



Community Advisory Committees

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

Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

A meeting of the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee convened from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm via virtual Zoom meeting, with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Attendance:	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Lisa McAvoy (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W2), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice-Co Chair W11), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W5/W6 Alt), Mandy Moore (W7), Matt Forrest (W9); Randy Samuel (W14), Gail Miller (W22) Also present were: Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee Co-Chair W11), Trustee Robin Pilkey (W7), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (CPF Alt), Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini (Executive Superintendent), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Linda Edwards (Centrally Assigned Principal, Virtual French Programs), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator)
Guests:	Cynthia Grundmann (Senior Policy Advisor, Early Years), Nadejda Lekosky (Mgr, Child Care Services), Shalone Hendrickson (parent)
Regrets:	Doug Kwan (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5/13), Crystal Stewart (W6), Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 Alt), Geordie Sabbagh (W8 Alt), Hans Bathija (W10 Alt), Sarah Smith (W15), Kathleen Meek (W15 Alt), Christie Dunbar (W16), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (CPF Alt), Michelle Munroe (Parent Engagement)
Recorder:	Linda Stockdale

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION / ACTION
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acknowledgment – Lynne Leblanc Introduction of Participants. Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes. Quorum achieved 7:15pm 	
Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polina Osmerkina (W10), Wilmar (W11Alt) and Caroline Tolten-Paterson (W7 alt) have left TDSB, or child graduated. Hans Bathija becomes W10 rep. 	
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Charles, seconded by Sharlene. Carried. 	
Approval of June 2021 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Matthew, seconded by Lisa. Carried. 	Linda to post on tdsb.on.ca/fslac
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Randy Samuel is a supply for a Lunchroom Supervisor at the Board. 	
6. Staff Update: Cynthia/ Nadejda	<p><u>Childcare/BASP, EarlyON</u> Programs offered in TDSB schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early ON Centres – TDSB operates 75 programs within TDSB schools free of charge for parents and caregivers with children age birth to 6 (https://tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/Pre-School-Years/EarlyON-Child-and-Family-Centres) EDP (Extended Day Program) – 18 programs operated by TDSB and funded on a cost-recovery basis from parent fees, introduced in 2019 BASP (Before and After School Programs) – K-GR6 (ages 4-12 years), currently available in 80% of TDSB schools, including the 70 EFI school. Child Care Programs– licensed infant, toddler and pre-school care <p>P022 and PR691 are the TDSB policy and procedures that flow from provincial requirements - the Child Care and Early Years Act (2014) and the K-GR6 policy guidelines for school boards.</p>	<p>Early Years staff to:</p> <p>Share power point with FSLAC</p> <p>Provide # of MFI schools with EDP and BASP</p>

Before and After School Programs – 3 program types: 3rd party operators (licensed childcare programs), authorized recreation /skill building programs and Extended Day Programs -- majority are 3rd party operated or authorized recreation/skill building programs. Individual operators manage/determine the operating capacity, wait lists, escorts, fees, policies, expansion, etc. for their site(s), which can lead to some inequities in the system.

As required by the Ministry, schools without programs are surveyed annually to determine if there is sufficient demand to develop a new BASP. In schools where growth is required or demand exceeds current capacity, TDSB staff explores the opportunity with the operator. Staff work to provide program space (mostly shared classrooms) while the operator works with the Ministry to amend their license and with City of Toronto regarding fee subsidy availability. This ensures we're doing what we can to meet local and system demand on an ongoing basis.

Staff continue to refine this annual planning process each year, striving to have a program in every school where one is needed. Initially, Principals were responsible for issuing, receiving, and counting the surveys. We have learned that not all parents fully understand the process, and/or the timelines. Some find it unrealistic to expect parents to show interest 9 months (in November) in advance of the following September, to meet Ministry timelines. Affordability can be an issue for those who don't meet subsidy Requirements. TDSB and operators – must cover their costs with the fees, so expansion requires filling full classrooms (e.g., ensuring efficient group sizes). There are communities where there isn't demand, and/or surveys aren't returned. Some people/communities look to other means of care. Staff work very closely with City of Toronto Children's Services, the legislated service system manager for Early Years and Child Care.

The Board has limited authority in shaping a nimbler system. Where there are large wait lists, sometimes the 3rd party will expand, other times, there are staffing issues and 3rd party, Operators have shared that the sector as a whole is experiencing a shortage of qualified staff. TDSB Child Care Services staff supports BASP expansions and continue to work with Principals and Operators as needed to support this. Extended Day Program operated by TDSB is nimbler with expansion opportunities, to a degree. These programs

must be operated on a cost recover basis as well, thus like 3rd party programs, expansion requires efficient group size planning and operations.

Comments:

Bussed FI students are unable to get BASP at their home school because escorts are not provided to get students from the bus and into the BASP classroom. Childcare close to home is the most practical solution for parents, not childcare in the FI program schools, potentially miles away, with extensive travel time for the parent.

Cynthia shares that escorts were phased out because it doesn't support the spirit of "wrap around" care and operators can't afford to have extra staff to escort, especially now with COVID. The spirit of BASP keeps students in one building for both school and childcare to support continuity – of environment, experience, relationships, etc. It is recommended that families put their child(ren) on the childcare waitlists for any school where the child may go to school, recognizing that FSL students often attend a different school from their home school. Most BASPs have waitlists which is not unique to FI students or schools. This effects transient families as well, however unfortunately it is not a universal system anywhere in the province.

Comment/Questions:

It will only be the most flexible/agile parents that get a childcare spot. The French Review report indicates only 28% of parents were satisfied with the available before and after school childcare and 12% of parents were in English home school for before and after school care. With FI starting in JK, these families will no longer have a connection to their English home school. Questions around how we can move the numbers on equity and inclusion in FI if the TDSB doesn't address the childcare needs of these families. The motion of the FSLAC (included in the May 5th PSSC Summary Report) is a call to action to address this equity deficit, particularly for lower income families, those who are bussed/redirected. Would like to hear more on the Early Years response to the French Review.

What about bringing on other partners for before and after school care that would provide the service in French?

	<p>Cynthia stated that at the local level, some Principals may offer after school engagement/clubs, but at the system level childcare partnerships are managed in conjunction with the City and Ministry guidelines and within an important legislative framework. TDSB must develop BASP in accordance with legislation, regulation and policy.</p> <p>Early Years staff hears the call to action and will continue to look at these childcare barriers with FSL staff.</p>	
<p>7. Staff Update: Angela</p>	<p><u>French Review</u></p> <p><u>JK Entry:</u> For September 2022, there will be entry points at both JK and SK; online application period opens in November 2021. Beginning September 2023, the entry point for Early FI will be JK only. All existing sites will transition to accommodate the JK entry. Operational Procedure PR597 will be updated to reflect JK entry.</p> <p><u>New Sites:</u> Starting September 2022 (registration November 2021) there are 4 new sites to improve equity of access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mason Road JPS (Scarborough Southwest, W18, Trustee Kandavel) • George B. Little PS (Scarborough-Guildwood, W19, Trustee Patel) • Brookhaven PS (York South-Weston, W6, Trustee Tonks) • Fraser Mustard Early Learning Academy (Don Valley West, W11, Trustee Chernos-Lin). <p>This will reduce the size of our largest catchments, reducing the number of feeder schools, allowing families in the largest catchment areas to access FI closer to home, providing a more equitable distribution of programs.</p> <p><u>Updated Pathways:</u></p> <p>Pathway changes identified to reduce some of the longest student commutes take effect September 2022:</p>	<p>FSL Staff to share updated FI program maps (boundary and location) with FSLAC when available.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millwood and Broadacres will feed to Bloordale MS (rather than Hilltop) and then Richview CI (Etobicoke Centre, W2-Trustee MacLean) • Corvette will feed to Robert Service SPS (Scarborough Southwest, W18- Trustee Kandavel) rather than Tredway Woodsworth PS (Scarborough Guildwood, W19, Trustee Patel) <p>The report to notify the Board is tracking to Planning and Priorities Committee meeting this fall. The work was conducted through local feasibility team meetings with the local Superintendents, Principals and Trustees. Pathways document on website will be updated. At the end of September 2021, letters announcing the pathway changes will be sent to affected communities.</p>	
<p>8. Staff Update: Angela/Kirsten</p>	<p><u>Registration for JK FI – Communications</u></p> <p>The week of Aug 30, banners went out to all schools with kindergarten. The FI banner is to be placed near the regular kindergarten registration banner.</p> <p>Early FI flyers (translated into 22 languages) are available at tdsb.on.ca/French. The TDSB website is being updated with the JK entry point information where applicable. Staff have prepared an extensive digital advertising and printed media campaign that is targeting demographics of families with JK/SK aged students, print ads in local languages and investigating a social media campaign. Staff wish to repeat the web advertising as there were 2.5 million hits last year. The updated information package for entry to Early French Immersion, and the updated video outlining FSL programs will be available on the website.</p> <p>As demonstrated by staff, the registration piece is very clean, indicating clearly where one goes to register a child born in 2017 vs one born in 2018.</p> <p>Staff will host virtual information sessions in November and differentiated support for in-person sessions in communities with historically lower uptake and at new sites, if possible given TPH parameters and TDSB Operational Procedures. Staff are also working closely and sharing information with childcare centres.</p>	

	<p>Internal to the Board, staff will provide a communications package to System Leaders, Trustee Weekly, Ward Meetings, and TDSB Connects. Current JK families will also be sent information packages via email (i.e. school messenger) , no printed material will be provided to put in current JK student backpacks.</p> <p>Trustee Chernos Lin believes that JK entry information will be shared in Trustee newsletters once the ‘back to school’ messages have been delivered. Not all Trustees did householders to all their constituents in early September which had been suggested at a previous meeting as another way to share the information.</p>	
Staff Update: Linda Edwards	<p>Virtual School FI Class Numbers: 46 classes SK-8 with 75% of GR4-8 as combined grades (4x SK, 24x GR1-3, 18x GR4-8)</p> <p>Virtual School Extended Fr. Class Numbers: (11x Ex. Fr, 3x Gr7 Entry, 2x Middle Immersion)</p> <p>In-School FI – class numbers are not finalized, realignment ongoing</p>	
9. FSLAC Recruitment	Deferred to next month	
Ward/CPF Reports	CPF Virtual Family Event & AGM Sep 24-26 Next PSSC Meeting Oct 6 th (Sep 9 was cancelled)	
Other Business	2020-21 Member Reflection will be presented next month.	,
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Carried by Lynne, seconded by Charles.	
Next Meeting	October 12, 2021 at 7pm, Virtual Meeting	