



## Community Advisory Committee Report

**Community advisory committee:** French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

**Meeting held on:** June 25, 2013

**Time:** **From:** 7:00 p.m. **To:** 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** 5050 Yonge Street – Committee Room A

**Chair:** Kathryn Yung (Parent Vice-Co-chair)

**Members present:** Dina Pizolinas (W2; via teleconference); David Kim (W3), Laura Steele-Gunter (W7; via teleconference); Kathryn Yung (W10); Wilmar Kortleever (W13; via teleconference); Tanya English (W14); Kristina Laperle (W17); Sharon Kerr (W21)

**Members not present:** Issy Vlaykov (W8); Rosemary Sutherland (W9); Cindy Preger (W11); Jennifer Story (W15); Cheryl Wilson (W19); Debbie-Lynn Hoste (W22)  
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### Part A: Committee Recommendations

No matters to report

### Part B: Information Only

#### **Topic: FSLAC Parent Co-chair's Year End Report**

##### **1. Membership**

There are 26 parent members and alternates on the FSLAC from 14 wards, 1 non-voting community member from Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) and two students from the Supercouncil. Sheila Ward is our trustee co-chair and trustees Maria Rodrigues and Pamela Gough are members. FSL program staff attends all meetings.

We distributed the Member Briefing Book again this year to provide members with background information. It outlines member responsibilities and provides advice on how to disseminate information to parents, schools and other community members within the wards. It will be updated and distributed in hard copy again next year and is continuously available to FSLAC members via Google Drive.

##### **2. FSLAC Activities & Information Sharing**

The FSLAC met 7 times in the 2012-13 school year. The FSLAC and FSL program staff continue to work well together. FSLAC members supported students, parents and staff in many different ways, including attending immersion/extended information nights to meet new parents and to support the presentations of principals and FSL staff.

Meeting notices, agendas and minutes are posted on the FSLAC page on the TDSB website ([www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac)). We receive administrative support from the Parent Engagement Office including updating our TDSB webpage.

Our communications lead (parent volunteer) maintains the FSLAC gmail account. The address (fslactoronto@gmail.com) is posted on the FSLAC TDSB webpage. The gmail account facilitates communication with parents and stakeholders and distribution of the FSLAC newsletter which we produced 3 times this year. The newsletter goes to approximately 100 schools with extended/immersion programs, trustees, approximately 400 individual parents and FSL stakeholders who have signed up. The FSLAC is looking forward to being able to access school councils more easily in the coming year when it is expected that all councils will have their own email addresses.

The FSLAC communications lead responds to many inquiries, the majority of which are about signing up for our newsletter, how to access programs and what staff member to talk to about questions relating to FSL programming; for example, PARS problems and bussing.

### **3. FSLAC Participation in Board Activities**

FSLAC executive members met with the TDSB Coordinating Superintendent – Strategy and Program Planning to discuss the FSL opportunities within the Board’s K-12 Strategy and submitted the FSLAC response to the survey in the fall of 2012.

FSLAC members appeared in the time reserved at the Program and School Services Committee for advisory committees two times this past year in support of our recommendation on FSL in secondary schools and in support of the new FSL Policy.

FSLAC representatives also attended meetings and consultations on the Participatory Budget, the School Climate Survey, the Community Advisory Committee Review and the Full Day Kindergarten report card to give feedback and to collect information to disseminate to our members.

### **4. FSL Policy**

The motion to adopt the FSL Policy was passed at the April 17, 2013 meeting of the Board.

The policy is a foundation statement that reflects the new FSL Framework recently issued by the Ministry. It includes a clear commitment to inclusion and equity in FSL programs, and builds on the FSL Directional Statement that was adopted at amalgamation. (For more details, see <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/uploads/files/live/91/1798.pdf>)

The FSLAC has monitored and provided input into the development of the draft FSL policy statement since the Review of French Immersion and Extended French in 2005/06. The final public consultation took place at the September 19, 2012 FSLAC meeting.

TDSB Staff, John Tancredi and Alison Pearce were very effective at engaging the FSLAC, the broader parent community, and other stakeholders through an extensive and thoughtful public consultation process. The development of the new TDSB FSL Policy included the FSLAC at every stage. This was truly a co-construction project, and an outstanding example of TDSB Staff and parents working together to achieve a common goal through collaboration.

### **5. Ontario FSL Framework and the Provincial FSL Working Group**

The Ministry of Education released a new document for all education stakeholders “A Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools- Kindergarten to Grade 12” in February 2013. It links federal and provincial

FSL goals with Ontario's goals for education. It includes a call to action to strengthen FSL programming across the province and offers practical suggestions for educators and decision makers on how to make improvements. Increased parental and community engagement is emphasized as a critical component of success in achieving the goals for FSL. This document will play an important role in shaping our direction as a board and as parent advisory committee going forward.

(For more details, see <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/frameworkFLS.pdf>)

The FSLAC continues to receive information from and provide feedback to the FSL Provincial Working Group at the Ministry of Education through John Tancredi and Mary Cruden, President, Canadian Parents for French (Ontario). This working group is made up of Ministry staff and stakeholders from across the province, including superintendents, principals, teachers, students, trustee associations and parents.

## **6. Parent Conference and Other Workshops**

FSLAC Members worked together with Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) to staff a table, provide resources and present a workshop titled "French...Helping your child succeed" at the PIAC Parent Involvement Conference in November 2012. The workshop was very well received and the FSLAC subsequently received invitations to repeat the presentation for parents at several schools. Volunteer time permitting, the FSLAC will continue to offer the presentation upon request in 2013-14. The power point is posted at [www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac) under 'Resources'. Inquiries may be directed to [fslactoronto@gmail.com](mailto:fslactoronto@gmail.com).

## **7. Current Opportunities / Growing FSL Programs in the TDSB**

### ***Extended/Immersion Program Enrolment:***

Early reporting indicates that enrolment in Immersion (SK or grade 4 entry) is up slightly from 2012 while extended (grade 4 or 7 entry) is down slightly. All on-time applicants receive a spot in SK immersion or grade 4 extended. However, it appears that families who are redirected to alternate sites (i.e., not their home school for the French program) frequently do not accept the redirection. These concerns are frequently raised at the FSLAC, and common reasons for declining redirection include bussing times, before and after school care issues and the lack of neighbourhood connection to the school.

### ***Full Day Kindergarten:***

In September 2013, there will be 26 SK French immersion programs with full day kindergarten. The remaining 30 sites will go full day in September 2014. The first SK French immersion program with full day kindergarten was Parkdale PS in 2010. The shift to FDK in SK French immersion means that class size and staffing will be similar to the years prior to the 20 cap. Up to 30 students will be in the SKFI class with one teacher and an ECE (previously an Educational Assistant). FSL staff reports that doubling the amount of French in SK greatly improves readiness for the grade 1 program.

### ***FSL Needs at the Secondary School Level:***

The FSLAC recommended to the Board that "the Director undertake to examine the need for additional sites and opportunities for immersion and extended students at the secondary level and develop a plan for meeting current and future needs in consultation with the FSLAC and stakeholders". The Board adopted the recommendation at its meeting on February 6, 2013. The FSLAC will be providing further input as the process unfolds and is interested in exploring FSL secondary programs available at other boards and through e-learning and retention between grade 8 and grade 9 in extended/immersion programs.

### ***Common European Framework of Reference:***

The current and continuing discussion at the FSLAC is very much focused on quality of programs and student outcomes, particularly equipping our students to be confident French readers and speakers. The FSLAC is very supportive of the on-going work by FSL staff to train teachers in the application of the Common European Framework of Reference and the communicative approach to learning French, including the emphasis on core French.

***Special Education and Extended/Immersion***

Parents continue to express concerns at the FSLAC be brought to the FSLAC from parents that special education is not adequately supported within extended/immersion programs. Parents are seeking access to technology and specialized resources in French and more special education training for FSL teachers, particularly in the primary grades. The FSLAC will be connecting with PIAC and SEAC to explore ways to work together to provide current information and support to FSL parents with special needs children.

**8. 2013-2014 Plans/Member Elections**

Kristina Laperle (W17) was elected at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as parent co-chair with Kathryn Yung (W10) and Jennifer Story (W15) elected as parent vice co-chairs.

Efforts will continue to work with trustees to fill FSLAC member vacancies. FSLAC member/alternate terms are two years and elections take place in odd years. Trustees are asked to hold elections at their ward meetings by December 2013. To be eligible to be an FSLAC member/alternate, one must be a parent of a current TDSB student, have an interest in French and be available to attend (in person or by phone) about seven meetings per year. Trustees may contact the FSLAC at [fslactoronto@gmail.com](mailto:fslactoronto@gmail.com) . FSLAC Operating Guidelines are available at: [www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac) .

**9. Upcoming meetings:** September 12 and October 17, 2013.

Sindy Preger, FSLAC Parent Co-chair  
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**Report submitted by:** Amanda Tiberio – Committee Assistant, Parent and Community Engagement