



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: French As A Second Language Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 11 February 2019

A meeting of the French As A Second Language Advisory Committee convened from 7:08 pm to 9:07 pm in Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge Street, with Mandy Moore presiding.

Attendance: Mandy Moore (Parent Co-Chair W7), Sharon Beason (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16), Zeynab Kazi (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W22), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Rob Janes (W2 Alt), Deloris Williamson-Braham (W5), Lynne LeBlanc (W8), Matt Forrest (W9), Charles Zhu (W11), Wilmar Kortleever (W11 Alt), Elaine Sun (W11 Alt)

Also present were: Trustee Robin Pilkey (Trustee Co-Chair), Trustee Michelle Aarts, Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin, Trustee Dan MacLean, Beth Butcher (Executive Superintendent), Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Kirsten Johnston (Program Co-ordinator, FSL), Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Manon Gardner (Associate Director of Education), Lisa Smecca (Parent, John Fisher PS W11)

The following participated by electronic means: Lisa McAvoy (W2), Betty Gormley (Executive Director, Canadian Parents for French)

Regrets: Melanie Amadasun (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W3), Christie Dunbar (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W16 Alt), Rosemary Sutherland (Parent Vice-Co-Chair W9/10 Alt), Nalini Singh (W2 Alt), Laura Steele Gunter (W7), Nadya Phelan (W8 Alt), Polina Osmerkina (W10), Sudha Takaki (W11 Alt), Betheney Maheu (W11 Alt), Sarah Ramkissoon (W12); Randy Samuel (W14), Sarah Smith (W15), Nancy White (W16 Alt), Gail Miller (W22)

Recorder: Kathy Wenger

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION / MOTION / ACTION
Call to Order / Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum achieved 7:06 pm • Land acknowledgment – Mandy Moore 	
Membership Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignations: Melanie Amadasun, Sudha Takaki, Betheny Maheu • Welcome to new members: Charles Zhu (W11 Rep), Elaine Sun (W11 Alt), Lynne LeBlanc (W8 Rep) 	Kathy will update FSLAC membership list.
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the following items to Chair’s Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PIAC dinner February 21 request for newsletter ○ Parents as Partners Conference March 30 • Moved with amendment by Zeynab Kazi. Carried. 	
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved by Zeynab Kazi. Carried. 	Kathy will post minutes on tdsb.on.ca/fslac
Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conflicts of interest to declare. 	
French Review	<p>Q & A on Draft French Review Full Report- Angela Caccamo</p> <p>Q: When will final full report be available? Will there be any changes from draft received January 2019?</p>	

	<p>A: Likely to May 1 PSSC Meeting.</p> <p>Q: Will Trustees get full report without recommendations?</p> <p>A: There will be recommendations.</p> <p>Q: Page 35- ETFO: 10.7% of Core French teachers are male. Do we have TDSB data on that? Can it be included in the final report?</p> <p>Q: Can this be included in the report?</p> <p>Q: Page 59- Figures 4 and 5: Top five factors influencing decision to continue Core French past grade 9. Students grade 6-12 were surveyed. Do we have data from 6-9 and 10-12 separately?</p> <p>Q: Page 109 and 110- Figures 29 and 30: notice a slight bump up in enrolment in grade 4 and in grade 7. Is this because of the addition of students in middle immersion?</p> <p>Q: Page 117: "Retention rates tend to decrease to approximately 30% by the end of Grade 12 across all FSL programs". Is rate the same for Core French after grade 9 which is mandatory?</p> <p>A: Core French does drop after grade 9.</p> <p>Q: Process: will FSLAC have a chance to see draft staff recommendations before they go forward to PSSC?</p>	<p>Staff will inquire with Employee Services.</p> <p>Staff will inquire.</p> <p>Staff will inquire.</p> <p>Staff will follow up.</p>
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	<p>A: There will be recommendations in the report that goes to FSLAC and the recommendations that FSLAC makes to PSSC will be considered, as per Trustees' responses to these recommendations.</p> <p>Q: Will staff recommendations be brought to the April 9 FSLAC Meeting? Would be helpful. Subsequent PSSC is May 1, FSLAC is May 14 and Board is May 22.</p> <p>A: Staff would not necessarily bring a report to a Community Advisory Committee before going to PSSC. Will include the recommendations for PSSC in two days on February 13.</p> <p>Q: Given starting point was 2013 for various issues that have been rolled into this review, having the process for recommendations so accelerated is challenging. Depends on what the recommendations are and if they are flowing from the findings or percolating at some other table? Very wary about May 1 to May 22. Hard window for parents to deal with.</p> <p>A: Recommendations will come out of the review. Doubt if there is another table.</p> <p>Q: Suggest FSLAC look carefully for another date to meet. A lot of other people may want to weigh in. Depends what the recommendations are.</p> <p>Q: If the full report plus recommendations goes to Trustees at PSSC on May 1 then it will be in public domain April 26. Request to depute has to be in by April 29 (48 hours prior to PSSC on May 1). It will be a challenge.</p>	<p>Note: Manon joined the meeting in progress, after discussion of the French Review had finished and added that she is aiming to bring draft recommendations to the FSLAC.</p> <p>Mandy will stay in touch with Manon on this.</p>
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A: It is not yet known when the French Review Report will go to Board. There is also the secondary program review and discussions are happening with senior staff and Trustees in the context of the Long Term Program Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS). The FSLAC recommendations will be considered as part of the final staff recommendations which will include implementation timelines and budget implications for Trustees to consider. Every recommendation will not be for implementation September 2019. Need to hear what the Board of Trustees has to say. Recommendations may be brought forward to Board individually, and approved individually.

Discussion of FSLAC Recommendations:

Draft recommendations re French review distributed to FSLAC on Friday, February 8 (see Appendix). First recommendation is to increase central FSL staff support as Review identifies many challenges and a lot of work to address them. Second recommendation is to ask for information not included in the Review that will help with examination of internal challenges.

FSLAC working group will meet again before April 9.

Five additional potential recommendations in play already.

FSLAC is very encouraged that Manon wants to incorporate our recommendations. If staff come up with recommendations that are out of our purview, lead time will be important to give TDSB community time to react and give feedback.

Can we expect recommendations to maintain French programs at current

	<p>level, given the provincial cuts coming?</p> <p>FSLAC’s first recommendation acknowledged awkward timing – change of provincial government, new Trustees, potential budget cuts. But, French Review happened and important to outline what this committee values. We identified French program successes in May 2018 , and used that document as the starting point, things we are doing well and want to continue to build on.</p> <p>French states that to move forward, internal conditions need to be examined. Draft French Review full report does not fully do that. For example, never had a formal report on CEFR, DELF.</p> <p>Q: If putting forward staff recommendations, what are you going to do to describe the current state?</p> <p>Staff A: Will have to be a preamble to describe that, brief history of successes, recommendations. For example, if we say let’s change the entry point from SK to Gr 1, Trustees will ask more specifics as to why. Would be better to return with something more specific. This is a big task and has not been done like this in a while.</p> <p>Q: If looking at entry points or these types of questions going to Board in May, advisory committees and school councils will not have the time to give feedback.</p> <p>Staff A: Some recommendations may be made at the May meeting, but some may need to come back with more information.</p> <p>Q: Can PSSC refer the matter to a Committee of the Whole where all</p>	
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trustees can hear deputations?

Staff A: Yes, but depends on the topic. Don't generally do this.

Parent (non-member): thank you to the committee for all their work in trying to get supports.

Some teachers prefer to supply teach rather than sign a contract. It is only \$10/day difference. This is a big challenge for staffing.

Staff A: This is a central staff issue, with Employee Services. It is outside the FSL department. ES works with occasional teachers and contract teachers.

CPF has also done teacher supply and retention report (fall 2018) and Commissioner of Official Languages has one coming out soon as well. A lot of work being done to ensure we have high quality French teachers.

Second FSLAC recommendation on suggestions re what reports might be needed; Angela and Kirsten support hiring and go to job fairs but no formal reporting as to how many have been hired or hired on letter of permission. This data is not in the French Review draft full report. Needs to be formally reported on to take appropriate action and have a baseline for results.

Have some snapshots, baseline data from previous reports/briefing notes to Trustees in 2008, 2010, 2011 but have not had these snapshots again.

Q: Can a child start FI in SK then jump into another program in grade 6 or grade 4? Parents like flexibility.

Staff A: We don't have students, typically, go into another program. Once you are in FI, you are in. System will recognize already in a program and will reject the application. By end of grade 3 students have experience and it is not a good fit for them to start back at zero.

Q: re FSLAC recommendation on increasing number of FSL central staff, page 2 point a. "Six additional FSL central coaches (making eight in total, i.e., two to work with coaches at each Learning Centre) ". How many Learning Centres (LCs) are there?

Staff A: LC structure: 4 LCs were created geographically within the TDSB. Each LC has approximately 135 schools. There is one Executive Superintendent for each LC with six-eight Superintendents of Education in each LC, with approximately 20-24 schools each. Currently, TDSB does not have any superintendents who have a single area as their portfolio. Central superintendents each have six schools plus their portfolio.

Working group has done an incredible job on the recommendations. A lot of detail. Talked about staffing solutions a lot. What is the view for the future? Where is this going? Improving supervisory skills? Where are we going from here?

Central staff support needed to help system help students not doing well. Edmonton public school board has a wealth of opportunities for teachers to improve their skills and access resources. We have staffing challenges, if don't have resources, only going to get worse.

So many positives in the French program in TDSB that are recognized by other Boards. The recommendations we will put forward need to be seen as positive.

Spoken with students at Newtonbrook. We need to make it more attractive for students in order to have more enrolment in teacher's college for French teachers. Students don't think they can get jobs in French.

FSLAC needs to be aspirational. Different, bigger FSL central staff has existed in the past. Had a system superintendent for French for about four years after the last review. French programs at TDSB with 30,000 kids, which is bigger than some other Boards in Ontario. Generates \$30M in additional supplementary revenue for TDSB. In past this money has been spent on other non-French priorities. Someone needs to hold the responsibility to address challenges in the French Review. May want to align with what exists now, but need to listen to this call to action from the parents.

That is a noble sentiment. Given the structure now and how the superintendents are set up, it probably will not happen. There is a push out towards schools with superintendents being in the schools. Need to accept if this doesn't go anywhere.

Don't think any committee will be happy if a recommendation is declined. Underlying sentiment of the recommendation has to be addressed.

Recommendation #1 Additional FSL Central Staff Needed moved by Zeynab Kazi, seconded by Matt Forrest:

the FSLAC recommends that in 2019-20:

Central FSL staff positions continue supporting FSL students, teachers and programs as they are currently,

That all central FSL staff positions be full-time on FSL starting in 2019-20, and

That 7 full-time positions be added in 2019-20 to increase capacity to address the challenges students, parents, and staff identified in the French Review and be funded from the FSL Allocation as follows:

- a. Six additional FSL central coaches (making 8 in total, ie, 2 to work with coaches at each Learning Centre) to increase student engagement, improve inclusion of students with special education needs in elementary, and to increase provision of FSL specific professional development and coaching for FSL teachers**
- b. One FSL system superintendent to analyze and report on data and information about internal challenges and conditions in FSL prior to making recommendations to trustees that will address concerns raised in the 2018 French Review with a focus on taking action to achieve the policy objectives in PO 80 FSL and the FSL Framework and companion documents.**

Carried.

Recommendation #2 Examining Internal Challenges and Conditions moved by Zeynab Kazi, seconded by Matt Forrest:

the FSLAC recommends:

That the Board ask staff for further data and information through the next year to support informed, data-driven collaborative decision making to improve FSL programs including the following:

Updates:

- Updates of 2011 FSL Annual Report: Appendix D Headcount Enrolment and Retention Rates table entitled 'Tracking the Oct 2009 FI Student Cohort for a recent cohort', Appendix E Teachers of FSL Qualifications,**

	<p>Appendix F Recruitment Initiatives, Appendix H Professional Learning and FI Qualifications, Appendix I Funding for FSL,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates of briefing notes: 2006 Review of French Language Resources, 2007 Supports for Students with Special Needs in French Immersion/Extended French Programs, 2011 Hiring and Retention of Teachers in Elementary French Teaching Assignments; <p>Release of Existing Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 Year FSL Framework Plans and reporting (2013-18) submitted to Ministry of Education, ● Official Languages in Education funding and expenditures (2013-18) submitted to Ministry of Education; <p>New Briefing Notes (see Background for details):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TDSB DELF Capacity Building and Cohort Results (2013-18), ● Core French, ● Secondary Extended/Immersion French Courses. <p>Carried.</p> <p>Thank you to working group who drafted the recommendations. Work will continue on additional recommendations on: Improving Core French, Planning expansion of immersion/extended French sites to achieve equitable geographic distribution, Supporting inclusion and retention of students with special education needs in FSL programs, Improving FSL at the secondary level, Improving access to before and after school care for immersion/extended French students who are bussed</p>	<p>Formal report to PSSC with Recommendation 1 & 2 will be prepared by Beth, reviewed by Mandy and submitted in time for PSSC Feb 20, 2019.</p> <p>Mandy and Matt will be at PSSC on Feb 20, 2019 to speak to the recommendations.</p>
<p>Parent Co-Chair Report</p>	<p>March Newsletter:</p> <p>The once/term FSLAC newsletter is being written and submissions are being sought before the end of February so that it can be distributed before the March Break to FSLAC distribution list and also through TDSB</p>	

Connects to over 200,000 people, as suggested by Trustee Pilkey and agreed to by Associate Director Gardner. The newsletter will include: the French Review, activities during March Break, an invitation for people to attend FSLAC, information on Core French, etc.

PIAC Appreciation Dinner on February 21, 2019:

Two invitations per school have been emailed to School Council (S.C.) Chairs and another parent may attend should the S.C. Chair not be available. Two representatives from each CAC will also be invited. FSLAC will submit an FSLAC info sheet for participant materials.

Parents as Partners Conference: March 30 at Beanfield Centre:

FSLAC/Canadian Parents for French will share a table at this conference. FSL Staff will be doing a presentation on “Inclusion in All FSL Programs”. Karl Subban is keynote speaker (NHLer PK Subban’s father and former TDSB principal). Childcare will be at Parkdale PS. There will be a shuttle between Parkdale and the Beanfield Centre. Registration link on the TDSB website is operational on February 19.

TRUSTEE CO-CHAIR REPORT

Budget

Past few years kept a status quo budget. We now have a new provincial government and many new Trustees. In February, trustee Finance Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) is meeting every week. Trustees, using the Multi Year Strategic Plan and working with senior staff on budget drivers and community consultation before we have to come back with any

	<p>cuts. \$3.4B total budget. \$2.4B is fixed on employee contacts.</p> <p>Budget drivers are being determined based on the priorities of the MYSP. There will be an opportunity for consultation with your Trustee. Ministry of Education hasn't given much information. They may give us instructions, may not. FBEC meetings are being held in the main Boardroom so proceedings are streamed and can be viewed on-line via the TDSB website. Will go to public consultation with drivers during month of March. Ties in with staffing as well.</p> <p>Q: Educational Programs Other (EPO) were already cut. TDSB did not respond immediately with info as to what was going to be cut. If new cuts happen, will you be able to identify the impact more quickly?</p> <p>Trustee Pilkey A: TDSB had to take a closer look. Info from Ministry was unclear.</p> <p>Q: FDK in FI environment has been great. Is TDSB commenting to Ministry on how great this has been?</p> <p>Trustee Pilkey A: There is no real consultation with school boards on FDK at this time .</p> <p>Q: Class sizes, teacher mobility consultations?</p> <p>Trustee Pilkey A: Both are in negotiations now. All very questionable at this point.</p>	
Staff Report	SK French Immersion, Jr Extended French Entry September 2019:	

Offered 3,670 SK FI placements. Less redirection for 2019. No new sites for 2019. Jr. Extended applications closed. Received 1,545 applications, slightly lower than last year.

(DELF) Diplôme d'études en langue française:

DELF exams are being organized for grade 12 core, extended and immersion students in the first week in May. This internationally recognized exam calibrated to the benchmarks of the CEFR provides proficiency credentials to successful candidates. Exams are marked by a certified Correcteur, who has four days of training.

For the last few years, since the Ministry funded pilot began, TDSB has offered this opportunity to 42-45 students. Additional funding is available this year and about 100 students will participate. In past, eligible students were chosen by lottery to participate. Students work with their teachers to select the challenge level.

Q: Do students have to apply?

A: In past, eligible students were chosen by lottery to participate. Student must be able to self-identify which CEFR level to challenge. Teacher works closely with student to pick appropriate level.

Concours d'art oratoire, French Speaking Competition, Regionals:

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) in partnership with the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA) does an annual French Speaking Festival and Competition. TDSB students do speeches in their schools and can advance to the TDSB Regionals: Elementary - West on March 19 at 1 Civic Centre Court, East on March 20 at 140 Borough Drive. Secondary -

	<p>East on March 26 at 140 Borough Drive, West on March 28 at 1 Civic Centre Court. TDSB student reps will be selected to compete in provincial competition at Glendon College (York University) in May. Prizes include university scholarships.</p> <p>French Teacher Recruitment:</p> <p>Employment Opportunity Fair in collaboration with Employee Services took place January 26. Met a number of French teacher and support staff candidates. Staff is also recruiting at universities with French teacher education programs.</p> <p>Ongoing interviews for teacher candidates with FSL qualifications. Continually work with graduating candidates with pending Ontario College of Teachers accreditation. Submitted FSL pilot proposal to OPSBA (Ontario Public School Boards' Association). Staff is working in collaboration with Employee Services on a video for the TDSB employment website to recruit French teachers.</p>	
Ward/CPF Reports	<p>Ward 5 – new electronic FSL resource in use at Tumpane. Ward Rep will touch base with teacher in order to get further information. Need to get name of program that students are using in class, for which they need permission to use at home.</p> <p>This may be IDELLO, parents can sign up for an account. Teacher can share videos with students/parents. Can access on-line resources. Streamed on TDSB virtual library.</p> <p>Ward 9 – met with new ward committee, elected PIAC rep and FSLAC</p>	

	<p>(Matt Forrest remains FSLAC rep).</p> <p>Ward 11 – budget consultation meeting March 7.</p> <p>Ward 11 – next school year students which immersion students will not be attending Leaside because they will be going to East York CI.</p> <p>Staff A: Pathway from Cosburn has not changed currently. It is still Leaside. Parents can access this information on website.</p> <p>Q: Can you apply for optional attendance for French? How many immersion/extended French spots are available?</p> <p>Staff A: Parents can submit optional attendance application to any school as long as the school is not closed to optional attendance. Number is not determined by the school. Depends on how many they can take based on assessment by Planning Dept.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm. Moved by Charles Zhu. Carried.	
Next Meeting	Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 7:00 pm in Committee Room A.	