

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

Minutes
Monday, October 1, 2018

The French as a Second Language Advisory Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on October 1, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph.

The following Parent Representatives were present: Vikki Brown, Christine Caughill, Core French – City of Guelph; Rachel Cooper, Mark Paralovos, French Immersion – City of Guelph; Paul Smith, French Immersion - Secondary

Present from Staff were: Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program; Jonathan Walker, Principal of Program; Chad Warren, Secondary Principal

Trustees Present: Kathryn Cooper, Marty Fairbairn, Lynn Topping

Regrets: Robin Ross, French Immersion – Wellington County Parent; Jillian Leslie, Program Staff FSL Curriculum

Absent: Ashley Stott, French Immersion – Dufferin Parent; Cheri Herdman, French Immersion – Wellington County Parent

Marty Fairbairn, Trustee, called the meeting to order. He welcomed the committee to the inaugural meeting of the 2018-2019 school year.

Approval of Agenda of October 1, 2018

Marty Fairbairn moved that the agenda of October 1, 2018 be approved. Lynn Topping, Trustee seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of May 7, 2018

Marty Fairbairn moved that the minutes of May 7, 2018 be approved. Lynn Topping, Trustee seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

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FSLAC Terms & Conditions: Role of Representatives

Tracey Lindsay, Superintendent of Program welcomed everyone and expressed her thanks to the members for volunteering to be on the committee. She explained that as FSLAC is an advisory committee to the Board, there are several presentations that are time sensitive and require the committee's input tonight. She briefly reviewed the agenda and provided the history of FSLAC. She explained the composition of the committee and the role of each member. Presently, there are 15 members on the committee, and three vacancies for Core French Parent Representatives to be filled. She asked each member to introduce themselves and provide a brief summary of their connection to FSLAC.

She explained the purpose and structure of FSLAC and added that the information was shared with members and is in the folder on UGCloud.

Secondary Program Review – Stakeholder Consultation

Carlo Zen, Student Success Lead thanked the committee for the opportunity to present at their inaugural meeting. He explained that this review is time sensitive and input is being gathered from the committees of the Board, parents, students, and staff. The purpose is to create a guiding vision for secondary education in the UGDSB to meet the learning needs of all students. This review is not about accommodations or boundary reviews. A final report will go to Board Trustees in December 2018.

Carlo Zen introduced Judith Nyman, an external facilitator brought in to manage the working group that was formed to develop the secondary program review. She is a long time educator who has worked in the Peel District School Board for many years; as an educator; Superintendent of Education and a Director. He added that she has worked with UGDSB in the past and we are fortunate to be able to work with her again.

Judith Nyman addressed FSLAC and provided details of the composition of the working group and how it was formed. She added that there was lots of discussion to define the scope of the review. She explained how the focus group would work tonight and that only parents of secondary students Grades 10-12 complete the survey.

As there are parents of elementary students on FSLAC, Judith Nyman asked them to project their thoughts of what learning characteristics (provided by the working group) would help students to be successful.

Trustees and other members that were not parents were asked to step out of the exercise. Carlo Zen distributed copies of the survey to the committee. Judith Nyman explained the process. Committee completed the exercise and input was gathered

Marty Fairbairn thanked Carlo Zen and Judith Nyman for their presentation.

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Annual French Review Background

Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning thanked the committee for the opportunity to present the Annual French Review.

Jennifer Passy provided the committee with the history of how the FSLAC Committee and the French Review Committee were formed and the French Review process. She shared that in 2015, French Immersion enrolment had increased 8% from the previous school year and the forecasted elementary FI enrolment was showing a steady increase. There was increasing pressure to accommodate FI and multiple boundary reviews resulting in many student moves. UGDSB's French Immersion enrolment growth was higher than the provincial average.

Jennifer Passy detailed the registration and random selection process; placement; the school level JK FI caps and full day kindergarten caps that are mandated by the Ministry.

A flow chart included in the presentation outlines the monthly steps followed for annual review process.

Rachel Cooper, FI parent from the City of Guelph, asked what triggers a boundary review.

Jennifer Passy responded that there are several reasons: significant enrolment above cap levels; surplus space in schools; new schools being built and considerations for offering programs in a new school. Presently the Board does not have surplus space available to expand FI. FI started at Gateway Drive Public School (Guelph) and Parkinson Centennial Public School (Orangeville) based on enrolment levels in the areas of these schools and available capacity to expand the program.

Rachel Cooper commented that there have been several boundary reviews in the past few years. Jennifer Passy replied that was a significant consideration behind the 2015 French Review. One part of the reasons for the number of boundary reviews was due to implementing full day kindergarten, which placed added pressure on schools that were already full.

Jennifer Passy added that the Board has also looked at the impact of FI enrolment increases in high schools. The effect of capping FI will take 10 years to manage enrolment in elementary schools and high schools will continue to feel the pressure of larger cohorts. The Secondary French Review Committee's role was to determine how to manage this growth. Tracey Lindsay responded that the growth in FI affected regular track and FI students. In dual track schools, FI was increasing and regular track was decreasing. This is a system problem. All of the boundary reviews affected families of regular track students along with French Immersion.

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Paul Smith, FI Secondary, noted that this annual review is focused on the elementary level. The secondary review has many recommendations for secondary. How is this committee going to deal with this? Will the annual review address the secondary recommendations? Tracey Lindsay responded that part of the Secondary Review is focused on the work that Carlo Zen and Judith Nyman are doing; with the prospect of building a new high school and what that will look like. The Secondary French Review is complete and this information will be shared with FSLAC. The Secondary Program Review is looking at all the programs across the district including FI, IB etc., and how these will be managed.

Vikki Brown, Core French – City of Guelph, asked what are the options for people moving into the UGDSB area when there are 639 spots in schools? What happens if it's our own students moving within the board.

Jennifer Passy responded that there are specific provisions around students entering or moving within the district. UGDSB's entry into FI is JK. Cap levels vary from school to school.

Rachel Cooper questioned if there was success in getting teachers for these classes. Jennifer Passy responded that there has been some success in getting teachers on our roster. We have a robust recruitment program. While JK is capped there is still growth in elementary and secondary. Rachel Cooper asked if the things that are in place are working. Jennifer Passy replied yes, but it is difficult to find qualified teachers and retain them. The annual review will have more data to be shared the November meeting.

Mark Paralovos, French Immersion – City of Guelph, asked if there were 639 FI spots, how many were English spots. Jennifer Passy responded that there are 2,300 approximately JKs and 639 are in FI. FI represents approximately 27% of the Board's JK enrolment.

Christine Caughill, Core French – City of Guelph, asked if there was data that started in JK and followed through to secondary. Jennifer Passy replied that it is difficult to follow each individual child to provide retention rates but the Board's overall retention rate in FI is very high. Jonathan Walker, Principal of Program does exit surveys to see why people are leaving FI. Tracey Lindsay commented that it is difficult to get FI teachers. In some schools, there may be limited programs available to students.

Mark Paralovos asked if it was possible to record a French teacher. A camera could be set up in the classroom to livestream the lesson and students could participate remotely. Is that a format that could be used? Tracey Lindsay responded that this is difficult as it is a language-based program. An alternative would be E-learning courses for students in areas that did not offer the program.

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Marty Fairbairn thanked Jennifer Passy for her presentation.

PowerPoint presentation has been uploaded to the FSLAC folder on UGCloud.

UGDSB FSL Plan Introduction

Jonathan Walker, Principal of Program, distributed copies of “A FRAMEWORK FOR FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12” to the committee. He explained that the Ministry sees the value of French as a Second Language (FSL) education for all students. They believe that through FSL, Ontario students will understand Canada’s history and will develop an appreciation of French culture. The requirement is that all students must study FSL from Grade 4 – 8 and have at least one French credit in high school in order to graduate with their diploma. The focus is to support students so they want to take more than one French credit in high school. In UGDSB, two programs are offered - core French and French immersion.

The Ministry gathered information and created a framework for FSL that focused on three goals:

1. Increase student confidence, proficiency and achievement in FSL
2. Increase the percentage of students studying FSL until graduation
3. Increase student, educator, parent and community engagement in FSL

The Ministry decided that all school boards would follow a 10-year plan for FSL. UGDSB is currently in year 2 of our second third year plan.

Jonathan Walker explained that the plan is divided up into three sections that highlight the Ministry’s three goals. Under each of the Ministry’s goals, UGDSB’s goals are defined and include planned actions to achieve them.

He asked the committee to review the Plan and to bring their questions to the November meeting. Secondary documents that support FSL, teachers and students will be shared at this meeting. An in-depth look into the Plan will occur in November.

Marty Fairbairn thanked Jonathan Walker for his presentation.

Election of Chair/Future Meetings

Tracey Lindsay commented that there was much information shared with the committee tonight. She asked members to consider chairing the meetings. Nominations and elections will be held at the next meeting. One member of the committee and one trustee will fill the position of Chair or Vice-Chair. There are four meetings scheduled throughout the school year and if needed, more meetings can be added. Meetings are held at the Guelph Board office beginning with a light meal. She asked members to review the

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material in the folder on UGCloud to familiarize themselves with the information to assist them in understanding their role on the committee. She requested committee members to bring their feedback as a parent of FI or Core as they may hear things from their communities.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2018.

Adjournment

Marty Fairbairn thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.