

Upper Grand District School Board French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2018

The French as a Second Language Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Monday, February 5, 2018 in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 5:30 p.m.

The following **Parent Representatives** were present: Korb Whale (Co-chair); Wendy Davidson, Core French, Wellington County; Dan Jones, Secondary; Lindsay MacDonald, French Immersion, Dufferin County; Michelle Phoenix, Core French, City of Guelph; Robin Ross, French Immersion, Wellington County; Kate Shirton-Smith, French Immersion.

Present from **staff** were: Beth Burns, Principal, John F Ross; Peter LeBlanc, FSL Lead; Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program; Jonathan Walker, Principal of Program.

Trustees present: Marty Fairbairn (Co-Chair); Lynn Topping, Trustee.

Observer: Rachel Cooper, City of Guelph, French Immersion.

Regrets: Vikki Brown, Core French, City of Guelph; Kathryn Cooper, Trustee.

Vacancies: Core French Parent Representative, Wellington County; Core French Representative, Dufferin County.

Approval of Agenda February 5, 2018

Co-Chair Marty Fairbairn moved that the agenda of February 5, 2018 be approved.
Trustee Lynn Topping seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes January 8, 2018

Marty Fairbairn moved that the minutes of January 8, 2018 be approved. **Co-chair** Korb

Whale identified an error in the attendance roster on the minutes. **FSL Lead** Peter LeBlanc stated it would be amended.

Lynn Topping seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

2018/19 JK FI Registration Preliminary Update

Peter LeBlanc listed the JK FI schools that exceeded and did not exceed their 2018/19 enrolment caps.

Schools that did not exceed their enrolment cap are:

City of Guelph: Ecole King George PS, Paisley PS.

Wellington County: Brisbane PS, Ecole Harris Mill PS, James McQueen PS
Palmerston PS.

Dufferin County: Princess Elizabeth PS, Parkinson Centennial PS.

Schools that exceeded their enrolment cap are:

City of Guelph: Ecole Arbour Vista PS, Edward Johnson PS, Fred A Hamilton PS,
Gateway Drive PS, Ecole Guelph Lake PS, John McCrae PS, Victory PS.

Dufferin County: Centennial Hylands PS.

Peter LeBlanc reported that a glitch occurred from the provider on the first day of on-line registration system. The problem was fixed by the middle of the second day.

Lynn Topping asked if there would be bussing between Centennial and PEPS or Parkinson both schools which are under cap. **Superintendent of Program** Tracey Lindsay explained that requests for a student to attend a school other than their home school requires an approved an out of area request. No transportation is provided for out of area students. Peter LeBlanc added that it is also still very early since students may be placed into JK FI from the waitlist until the end of their JK year if space is created through attrition.

Parent Representative Michelle Phoenix asked if we know why spaces are opening up off the current (2017/18) waitlist. Peter LeBlanc stated that there are many reasons and that parents do not always share that information.

Korb Whale asked if the online registration was also done for Regular Track. Peter replied that registration for all full-day kindergarten registrants for 2018/19 was online as directed by the Ministry.

Framework for Advice to Board

Korb Whale initiated this agenda item to develop a plan for FSLAC to officially offer advice to the board. He stated that it was also important for FSLAC to know that information going to the Board from the committee has impact.

He proposed exploring an item highly regarded as important through the May 2017 dot-mocracy activity: exploring the start of Core French in Grade 1.

Korb Whale then reviewed a previous draft of the FSLAC mission statement.

Marty Fairbairn explained that a motion to Board needs to be forwarded by a trustee. He added that it would be best to have a consensus by non-staff FSLAC committee members to move items forward to Board.

Tracey Lindsay explained that motions that go to Board from SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) require a vote and voting cannot occur unless they have quorum. She added that SEAC does not do business if they do not have quorum.

Michelle Phoenix felt that if a vote was needed at FSLAC, it would be best to vote by ballot versus a verbal vote. She stated that members may not feel comfortable with an open vote.

Korb Whale asked how SEAC gets feedback from recommendations or motions. Tracey Lindsay explained that trustees bring the feedback back to SEAC from the Board.

Korb Whale also asked if motions from SEAC went through another committee first. Tracey Lindsay responded there have not been many motions but that any forwarded motions went straight to Board.

Tracey also added that staff share the information from the Elementary French Review report that made a recommendation to “explore the concept of starting Core French in Grade 1 in conjunction with an FSL review by the Ministry of Education...” with FSLAC members.

Michelle Phoenix asked if you had to be present at a meeting’s discussion in order to vote. Marty Fairbairn explained that at Board meetings there is no additional voting opportunity if you miss a meeting. He added that remote phone attendance is an option. **Parent representative** Dan Jones stated that if rules of order were developed, they could address the committee’s process for voting and decision making. Marty Fairbairn added that by providing FSLAC with information, staff are helping FSLAC make more informed decisions.

Peter LeBlanc explained how staff try to meet the request from FSLAC members when requests for information arise via the co-chairs. He stated the request for HR and Finance FSL information as two examples of how this happens. Representatives from these departments are attending FSLAC’s meeting in March to provide updates.

Korb Whale asked for a copy of the Elementary French review. Peter LeBlanc stated that it is on the Board website and that a copy will be provided to FSLAC members.

Korb Whale also suggested that a new “dot-mocracy” take place at the May meeting to identify other topics of interest for FSLAC meetings.

Korb Whale added that members should let co-chairs know that if they have any information they would like to receive.

Marty Fairbairn stated that if there are only a few items on FSLAC’s agenda that we cancel the meeting and add the items to the next meeting agenda. That may mean fewer but more productive meetings.

Adjournment

Marty Fairbairn motioned for adjournment of meeting at 6:23 p.m. Michelle Phoenix seconded the motion.