidays. The application deadline is January 31st. Packages will go out to schools before the break for distribution to every JK student. • Kristina encouraged FSLAC members to attend the information nights to support parents and the program. An Intro letter and sign in sheet is available on the Google drive. 	<p>Details on information nights will be sent to members when available by FSLAC Communications</p>
<p>Ward Reports</p>	<p><u>W3 – David Kim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richview CI is at capacity and they are looking to other schools for relief. They would like to know if there is any update on possibly FI/EXT to Lakeshore CI as an additional secondary school in Etobicoke. <p><u>W3 – Pamela Gough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadacres has opened an FI program and they are wondering how this will impact Richview and whether a second high school will be needed. Also, Richview is very far away for many Ward 3 students. Staff responded that they are aware of the possible need for another secondary school site and another junior/middle school and are investigating further. <p><u>W7 – Heather Jordan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several families are continuing to experience difficulty accessing support for special needs children to say in FI. • Suggestions were made to find an FSLAC member to attend SEAC meetings to increase communication between the two committees and to also connect with PIAC which has a Special Education subcommittee. <p><u>W10 – Kathryn Yung</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents are expressing concern that space is tight for FI. 	

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	<p><u>W13 – Wilmar Kortleever</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilmar will attend and present at the next ward meeting is Thursday, Dec. 6. <p><u>W13 – Chrysoulla Srabian</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Fisher parents successfully drafted their School Statement of Needs (SSON). Half of the community participated. Results were presented to the community on November 22nd and have been shared with the Superintendent and trustee. Eight goals were formulated from the results, and a sub-committee of school council was formed to work on each goal. <p><u>W15 – Jennifer Story</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Smith is to be elected as the W15 alt representative to FSLAC at the January Ward meeting. • Trustee will be holding a consultation to look at meeting the space demands of FI. There are no details as of yet. They hope to increase K-8 offerings in the ward <p><u>W17 - Kristina Laperle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristina is volunteering to hold an after-school French reading program at her school for 1 hour/week. She is looking to start an evening French program for adults in January, for which she has recruited a teacher from Broadlands PS and for which support is available from CPF. • The principal is considering starting after-school French programs in different areas of interest. A question was asked about whether job action was interfering or affecting after-school programs. Kristina responded that it does affect after-school programs generally, but in her case, she has worked it through with individual teachers involved. <p><u>W21 – Sharon Kerr</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agincourt CI is looking for help in grade 9 and grade 10 math. Many students from Sir Alexander Mackenzie are experiencing difficulty in grade 9 and 10 and may lack the foundation from grade 7 and 8. Each family is being told it's the individual student. Trustee has been made aware of this and passed it on to the Superintendent to look into. Staff responded that they will get involved to ensure support is in place and issues are being addressed. <p><u>W22 – Debbie-Lynn Hoste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W.G. Miller parents are getting involved with the drafting of the SSON but the process has been difficult so far. WG Miller is transitioning to a K-8 from a K-6 school and parents are concerned that support for the senior students is not in place. Staff is aware of the concerns and is ensuring support is in place. • A question was asked about whether the French department was able to secure the Ministry of Education grant to allow Con Ed to provide after school programming in French. Staff will be moving forward, pending resolution of the current labour issues. A comment was made that some schools have hired high school students to help with elementary afterschool French programs. Kristina replied that she had heard of her home school doing so in the past, but the principal noted there were issues with the quality of work from the students. 	<p>Chrysoulla will provide further details and the SSON to the FSLAC when the process is complete.</p>
<p>Subcommittee on Special Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education support for FI/Ext students is a topic that often arises at the FSLAC table and members wish to be proactive. A subcommittee will be formed to look at Spec. Ed issues in more depth, collect information, give feedback and to develop goals for the FSLAC and an action plan. Chrysoulla, Jennifer, Heather, and Mary have volunteered to form this subcommittee. 	

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Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Xiao, Supercouncil, expressed interest in involving students in the Special Education Subcommittee, and collecting information, opinions and suggestions from students for the benefit of FSLAC in any of its endeavours. Lisa can be reached at Lisa.Xiao@tdsb.on.ca for any recommendations or suggestions that the FSLAC may have to involve students. • A question was asked about whether Lisa is involved in the Ontario Student Survey. Lisa responded that Student Trustees Hiran Zafari and Kourosh Houshmand are involved with the Ontario Student Survey. The results have not yet been released, but about 10,000 students responded to the survey. • A question was asked about whether Lisa knew of any progress with the Student Trustees' FSL initiative they planned to do before course selection. Lisa responded that the initiative is something they are organizing between themselves and she is not informed of any updates, but can get that information for the committee. Course selection is in February. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. 	

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m. - 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A