

## Question and Answer

### French Review Public Information Session Westside SS – March 10, 2016

**Q - Where is the new FI school being built?**

JP - The new FI school is being built in Guelph

**Q – Does the cap proposed for Orangeville and Dufferin take in account all of the residential growth and changing demographics of the area?**

JP – The cap takes in account the ability of existing facilities to accommodate the program. The enrolment forecasts have taken into account proposed growth.

**Q – Are you recruiting outside of Ontario?**

LB – We are recruiting primarily in Ontario at the moment, however external jobs are posted to the Apply to Education website and we have received applications from across Canada.

**Q – Have you considered implementing the cap in urban areas where there is pressure and not in rural areas?**

TL – That is not part of the recommendations, but you can add that to your feedback sheets.

**Q – Have you considered hiring a professional recruitment agency to help with staffing? Are there limitations to what boards can do to facilitate hiring? Maybe you could approach it like a corporation. Can you share your recruitment tactics?**

LB – There is no recommendation related to this, however there is a designated person that is looking into creating a recruitment strategy. There is no funding from the Ministry to specifically facilitate this.

**Q – Is the cap a temporary fix or will it be implemented permanently?**

JP – It is recommended that the cap be reviewed every five years, and the first review is proposed for 2019. It is not expected that the need to manage FI enrolment would go away.

**Q – You are separating the elementary and secondary reviews, but how will the elementary decision effect secondary? If you start a secondary program in Orangeville, what will happen to Erin?**

JP – We have considered how the caps will impact cohort sizes. Cohort sizes for secondary will be similar to the current experience. We did not consider any future program or boundary changes as part of this review. That will be part of another process.

**Q – Has there been any attention paid to the failure of bilingualism in Ontario? New Brunswick is almost all bilingual.**

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TL – This is more of a Ministry level question. We can't answer that at this time.

**Q – Are there any indicators from the Ministry that they will change the model?**

TL – The Ministry has mandated that boards produce FSL plans. UGDSB has a three year French plan which focuses on student engagement and retention in French, both FI and Core French.

**Q – Not long ago, the board had trouble bringing the FI program to Orangeville and now there are 7 JK/SK classes. Perhaps it has become more popular than planning has anticipated. What data do you use for enrolment projections?**

JP – We review enrolment projections annually. We monitor growth in all areas of the board through local development plans, building permit data, and provincial growth plans and targets. All of this contributes to our enrolment projections. Every effort is made to anticipate FI participation. We have adjusted our participation rates, particularly in newer communities where we have experienced higher uptake in the program.

**Q – If a cap is in place, how is it determined who gets in?**

TL – We do not know yet. This will be determined at a later date, if the cap recommendation is approved. Write your concerns on the feedback form and these will be used to inform that process.

**Q – Provided the board goes ahead with the cap, the next step is determining the random selection process. If it is a lottery, how are you going to ensure that process is transparent while still respecting the privacy of students and parents?**

TL – The process for determining the random selection process will be transparent, however we will not be posting names of students who are admitted into the program.

**Q – What process will you be looking at to bring FI to Shelburne? The population will be close to 10,000 soon.**

JP – We cannot start another process in Orangeville/Dufferin until we know whether or not the cap recommendation is approved.

There are two options – an accommodation review, which is used to move an entire program or a boundary review, which is used to reassign boundaries or move parts of programs.

**Q – There is room in Shelburne schools, so would it not do a lot to alleviate the issues at PEPS if you opened a program in Shelburne?**

JP – There are not enough Shelburne students currently in FI to alleviate all the pressure at PEPS and MAPS. We also have to consider the impact of the proposed residential growth in Shelburne on the

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existing facilities. We cannot consider program or boundary changes until after we know the outcome of the French review.

TL – We do understand that there is an appetite for an FI program in Shelburne. This was clear in the survey responses we received last fall.

**Q – This is disheartening. There is a clear trend towards bilingualism and it's disappointing that it is being scaled back so much in this area. Is there any effort to try and spread the program out between schools? Why not create incentives for university students or high schools students to teach French? Why is there not more support for this environment?**

TL – These are all good points and the reason why we are working on advocating the Ministry (Recommendation #1).