French Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: May 13, 2025

A hybrid meeting of the French Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee convened from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, with Parent Co-Chair Lynne LeBlanc presiding.

Item	Invitee Name
Attended:	Lynne LeBlanc (Parent Co-Chair W8), Sharlene Henry (Parent Vice Co-Chair, W5/W6 Alt), Charles Zhu (Parent Vice Co-Chair W11), Moosa Alloo (Parent Vice Co-Chair W19), Lisa McAvoy (W2), Devon Pool (W3), Andrew Waters (W3 Alt), Oluwakemi Ojowa (W4), Bibi Safraw Hanif (W4 Alt), Divya Chandra (W11 Alt), Aamir Barlas (W14 Alt).. Also present: Mary Cruden (Canadian Parents for French), Sharon Beason (Canadian Parents for French Alt), Liliana Martins (Co-ordinator, French Programs C & IL), Roni Felsen (Staff Co-Lead), Trustee Co-Chair Deborah Williams (Trustee Co-Chair W10), Trustee Dennis Hastings (W1), Trustee Dan MacLean (W2).
Regrets:	Nabil Hasbun (W1), Pankaj Patel (W1 Alt), Elizabeth Carvalho (W7), Maeve Gray (W10), Gail Miller (W22)Angela Caccamo (Centrally Assigned Principal), Michelle Munroe (Central Co-ordinator PCEO),
Recorder:	James Jarrett

Item	Discussion	Motion / Action
1. Call to Order	● Land acknowledgment – Lynne LeBlanc ● Meeting recorded for minute taking purposes ● Introductions	
2. Quorum / Membership Changes	● Quorum met with 9 out of 12 Wards present. ● No changes in membership	
3. Approval of Agenda	● Charles Zhu Moves, Sharlene Henry Seconds. Carried	
4. Approval of April 24, 2025 Minutes	● FAE on page 7 should be changed to FEI. ● Charles Zhu Moves, Devon Pool Seconds. Carried	James Jarrett to post minutes on FSLCAC Page
5. Declarations - Possible Conflict of Interest	● None.	
6. CPF and Ward Reports	● Nil ward reports. ● Nil CPF report.	
7. Transportation	● Parent Co-Chair: We delegated to the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) committee. This was a novel thing for the committee to receive a delegation. We shared our recommendation and FI parent perspective on delay to 2nd week of school for FI bussing. Our letter was included in their agenda package. ● TSTG voted to continue with the staggered approach in Sept 2025, though driver shortages have improved. ● We would like to send a delegation to PSSC with our recommendation. ● This busing issue affects all students who do not get transportation the first week, approximately TDSB FI students of 32,000 TDSB and TCDSB students in total. 12,000 students with spec ed get bussed as of the 1st day of school. ● We suggest that members reach out to their Trustees about this issue.	

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	● Q: The report from the TSTG had interesting information in it. The report has information on delays in weeks 2, 3 and 4 of the year. It looks like the staggered start just sets the delays back one week. The policy should be child centered. ● Staff: In February you passed a recommendation which could now be a report to Program and School Service Committee (PSSC). ● Parent Co-Chair: How will this be received by PSSC? Does the board have oversight of the TSTG? The TDSB representatives were Trustee Patel and Mr. Snider, and they voted in favour of the phased in start. ● Trustee Co-Chair: You could delegate at PSSC. Any recommendations from staff on how this might be handled? ● Q: Can the committee ask the Board to review decisions of the TSTG? Perhaps the committee should amend the recommendation to review the decision and reinstate the school bussing for all qualified students? ● Trustee Co-Chair. I would need to ask questions of staff here. Is there an appeal process? ● Trustee MacLean: Individual parents can appeal transportation decisions about their child. As a Community Advisory Committee, you can make recommendations to the Board. Recommendation would ultimately go to the Board for approval. Your view would be shared through PSSC but it may not be discussed in the full Board meeting. The change you want may not happen this September, but you're laying the groundwork for a change in September 2026. What we don't want to do is have something dismissed as out of order at a committee, that the Board cannot appeal something to the TSTG. ● Trustee Co-Chair: We need clarity around process, maybe from one of the Associate Directors. ● Trustee MacLean: We don't unfortunately have time. The recommendation from February is no longer current, it would make sense to update the recommendation in light of the having met with the TSTG on May 9th. ● Parent Co-Chair: We should do a report from this meeting to PSSC, with the recommendation amended to say 'it is recommended that the Board review this	

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	decision and work to reinstate school busing for all students beginning the first day of school. ● Q: We can add something in the explanation on data reviewed on delays, but it doesn't fully explain what the advantage is to move to the second week. The negative impact on families is the rationale for the recommendation. ● Staff: There are all kinds of things that have happened in transportation. One thing was to make sure that students with special needs are accommodated from week one. The phased result has seen a significant reduction in week 1 delays. ● I think it should be clear that you are asking the board to reconsider the TSTG decision from May 9th. Are we clear that it's PSSC and not FBEC? ● Staff: Yes, we were told that it was PSSC. ● Trustee Maclean: You're aiming for June 5th and you're laying the foundation with the committee. ● Parent Co-Chair: The Catholic Trustee member of the TSTG voiced their concerns, similar to ours, but then voted in favour of the staff recommendation for a staggered start. ● The report to PSSC must be set up with some context, using the text that is in the letter. ● Motion: to revise and put forward the recommendation to the Board that: recommend to the Board that they review the decision of the TSTG from May 9, 2025 and work to re-instate school busing for all students who qualify, beginning the first day of school. ● Sharlene Henry moves. Moosa Aloo seconds. Carried	
8. Parent Co-Chair Report & Trustee's Report	Trustee Co-Chair Report: ● Asian Heritage Month – May 2025 ● This year's Asian Heritage Month theme, Asian Canadians Up and Rising, celebrates the strength, resilience, and achievements of Asian Canadian communities. ● Please follow the Asian Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee on X/Twitter at @AsianTDSB.	

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	• Jewish Heritage Month - May 2025 • TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee (JHC) is pleased to present two educational programs for May 2025 that have been vetted and approved by TDSB staff. • Being Jewish in Ontario • The Children's Republic • Additional classroom resources have been posted to the Jewish Heritage Committee Website, including daily announcements for schools. • Please follow the Jewish Heritage Committee on X/Twitter @TDSB_JH. • Focus now is the budget. Our current projected deficit for 2025-26 is $58 million. Ministry has not yet shared Core Education Funding amounts. • We're looking at closing the pools in schools that are not permitted. We have 66 pools in the TDSB, and about half have permitted programs. • We're considering changing the initial year for student 1:1 devices to start in Grade 7 rather than Grade 5. • We're considering closing our outdoor education learning centres. • A provincial investigator has been appointed to examine our budget. This person will report back to the Ministry on May 30, 2025. • We are advocating for more funding. The per pupil gap in funding has widened to $1500 per pupil since amalgamation. • The employer costs of CPP and EI have not been funded, that's $70 million/year. • The moratorium on school closures is another item that we are appealing to the Ministry of Education about. System-wide, we have 63,000 vacant seats. • We are also advocating for the reimbursement of $61 million in COVID funding. • TDSB Budget and Inflation-Adjusted Funding - Letter to Minister of Education • Q: What are the parameters for the incoming provincial investigator? • Trustee Co-Chair: Will be looking at our financial position and reporting. We recently went through a 21-month audit. We also report monthly to the Ministry. • The Board and staff welcome the investigation, staff are cooperating. We feel that the investigator will come to the same conclusion as the Board has.	

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	• Parent Co-Chair: Do you believe that the same thing that happened many years ago will happen, where a list of recommendations will be given to the Board? • Trustee Co-Chair: We're not sure what the outcome might be. • Parent Co-Chair: Are the pools slated to close being run for student programming during the day. • Trustee Co-Chair: Yes, there is daily programming running at the pools. It's about 35 of 66 pools that are not leased, which are being looked at. • Parent Co-Chair: Regarding the school closure moratorium, if schools were to be closed, wouldn't that lead to an increase in transportation costs? • Trustee Co-Chair: We know that people don't like the sound of school closures; it is about consolidation. Our schools are on an average of 60 years old. We face unfunded maintenance. The recommendations would come to us from the Toronto Lands Corporation, in consultation with our Planning Department. • Q: The Board has a Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy which has all of our plans. There also the Facilities Condition Index, that shows school repairs. We have a multi-billion dollar backlog of repairs. The moratorium has been for 10 years, and there has been building in the city. We need to be agile. • Staff: We've created a brand-new secondary school at Bloor CI, which is everything we want from our future schools. We've had some site closures over the years, we just haven't kept pace. With the moratorium, we are not permitted by the Ministry to close schools. We hope that Trustee advocacy will allow us to consolidate in the future. • Trustee Co-Chair: We need to look at buildings in growth areas that have space to grow, or podium schools (school with high rise on top). We want to look towards the future, and not have our hands tied on this issue. The moratorium affects all Ontario Boards of Education. Parent Co-Chair Report: • Coming up is our June Annual General Meeting. It's going to follow the same format as previous years.	

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	• We will elect a new Parent Co-Chair and Vice Chairs, appoint community representative/alternates (Cdn Parents for French) and approve our annual report to PSSC. • I will be moving into a past chair role for next year, so I will be the returning officer for the election of the new executive. You can self-nominate by reaching out to FSAC.Toronto@Gmail.com. Copy me as well at Lynne.LeBlanc@rogers.com by May 27, 2025 • I will be remaining as a parent representative for Ward 8. • The Parent Co-chair liaises with staff, finds guests speakers for our meetings, communicates and/or meets with the executive regularly, consults with members, staff and Trustee co-chair to create agendas, reviews and edits the minutes from our monthly meetings, determines whether meetings will be hybrid or fully virtual, responds to emails received on our gmail account, works on our newsletter and as needed, gets assistance from Vice Co-chairs. • We have a social get together with on onboarding of new members in December and host a booth at Board events like PIAC conference. • Parent Co-chair attends meetings of CAC co-chairs 3 times a year to discuss common challenges. These meetings are with Michelle Munroe, set up by Margaret Horvath. • We're hoping to have as many people in person as we can for next meeting. • The Member Reflection survey for the year will be sent to parent members/alternates after the June meeting. Responses are anonymous. The reflection is a requirement of the Board and will be reported on at the Sept meeting and to PSSC in October (PR 742).	
9. CAC Review	• Staff: Originally, we were asked to bring CAC review report to the November Organizational Board Meeting (Trustees). We've now been asked to bring this forward in the Spring. I have submitted the recommendation that we stay as a CAC. It either goes to Planning and Priorities Committee or to the Governance and Policy Committee (May 28). We'll confirm that. • For this review, we were looking at 6 CACS.	.

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	● The remaining 4 CACs will be reviewed next year. Trustees also directed staff to explore a merger of two of the committees. ● Our committee has fewer recommendations but does a lot of collaborative work, so we're recommending keeping the CAC as our model.	
	● Staff: Right to Read. We've trained all K to 2 FI homeroom teachers on how to do an early reading screening, on AcadienceReading Français. ● Professional learning on structured literacy, as well as some new tools such as Éclair and Son-au-graphe. ● We've done a 3-part series of 1-day sessions, as well as micro-sessions, which are lunch and learns, including some after school sessions. ● We've also done some Families of Schools coaching upon request. ● There's ongoing system communication related to shifts in early literacy instruction, layered assessment, use of resources, assessments practices and pedagogy. ● We have been collaborating with the Early Years department and our Speech & Language Pathology department. We support the language development on the French side. We've also collaborated with these departments with early reading. ● We have continued updates to our internal Google Site. ● We have upgraded what's available related to PPM 155 for assessment and evaluation. ● Q: Can you tell us what PPM 155 is? ● Staff: It is the Ministry document about diagnostic tools for assessment. ● Q: Now that this training has happened, what can parents expect? Will it come up in parent teacher interviews, for example? ● Staff: Letters are sent home to parents. This is done prior to the report card coming out. Parents would know when the assessment is taking place. The second assessment would happen prior to the March report card. ● Q: If the screener identifies something, what happens next? ● Staff: Students who are not meeting the benchmarks are reassessed midyear. Strategies are put in place to help those students become successful readers.	

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	Éclair is a monitoring tool, and there are different new pedagogical resources. Teachers would also use different decodable texts and tiered instruction. ● Students are screened in the first term, which usually happens in the fall. The mid-year screening is for those who were not meet benchmark in the first screening. ● Q: My 2 daughters are in grade 1 and went through the screening. We went through the assessments at the parent teacher interview. The kids scored differently so they got two strategies. As a parent I found it very interesting. ● Staff: Thank you for sharing. The screenings go through different components, so they really target specific problems. For example, letter recognition takes place. Decodable texts come in. ● This is the first year this screener has come into effect, so it's new for everybody. We have been supportive of our French staff as this has been rolled out. ● Q: It's helpful for parents to get feedback. A parent may not catch problems early. ● Staff: One of our questions to staff was an update on MFI and the French Review. Extended French is being phased out. The Grade 8 Extended French cohort will enter into French Immersion grade 9 in September 2025. ● We did share at our last meeting that we did not have a large enough cohort to open a program at L'Amoreaux, so those students were redirected. A new program we had hoped to open at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute had low uptake, and those students were also redirected to the next closest program. ● This is like the challenge we had when opening the Oakwood CI program a few years ago. We were expecting EF students from Riverdale to come to Danforth, but they elected to stay at Riverdale in the English program. ● Riverdale has a unique stipulation that if you don't start grade 9 there, you can't enter the school at another point. We were hoping that the French diversion would have taken some of the pressure off that school. ● Trustee MacLean: I'd be interested to hear more about the messaging that Riverdale CI uses, as I foresee similar problem at Etobicoke CI. There is a Catholic School in the area that is being torn down and rebuilt, and we anticipate a lot of those kids may elect to come to the TDSB.	

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	● Q: At Danforth, were they the first cohort of MFI or last EF? ● Staff: They were the last cohort of EF. ● Q: Have you experienced challenges before like at L'Amoreaux? ● Staff: Yes. We looked at the viability at the site. There weren't enough sites feeding into it, and it didn't meet the viability threshold, confirming staff is a concern. We will reconvene a Local Feasibility Team to look at options for that part of the City. We need to do it soon to figure out pathways. We see attrition in the French programs. You need 60 students at secondary for a viable program. ● Regarding the Public Meeting about French immersion pathways, we have a letter sent out to feeder schools. We're also looking at the programs at Malvern, which is at 148 percent capacity, and rerouting those students. ● Another example is the early immersion program at Fraser Mustard and Thorncliffe. ● Q: Will there be updated pathway maps on the site? I noticed an error saying that John English has a MFI program. ● Staff: We'll have to correct that. The program is at Second Street PS. There is a virtual meeting on May 27th in the evening. ● With program viability, some programs have high participation. The goal of the French Review was to offer more equity of access, it looks like we've done that. ● Concerning the LTPAS, the document is a 10 year out kind of document. We review this annually. We determine what studies need to happen across the city. It shows different pressure points we identify. We work with our Planning Department to determine these studies.	
11. Adjournment	● Motion to Adjourn. Mossa Alloo Moves. Devon Pool Seconds. Carried.	

Next Meeting Tuesday, June 10, Hybrid.