



## Community Advisory Committees

**Name of Committee:** French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** 14 January 2020

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee convened from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge Street, with Parent Co-Chair Mandy Moore presiding.

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**Attendance:** Mandy Moore (Parent Co-Chair W7), Matt Forrest (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Zeynab Kazi (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W22) Rob Janes (W1/W2), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Sharlene Henry (W5/W6 Alt), Lynne LeBlanc (W8), Jennifer Tse (W8 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10); Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15),

Also present were: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt), Trustee Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (W11); Trustee Dan MacLean (W2); Manon Gardner (Associate Director); Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal); Kirsten Johnston (Program Coordinator), Doug Kwan (parent, Millwood)

The following participated by electronic means: Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt)

**Regrets:** Lisa McAvoy (W2 Alt), Nalini Singh (W2 Alt), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16), Gail Miller (W22 Alt), Sharon Beason (Canadian Parents for French), Gail Miller (W22 Alt)

**Recorder:** Linda Stockdale

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ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION / ACTION
<b>Call to Order / Quorum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quorum achieved 7:05 pm</li> <li>• Land acknowledgment – Mandy Moore</li> </ul>	
<b>Membership Changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Sharlene Henry (W5 Alt), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Jennifer Tse (W8 Alt); Remove Nadya Phelan (W8 Alt), resignation</li> </ul>	Linda to provide current membership list to Trustees
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved to approve by Sarah as amended (after Ward/CPF Reports add Parent Co-chair report on Newsletter, Secondary Review Consultation, Parent Conference; add Trustee Co-chair report on P023 Review, Transportation), seconded by Zenab. Carried.</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of 12 Nov 2019 Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved to approve by Wilmer. Seconded Charles. Carried.</li> </ul>	Linda will post approved minutes on <a href="http://tdsb.on.ca/fslac">tdsb.on.ca/fslac</a>
<b>Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilmar Kortleever is a W11 parent and FSLAC alternate and is also employed by the TDSB as a Shared Services Liaison, a casual position in which he supports the Board and Trustees, e.g, by helping organize and taking minutes at public meetings.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ward/ CPF Reports/Co-chair's Report</b>	<p><b>W1/W2</b> – trouble collecting information on next parent council meetings; lots of fundraising.</p> <p><b>W15</b> – letter provided by the Cosburn School Council: concern regarding Cosburn to Leaside pathway, elimination of intensive/extended French programs, Grade 4 &amp; 5 cohorts with no intensive French program when they get to Grade 6 or 7; parents feel that if you are not plugged in, then you're left behind. Yet Sarah has made the Cosburn community aware of the changes for the past 8 months and all of the consultations sessions held during the FSL Review period; she feels no one can ever over-communicate. Wonders if local schools could review the issues more with their parents.</p>	Linda to append Cosburn letter to Jan 14/20 minutes (see below)

	<p><b>Comment:</b> Cosburn letter: some parents are feeling abandoned, some parents may have made different decisions about intensive French programs, between GR3 and GR4, if they knew it was their last chance, if they had been aware of and understood the June decision.</p> <p><b>W11</b> - expressed similar concerns to W15 above, potential impact of pathway changes a concern. Also concern that we aren't keeping track of transportation hardship queries ....can guidelines be distributed for Principals?</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> June 24, 2019 email to secondary families said there would be guidelines for hardship criteria for TTC tickets from Superintendents for principals.</p> <p>Manon: there are no guidelines. Principals have the discretion and have available funds. Manon will follow-up re: June 24 letter to families.</p> <p>Wilmar, also involved in PIAC, shared that PIAC reps are about to get school council email addresses and encouraged FSLAC reps to connect with their PIAC reps on this.</p> <p><b>W22</b> - continues to be long term occasional teachers that are not French Language teachers at Alexander Stirling.</p> <p><b>CPF</b> – recently had productive meeting with Minister with responsibility for Francophone Affairs, Caroline Mulroney. Issues covered: Improving supply of FSL teachers through concerted effort of Ministries of Education, Colleges and Universities and Labour/Training; re-established of Provincial FSL Working Group which was put on hold when new gov't came into place and progress on Official Languages in Education Program (OLEP) and funding which supports cultural enrichment for FSL students and professional development for FSL teachers.</p> <p><b>Parent Co-chair Report</b>  <b>FSLAC Newsletter</b> - December issue had 1155 deliveries. Next issue is expected in March. Ideas, volunteers for writing and editing most welcome, please contact Mary.  <b>Secondary, Optional Attendance Review</b> - Wilmar and Mandy attended the Advisory Committee consultation on behalf of FSLAC. There were some very hard core, insightful parents. Wilmar says that specialized program schools and optional attendance concerns</p>	<p>Manon will follow-up, provide update about TTC hardship guidelines with FSLAC.</p>
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	<p>were represented. People were deep diving into the issues. A lot of parents with special education concerns attended, which helped to put things into perspective as students with IEPs often don't/can't be considered for any special programming.</p> <p><b>Trustee Comment:</b> Trustee MacLean also attended this and several other consultations as well as along with other trustees. At this one, many topics took a deeper dive; really good discussions.</p> <p><b>Fall Parent Conference</b> – Charles reported that FSLAC/CPF table had many visitors but the schedule of the conference was a challenge. Re: Upcoming Parent Conference March 28, 2020. Not impacted by job action so far. Mandy and Rosemary submitted a proposal to do the French Homework Help workshop. FSLAC/CPF will host a joint table. Need updated materials for the display to show plans for FSL programs. Rosemary will follow-up.</p>	
<p><b>Trustee co-chair Report- Review P023</b></p>	<p><b>Survey for Review of Parent Engagement Policy 023</b></p> <p>Community Advisory Committees, including the FSLAC, fall under the Parent Engagement Policy. SEAC and PIAC which are mandated by the province do not fall under this policy. A facilitated review of this policy is pending. All CAC members and Trustees will be receiving a survey on Monday. Michelle Munroe has requested to speak about the review at an upcoming FSLAC meeting. FSLAC will be consulted.</p> <p>Staff leads of all CACs reviewed the draft survey. It covers items such as: the effectiveness of the CAC mandate; is it relevant today; tracking of the CAC report going to PSSC, impact of the advisory committee. It is a thorough survey, which requires a time commitment – more than 10 minutes. The survey feedback will inform the new draft policy.</p>	
<p><b>Trustee co-chair Update – Transportation</b></p>	<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <p>There are no transportation updates until FBEC in February 2020.</p> <p>Manon: Multiple TDSB departments involved with reviewing the transportation challenges: e.g. many bell times, many drop off/pickup times, sharing with TCDSB. We are looking at various models. This is operational – a solution will be presented to Trustees. We know that no matter the changes, it will not be convenient for all. This is massive change, but may help with our bus driver shortage. Decisions are expected in February, with rollout in September 2020. Changes will apply to elementary and secondary schools.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update–</b></p>	<p>Manon and team meet to go over Q &amp; A and update for daily distribution to administrators.</p>	

<p><b>Manon - Job Actions</b></p>	<p><u>EQAO:</u> Delays have been relayed. Semester 1 students are missing their Math EQAO, yet how do they prepare for a possible June Math EQAO? This is a concern.</p> <p><u>Elementary Report Cards:</u> Decisions have not been made, as of Jan 14/20.</p> <p><u>Excursions:</u> Elementary field trips have been cancelled so that teachers are in school teaching as much as possible. Swim to Survive is still ongoing with teachers attending. Assemblies are still taking place but teachers are only supervising. Staff are gathering as much excursion information as possible, determining if parents can/can't be reimbursed by the Vendor. Ministry of Education/TDSB may have to organize reimbursement payments but this will take time.</p> <p><u>Strike Dates - Exams:</u> To date, OSSTF rotating strikes are on Wednesdays. Contingency planning in place in case of rotating strike during exam period; will be determined shortly. Secondary schools starting exams on the January 22<sup>nd</sup> are being asked to move them to the PA Day of the following week if there is a rotating strike on that day. Some secondary students are at Leadership retreats in Muskoka, may need to bring students back if affected by the job actions.</p> <p><u>Open Houses:</u> Decision has been made to postpone and reschedule all Open Houses.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Registration deadlines for Alternative Schools are very close, and parents are asking questions.</p> <p><u>Permitted Space:</u> School council meetings can still proceed, without teacher reps, unless on a strike day because general use permits are cancelled on a rotating strike day.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update Angela</b></p>	<p><b>FSL Review Recommendations</b></p> <p>The type of broad consultation on the implementation plans sections part (a) (i) to (iv) of the FSL recommendations as per the amendment was considered at length by the FSL department.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> is a pathway change for Beverley Heights is likely? Current FI students from Beverley Heights MS proceed to Newtonbrook SS.</p> <p><b>Staff A:</b> All pathways as established at the entry point will remain as such at this time.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update</b></p>	<p><b>Draft FSL Survey</b></p> <p>The FSL department shared a draft of a public and staff survey with FSLAC, for feedback.</p>	

<p><b>Angela</b></p>	<p>Survey is meant to broadly gather feedback from several stakeholders on the implementation plans. Parts of the survey are staff only asking for feedback on sections of the Core French Action plan and Inclusive Practices targeted professional learning. Page 3 of 12 of survey asks for feedback on the application/registration process and asks parents how they would like to be communicated with. A lot of parents are non-TDSB, so how do we reach them? The FSL department is working with Early Years and childcare partners to align registration processes for parents.</p> <p><b>Comments and Questions:</b>  Page 4-8-preference for placement process, sibling rule, transition grades, school configurations, viability of FI and English:  is it possible to say that currently a spot is guaranteed to “on time” applicants; lottery topic is not clear; ‘placement’ and ‘application’ need to be defined clearly- placement means that you will be put somewhere,; survey is too challenging for parents to understand, words like ‘catchment’, ‘grade for best transition’; content is alarming and will panic parents, lotteries, sibling rule, changing schools at GR3 ,4 or5 ; equitable access concern, goal of the Review, not seeing where this is being addressed; is there a consultation guide?, what will the results of this survey lead to?</p> <p>Staff indicate the need to elicit input on how to reach non-TDSB parents who may be interested in registering for FI. Staff will use Instagram, local newspaper ads, banners for JK registration to include French, tapping into non-TDSB families that the Early Years dept. already works with and look at aligning JK FI registration dates with those of Early Years, perhaps earlier than February to streamline process for parents.</p> <p>Manon: FSL recommendations were approved at Board in June 2019, in order to increase equity of access to intensive FSL programs. Staff did extensive consultation for the French Review prior to the FSL recommendations and is now working on the implementation phases which include the re-distribution of programs and the phasing out of the Gr. 6 IEF and Gr. 4 and 7 Ext French. Staff is working with Planning to work out what is possible, and what is not. Right now we are modeling. Trustees will be presented with the final map in May and then we are hoping to present at June 2020 Committee of the Whole, then Regular Board Meeting.</p>	
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	<p>Questions were raised about what was meant by the trustee motion and whether this survey would meet the expectation of the motion. Staff will follow up with trustees.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Once the survey results are completed, can the FSLAC membership be privy to the results before the next steps?</p> <p><b>Manon A:</b> Yes.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update</b> <b>Angela</b></p>	<p><b>Updates to PR597</b> At November Board Meeting, trustees voted to extend transportation to gifted and FSL students for 2020/2021. This resulted in updates to PR597, pages 14-16 (same now as in old procedure). Transportation, where approved by the Transportation Department, will be provided for SK to GR5, GR6-8, if they meet the distance criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update</b> <b>Angela</b></p>	<p><b>Flowcharts for the Phase out of programs</b> Flow charts have been created to depict the phase out of each of the programs (i.e. Gr. 6 Intensive Extended French, the Gr. 7 Entry Extended French, and the Gr. 4 Extended French). New fact sheets also being prepared.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update</b> <b>Angela</b></p>	<p><b>Public FSL Website</b> The FSL department has undertaken the review and enhancement of the FSL public website. Hoping to launch at end of January; will be more parent-friendly. It will include such items as, but not limited to, Core French, application and placement process, inclusion of all students in FSL programs, special education. It will include a number of tiles, not just text Links to the FSLAC, CPF and many more, will also be included to support parents/guardians and the greater community. The website will be AODA compliant.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Update</b> <b>Kirsten</b></p>	<p><b>Staff FSL Google Site</b> In January 2020, the central FSL department launched an addition to the TDSB FSL Google site for staff, the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) site. This site is aimed at supporting Core French teachers as they implement the CEFR-based Action-Oriented approach in the classroom. The site consists of various toolboxes for</p>	

	teachers, a range of lesson plans with associated toolkits that have concrete materials that can be signed out through the Library and Learning Resources Centre.	
<b>Staff Updates</b>  <b>Angela</b>	<p><b>Senior Kindergarten FI Application Status</b> Overall 4018 on-time applications for SK French Immersion in Sept 2020. This is an increase of 490 applications from last year. This is amazing in that this is without knowing about transportation availability, at the time of registration. All 4018 on-time applicants will be offered an FI placement as we work closely with the Planning department to determine capacity at each FI site. Offers are ongoing - Not all families in a given area will receive their offers of placement at the same time, but all will receive one. In most Wards, there was an increase in the number of applicants. At this time, there is no indication if a new FI site will be required.</p> <p><b>Junior Extended French Application Status</b> Currently there are 1134 applicants; application deadline is Jan 31.</p>	
<b>Other Business</b>	no	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Moved Polina, seconded by Charles and Carried.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, Feb 11, 2020, 7:00 pm in Committee Room A.	



## **Addendum**

**From:** Sarah Smith [<mailto:sdonaldson2004@yahoo.ca>]

**Sent:** January 14, 2020 7:31 PM

**To:** Stockdale, Linda; Mandy Moore; Mary Cruden

**Subject:** Letter from Cosburn council chairs

Dear FSLAC members,

We are writing to highlight a few concerns we have regarding the French review, and moving forward, what planning of pathways might look like. We know with the provincial cuts, TDSB is making difficult decisions. We believe as parents of students who have chosen an FI, EF, or IEF pathway, we are partners with the TDSB in these discussions. We would like to highlight the following concerns to FSLAC:

- 1) It was surprising for many families to find out IEF would be phased out completely, leaving the current grade 4 cohort without a non-Core French option. Many parents are upset that their younger children in grade 4 will not have a similar opportunity as their older children. Had more notice been given, they may have chosen an EF pathway. They respectively ask for a review of this decision to push the phase out one more year.
- 2) With the secondary school review underway, we hope there will be review of the current Cosburn to Leaside pathway. There is a viable program literally across the street at East York Collegiate. Since opening, optional attendance applications of grade 8 FI students to EYCI is growing steadily. and finally,
- 3) We want to flag future planning to ensure a vibrant Cosburn community. While council can understand the need to move to a new FI model, we hope that planning will also take into consideration that the current IEF program is 150-180 students in Cosburn. Once this program is eliminated, we hope TDSB has plans to grow the Early and Late immersion programs to ensure our French program remains robust. We have a fantastic roster of French home room teachers. With the possible elimination of the program, we risk losing 5-6 French home room teachers. We may also see impacts to the number of rotary teachers, and the total school budget of Cosburn. As a community, we would ask that TDSB plans these changes with the least amount of disruption the overall Cosburn community.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We hope FSLAC will continue to find ways to increase communication and engagement to parents in French programs.

Best regards,

Cosburn School Council Co-Chairs.