



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

**Date: Thursday, January 9, 2013**

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

**PRESENT:** Kristina Laperle(Parent Vice-Chair, W17); Kathryn Yung (Parent Vice – Chair, W10); Nichole Jonas (W1); Millicent Quist (W1, Alt); Dina Pizolinas (W2, Alt); Lauralyn Johnston (W8, Alt); Wilmar Kortleever (W13); Sharon Kerr (W13, W21); Cheryl Wilson (W19); May Lee (W21); Pam Rigney (W21, Alt);Debbie Lynn Hoste (W22); Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French)

**TELECONFERENCE:** David Kim (W3)

**GUESTS:** John Hastings (Trustee, Ward 1), Tami Olieve (parent, North Kipling)

**TDSB STAFF:** John Tancredi (Central Co-ordinating Principal)

**REGRETS:** Pamela Gough (Trustee); Aziz Walji (W2); Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL)

**RECORDER:** Linda Mendonca

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1.	<b>Call to Order</b> Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.	
2.	<b>Approval of Quorum</b> Quorum was achieved at 7:53pm. Membership Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add Nichole Jonas &amp; Millicent Quist as Ward 1 Reps Add Pam Rigney &amp; May Lee as Ward 21 Reps</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> <b>***MOTION:</b> Dina, seconded by Debbie Lynn moved to approve the draft agenda. All approved. Motion carried.	
4.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> <b>***MOTION:</b> Kathryn, seconded by Dina moved to approve that the draft November 28 <sup>th</sup> minutes. All approved. Motion carried.	Recorder will post minutes on the website.
5.	<b>Co-Chair to Lead Group Discussion</b> <b>March Newsletter Topic Suggestions &amp; Assistance</b>	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include Kirsten’s Bio as our “Great Grad Story”</li> <li>▪ Info on After School Program for Kids &amp; Information on Glenview Morning Homework Club</li> <li>▪ Continuing Education – waiting for schools to pick up on it. The school has to find a teacher within the school.</li> <li>▪ Newsletter – will add March Break activities</li> <li>▪ Apps recommended for tablets and phones from DSB Niagara Requests were put out to members for a review on the apps? A minimum of 3 sentences per app would be sufficient. Lauralynn volunteered her daughter. .Kristina will work with Lauralyn and find someone from her school to review an app for the younger kids.</li> <li>▪ Trustee Hastings suggested contacting Communications Department to include 2-3 reviews of Apps and to put it on Youtube.</li> <li>▪ Members were asked if anyone would like to volunteer to help with the newsletter. Dina volunteered. Dina will co-ordinate materials and work with Mary on the newsletter. Newsletter distribution target is last week of February.</li> </ul> <p><b>TDSB &amp; Parent Communication – Brainstorming Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In general, some parents are feeling they are not getting the FSL program information, whereas, other parents are.</li> <li>▪ The TDSB always tries hard to improve our communications, but it’s difficult to get space on the TDSB home page.</li> <li>▪ Need to explore and confirm how parents like to get information from schools and what is effective. Noted that subject headings for e-mails are very important.</li> <li>▪ Members expressed that more and more people are using e-mails, and suggested that those who want to be in conversation with TDSB /Principal/Vice Principal should get on an e-mail chain (to receive emails), and start through their school council.</li> <li>▪ Principal needs to have an open-door policy for communication</li> <li>▪ Staff stated that when a school does not house an immersion or extended French program, TDSB sends out communication in many ways, i.e.’ the Director of Education told Principals to hand out information packages through the ‘System Leader Weekly’. Every school received hard copy information for every JK and grade 3 students. TSDB uses a multi-pronged approach to communication.</li> </ul> <p>Trustee Hastings suggested the following improvements to Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Modernized Robo-Call System – tri-com message for Core-French and French Immersion</li> <li>▪ Every School (all types of boards and private schools) put out Banners (i.e. Kindergarten Registration) – advertise French programs along with FDK registration</li> <li>▪ Put it on a Sign Board</li> </ul>	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual (or group) go out into the community to advertise French Program – cannot depend on Principals or Students</li> <li>▪ By Word of Mouth</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Staff Report</b></p> <p><b>Donna Quan’s “Years of Action 2013-2017” and “Board Improvement Plan”</b></p> <p>French immersion is one of the areas of action in the Director’s Years of Action Plan. Members are encouraged to review the plan. For more info., please see the TDSB website:  <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/YearsofAction.aspx">http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/YearsofAction.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Training on New FSL Curriculum</b></p> <p>John reported that Director Quan received an e-mail from the Ministry with dates for Curriculum Training for Teachers. Every Board gets to bring 8 teachers. Training is on February 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup>. TDSB’s team of 4 French Instructional Leaders will be going, and there will be four others. TDSB has been involved in the development of the curriculum.</p> <p><b>PARS Update - Discussion</b></p> <p>PARS is up and running, and are up to 1690 applications three days ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 12:01 – 2:00pm (Jan 6<sup>th</sup>), the PARS system was not recognizing non-TDSB e-mails, but this was eventually fixed.</li> <li>▪ PARS is the best system we have right now. It is complex but we are always trying to tweak it to make it better. There are always glitches. Email does not always get opened.</li> <li>▪ A couple of parents sent in their applications and it went to their junk mail. People need to look into their junk mail.</li> <li>▪ Members expressed that longer deadlines are needed, a more user – friendly website. A lot of parents did not know there was a two-part process. How do parents know whether they have been accepted? Set a date to let parents know they will hear back with a confirmation by that date. The wording and explanation of the process should be more user friendly - make it clear and concise</li> <li>▪ The application process window is one month. We can always improve. Once we offer a placement, TDSB needs to hear back from parents – as they need to confirm # of classrooms, and teachers.</li> </ul> <p><b>SKFI/Ext 7 Info Nights</b></p> <p>Each school with a French Immersion/extended program has an information night for prospective parents. SKFI and Ext 7 nights are during January. It’s an opportunity for FSLAC members to reach out parent to parent. Members are encouraged</p>	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	to attend one or two. Full list of dates, locations as well as parent signup sheet to circulate at the meetings were emailed on Jan 2, 2014 from the FSLAC gmail. Central FSL staff are not able to attend every meeting and principals appreciate the support from the FSLAC.	
7.	<p><b>Ward Reports</b></p> <p><b>Ward 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Final PARC public meeting is on January 14th at Albion Heights. Last step before the recommendation to make Melody Village an SKFI centre goes to the Board. Details below under 'Trustee Report'.</li> <li>▪ Further parent efforts being made to raise awareness in community about Ext 4 program at Greenholme, which also offers an after school program</li> <li>▪ There were 25 applicants; only 16 that have accepted the spots so far. Information was distributed to grade 3 students in November. John added that they will continue accepting late applicants at Greenholme and are working towards having a full class for Sept 2014.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ward 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ French Immersion bussing issue– no response from Millwood parents to offer of meeting with FSLAC</li> <li>▪ Richview closed – for optional attendance in FI for Sept 2014</li> </ul> <p><b>Ward 3 - No Report</b></p> <p><b>Ward 8 - No Report</b></p> <p><b>Ward 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Twinning (double major) has been a topic of discussion –i.e., having a special program such as robotics available in a school where FI is also available. Robotics courses don't need to be available in French, just both programs available in the same school so students don't need to choose between them. Parents concerned about kids leaving program because of appeal of specialized programs.</li> <li>▪ Lord Lansdowne SKFI Information Session – local staff said fairly publicly that Grade 4 Extended going to be phased out. John Tancredi responded that there have been meetings with surrounding schools with planners–, SO's, regarding</li> </ul>	

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>local feasibility – still at early stages of the discussion. Noted that in the Ward 1 ARC Review –consultation with the community – option is created and suggested by the community. Important to have a parent voice at the table.</p> <p><b>Ward 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CPF adult French class not running – insufficient interest</li> <li>▪ Planning French Movie Night</li> </ul> <p><b>Ward 21 &amp; 13 (Sharon)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leaside Pathways Program is filling up – issue is deferred to next meeting</li> <li>▪ Sterling &amp; North Albion – FDK info update – John to bring to next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ward 21 (May Lee )</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Will be attending SKFI Night</li> <li>▪ Talked about inviting high school FI students to promote the program, particularly from the Music department – ACI has an award Winning Music Program</li> </ul> <p><b>Ward 22 - No Report</b></p> <p><b>Canadian Parents for French (CPF)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CPF ON executive is meeting with the Ontario Principals' Council next week to discuss state of FSL in Ontario and to share new tools for enhancing school leadership in FSL</li> <li>▪ Members are encouraged to join the CPF membership contest for a chance to win a week of French Camp – need to sign up by January 31<sup>st</sup> – you can either join or renew. E-mail Kristina if you are interested.</li> <li>▪ Rosemary, Ward 9 rep, is now working at CPF</li> </ul>	<p>John to bring info regarding Leaside Pathways Program and FDK Info Update for Sterling &amp; North Albion to next meeting.</p> <p>Members to email Kristina if interested in joining and or renewing CPF membership. Kristina will forward info through Trustee Hastings to local SO</p>
8.	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>CAC Review Report</b></p> <p>The CAC Review Recommendations will go to Planning &amp; Priorities (P&amp;P) Committee on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. FSLAC will make a deputation at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Meeting extended 15 minutes (at 9:05)</b></p>	<p>Kristina will prepare deputation and circulate for comment prior to the P &amp; P meeting.</p>

#	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
9.	<p><b>Trustee Report – Trustee Hastings</b></p> <p><b>Ward 1 – PARC</b>  Ward 1 is having their final mandated PARC Public Information meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> at Albion Heights and the recommendations go to the Planning and Priorities Committee on Jan 22 and to the full Board on Feb 5.</p> <p>One of several recommendations is a proposed change to Melody Junior School to transition it to a French Immersion Centre by 2022.</p> <p>FI parents are encouraged to come to the Planning &amp; Priorities meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to show support for the expansion of SKFI into north Etobicoke. To request to be on the speaker’s list, any member of the public must email Maria Mavroyannis at <a href="mailto:maria.mavroyannis@tdsb.on.ca">maria.mavroyannis@tdsb.on.ca</a>, 48hrs prior to the meeting.</p> <p>There are a number of parents at Melody Village opposed to having the school transition to an FI centre and some parents have not fully understood the benefits of French/English bilingualism. Some parents are concerned about low grade 3 and grade 6 EQAO scores. Some parents feel they were not listened to when PARC was going through despite more than 14 meetings which included parent representation as well as several well-advertised public meetings.</p> <p>Trustee Hastings asked that the FSLAC continue to share information and encourage parents to consider that Canada is bilingual; that bilingualism opens doors for greater job opportunities, and that bilingual employees have an income advantage. A strong presence for immersion and for bringing new programming is needed in the North West.</p> <p>A member commented that North Kipling Junior School has lots of parents who want to enroll their kids in French if it were closer to home.</p>	<p>Kristina and Dina will depute at P&amp;P on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in support of Melody Village recommendation.</p> <p>Mary to attend January 14<sup>th</sup> Elmlea Information Night and will share info on W1 PARC.</p>
10.	<p><b>Adjournment</b>  Meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Next meeting</b>  February 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Committee Room A</p>	<p>Meeting notice will be sent via e-mail.</p>