



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

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013

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

PRESENT: David Kim (W3); Lauralyn Johnston (W8, Alt); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Wilmar Kortleever (W13); Jennifer Story (W15); Sarah Smith(W15, Alt); Rita Camacho-Lomeli (W16); Kristina Laperle (Parent Vice-Chair,W17); Patricia Legrand (W21); Debbie - Lynn Hoste(W22); John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal); Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL); Sharon Beason (parent); Julie Dale Jackman (parent)

REGRETS: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French); Cheryl McConney Wilson (W19); Dina Pizalonas (W2); Rosemary Sutherland (W9)

RECORDER: Linda Mendonca

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
1. Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions	Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM Roundtable introductions were made.	
2. Approval of Quorum Membership Review	Quorum was achieved at 7:15 PM.	
3. Approval of Agenda	Agenda was approved as written.	
4. Approval of Minutes from June 25/13	Minutes were approved as written.	Linda will post to website
5. Co-Chair & Special Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome to Kirsten Johnston, new FSL Co-ordinator ▪ Secondary Schools Motion Co-ordinating with PIAC & SEAC Wish List & New Working Groups 	<p>Welcome to Kirsten Johnston, new FSL Co-ordinator Kirsten Johnston was welcomed to the meeting as the new FSL Co-ordinator.</p> <p>Other TDSB News Trustee Atkinson has recovered and has returned to work. FSLAC welcomes her back to TDSB and wish her all the best.</p> <p>Secondary Schools Motion: Kathryn, Mary, Kristina and Rosemary are continuing to look at questions and researching answers so that we can begin to move forward on the secondary schools motion which looks at current and future</p>	

	<p>needs in FSL at the secondary school level. Members were asked if they would be interested in assisting with the research. David and Debbie-Lynn volunteered to help with the research.</p> <p>Co-ordinating with PIAC & SEAC Meeting Dates We need to adjust our meeting dates as a couple of the dates conflict with PIAC and SEAC meetings. Linda will look into alternate dates for Jan 14th and April 8th. Tuesdays and Thursdays are preferred.</p> <p>Special Education: Empowering Families Through Knowledge & Networking Conference The Special Education: Empowering Families Through Knowledge & Networking Conference is scheduled for Saturday October 19. FSL parents are encouraged to attend. Jennifer Story will attend and report back to the committee.</p> <p>Annual Parent Conference – November If anybody wants to work with co-ordinating with PIAC to do another FSLAC presentation, they can volunteer. Mary & Kristina did one last year called Help with Homework. Since then, Kristina has had 5 other schools interested in the presentation. Content comes from Canadian Parents for French. Members are encouraged to come forward if they wish to volunteer.</p> <p>.</p> <p>SEAC Working Group Jennifer expressed that she would be interested in starting a FSLAC/SEAC Working Group to work with SEAC on changing the perception that SEAC and FSL shall not meet; to discuss and explore current obstacles and weaknesses in promoting French with SEAC (i.e. changing information on pamphlets). Members are encouraged to volunteer to be part of the SEAC Working Group.</p>	<p>Linda will check on dates and confirm with Kristina.</p>
<p>6. Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Final Enrolment Report ▪ Professional Learning Offered to TDSB FLS Educators in 2013/14 ▪ New TDSB Website Update 	<p>Final Enrolment Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The review of #'s for early year's enrolment generally shows an increase. ▪ When applying to SK immersion, or JR extended French, procedure is such that it guarantees a spot into the program somewhere in the system. ▪ Planners can make estimates through live birth info, however, there is no way to determine from that group of people how many of them will choose immersion. ▪ Planning for number of entry classes at each site is complete by the end of January; Planners tell us how much room there is for French immersion at existing sites. ▪ When applications come in, we make every attempt to accommodate students at their associated French school. It gets more challenging for example when the TDSB gets 120 applications for a particular school, and there is room for only 52 students at that site 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedure 597 – sets out the process for placing students when a particular site cannot accommodate the demand. ▪ NOTE *** (June Meeting Minutes) – request that we add an extra column displaying the total applicants that were redirected and didn't accept the offer. ▪ There is a steady increase in enrolment in immersion and extended programs ▪ Kirsten & John are working with parents on different situations with transportation and working on communication plans for parents, so that the TDSB policies are clear and parents fully understand their options. ▪ There are some challenges with the communication to parents which goes through PARS. There were a few situations where parents did not respond to accept the placement – some went into junk mail. ▪ Half day SK – Grade 3 has a cap ▪ There is no cap with FDK. In consultation with the Planning Department, a decision was made to load FDK EFI classes to 26 in most cases. There are some growing pains with FDK, and construction, and some very clear messaging that parts of the City always has enrolment pressures. Staff works collaboratively with Trustees and school communities to work on ways to accommodate the demand including the establishment of new sites in certain parts of the city. ▪ TDSB that need space in schools include: Special Education, programs requiring social workers (students with special needs), and French immersion/extended. <p>Professional Learning Offered to TDSB FSL Educators in 2013/14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional Learning will be offered supporting all French (core (4-8), & immersion (SK-8)) teachers – to bring them together to network, and enrich programming. ▪ Offering a Professional Learning for Special Education teachers at most of the established immersion sites (for half day educators) to share best practices. ▪ Modules are for (beginning teachers), Grades 1-8, Core French (4-8), expanded teachers (Core – Extended French). ▪ Some performance tasks for extended French teachers for evaluation – looking at and consultations (grades 4-8) ▪ Using Common European Framework for new teachers – exploring on-line learning platform ▪ The new curriculum for math has been rolled out, but we are still waiting for new FSL Curriculum rollout <p>New TDSB Website Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FSL website is still under construction. There are some issues with it: e.g. for now, you have to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tabled for next meeting – FDK Report.
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	<p>click search to get to the FSL site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kristina made a request - the curriculum documents are not parent friendly. When parents are trying to find out what their kids are learning, parents have to go through a 40-page document. It would be helpful (and useful) for parents to have a quick (brief synopsis). ▪ Staff commented that it's difficult to cut something down to 2 pages (from 40 pages). The alternative is for parents to attend "meet the teacher night", or "Curriculum Night". ▪ On the MOE website, if you click on "Curriculum" by Grade and Subject, click it by grade, you can get a briefer synopsis on the subject. ▪ John is working with the library on the new purchase of the weekly newspapers (Lesplan.com, and Nos Nouvelles websites) and on how to get this info out to teachers & students. These new sites have engaging topics for parents and students. ▪ TDSB purchased a license for teachers to get on to libraries where students can respond to different topics. ▪ TDSB will be piloting it with a number of schools to see how it works out. ▪ Currently in discussions with libraries on how to get the info out to staff, students and parents 	
<p>7. Ward Reports</p>	<p><u>W3 - David Kim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attended the last council meeting of the previous school year at John English; the meeting was well attended. ▪ Some parents were complaining that they had difficulties following instructions for applications, but most of the comments were positive ▪ David will update council re: FSLAC <p><u>W8 - Loralyn Johnston</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ has a conflict for the first meeting to be held next week ▪ there is another parent who may attend <p><u>W22 – Debbie Lynn Hoste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ William G. Miller is now a K-8 school ▪ so far its working out well with separate lunches, separate recesses <p><u>Julie Dale (Jackman parent)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ school had their first parent council meeting last week ▪ huge turnout; 27 parents was a good sign, lot of new faces 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ two hot topics were FDK and lots of interest in extra-curricular activities <p><u>W15 – Sarah Smith & Jennifer Story</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ no report - meeting next week <p><u>W16 - Rita Camacho – Lomeli</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ no report <p><u>W13 – Wilmar Kortleever</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ goal is to do more outreach and bring more elements to attract new members ▪ Next meeting is scheduled for October 7th ▪ Rollout of FDK (Donlands being rolled out right now) 	
<p>8. Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No other business to report ▪ A member asked a question about all Administrators (i.e. Duke of Connaught) leaving all at once and was curious to know how that happens? It was asked whether there were any safeguards in place to prevent that from happening; where a Principal, a Vice Principal, and Administrative Staff leave at the same time. It was confirmed that there were no safeguards to prevent this from happening. It's a result of people making the decision to leave their roles to pursue other opportunities, etc. ▪ A question was asked about combined grades and the impact on students (who are either in the higher or lower grades of the class). Members suggested there should be a FAQ communication to parents regarding Split Grades versus Straight Grades. Members were referred to the MOE's pamphlet on-line called "An Introduction to Combined Grades" which can be found at http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Leadership/Ward11/Combined%20Grades%20for%20Parents.pdf <p>Announcements</p> <p>Congratulations to John Tancredi who won the Canadian Parents for French McGillivray Award for his leadership in FSL. John received wonderful glowing reports through letters of recommendation for this award from parents, staff and a trustee.</p>	
<p>9. Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM. 	