



The Minutes of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. virtually through Google Meet.

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members: Aniela d'Avernas, Julia Greco, Stacey Sambrook, Bridget Cork, Elena Shaughnessy, Alan Morin, Lynne Milette-Carroll, Abbey Shaughnessy, Nancy Guillemette, Mark Joly, Helen McCarthy

Administration: Michael Nasello, Pepe Garieri, Adam White

Absent/Regrets: Donna Paquette

Recorder: Amy Balas

A. Call to Order:

1. Territorial Recognition

Lynne Milette-Carroll acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnabe.

2. Opening Prayer

Lynne Milette-Carroll led opening prayer.

3. Welcome & Introductions

Pepe Garieri welcomed committee, appreciated everyone meeting virtually. There was a roundtable of introductions as this was the first meeting with new additions the council. Michael Nasello addressed the committee thanking them for their commitment to strengthening FSL within our Board.

4. Approval of the Agenda / Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Elena Shaughnessy, seconded by Aniela d'Avernas that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2020

Aniela d'Avernas requested additions to minutes, that we recognize Christine Aquin, huge debt of gratitude for recruitment of FSL teachers into the Board.

MOTION: Moved by Mark Joly, seconded by Lynne Milette-Carroll that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) French Immersion Update at Holy Trinity Mark Joly

Mark Joly provided an update to the French Immersion program at Holy Trinity. They are experiencing a good retention rate for students who move on from Grade 8 Immersion. Currently there are 22 students enrolled in the Grade 9 French Immersion program. The students seem to be very engaged, amid Covid restrictions. Purchases of goods and online resources has been beneficial for learning. Overall Mark feels the French Immersion program is a great addition to the community. Mark thanked Adam for his guidance assisting some of his teaching staff.

B. Discussion/Presentations:

1. Breakout discussion

Adam White split the committee members into small breakout groups for discussion. The questions to discuss were:

- How is Covid affecting you?
- How has French teaching and learning changed during the Pandemic?

Each group shared discussion from each breakout groups. Overall themes amongst teaching staff resonated around finding new and creative ways to engage and evaluate students. Technology has been a great asset. Everything from teaching format to group work has had to be looked at differently. Some of these changes have proven to be quite positive and something that could be carried into future years, post pandemic. With several high school students moving into the virtual school it has become a challenge to compete.

From a student's perspective they have been faced with several changes in the school which has been a challenging shift. Students are no longer allowed to leave for lunches or eat in the café. 4 courses a day has now gone down to one. A positive spin for French Immersion students is that it is easier to learn the French language as it is being practiced all day long.

Adam White thanked the committee for reflecting and sharing how Covid has affected them and how the teaching and learning environment has had to adapt.

2. Review Goals of the Committee and Provincial Framework

Adam White

a) [Provincial FSL Framework](#)

Adam White shared a slide show presentation where he reviewed the goals of the committee and highlighted how we received great feedback from our April meeting focusing on our 3-year plan for FSL. Adam also shared the Provincial FSL framework. Main themes were around increasing student confidence, increasing the number of students studying French as well as increasing student and community engagement.

b) [Board 3-year FSL plan](#)

Adam White reviewed the Board 3-year plan which highlights increasing teacher capacity, increasing student participation in FSL to Grade 12 as well as engaging parent and community engagement, which is difficult to do in current times however can continue with the use of technology.

Adam drew attention to the second goal of increasing the percentage of students remaining in the FSL stream. Adam shared enrollment data of students in Core French and Immersion stream over the last few years. Last years data was up 10.5% for enrollment. Adam then shared road map to achieving CEFR goals.

Adam proposed to take a few minutes to discuss goal two and opened the floor to hear thoughts, ideas and comments.

Some highlights of the conversation were:

- Some high school students were unable to take French courses as there were timetable conflicts with some of the University pre-requisites that needed to be met, which took priority.
- Split classes can cause French enrolment numbers to plummet. If a student finds out they are in a split, they become nervous and their confidence drops.
- Motivation for the K-3 group can be difficult as more courses are being spoken in English. Motivation declines because of the French to English ratio of classes. Once students pass Grade 2, if parents don't have French experience, they feel a disconnect from what their child is learning.
- More parent education especially around French Immersion needs to be in place as well as supports for students struggling with learning

Helen McCarthy proposed an idea to help create excitement of French in the younger grades by pairing with Francophone schools or classes in Quebec and start communicating with others in a format similar to a pen pal. Lynne shared this has been done previously to help with writing French to another school in our board. Brought kids to the school to meet their pen pals, obviously not an option this year.

ACTION: Adam shared a document highlighting Goal 2 and asked that the committee members share these thoughts in the document

Pepe provided a list of Ministry resources that may be helpful for the committee members to review.

C. Information Items:

1. French Program Review

Adam White

Adam White discussed the Program review and how they are looking for Stakeholder input – teacher, community, students etc. about the program. An initial draft of questions has been prepared and he is looking into using the platform Thought Exchange to gather responses/thoughts/ideas. As members of the committee, your input very valuable to the

process. Hopeful the committee can review the program draft before going to board, if timing permits.

2. DELF Update – plans for this year and training

Adam White

Ontario DELF centre – we are unable to go ahead with any DELF testing. Organization responsible for DELF are not prepared to move DELF online due to confidentiality concerns. Adam will keep the committee up to date on any news. Renewing DELF correctors and possibility to train DELF correctors online, might be a possibility however as a Board we will have to consider supply teacher coverage, it may not be possible to do much PD this year.

3. Student Voice Update

Abbey Shaughnessy/Julia Greco

Adam White asked Abbey Shaughnessy and Julia Greco about what they were hearing about French? What are you/peer's challenges, excited about?

Abbey shared she hasn't yet had her French course however is looking forward to a full course throughout the day to practice her French skills.

Julia shared things are going well and she has had 2 French classes so far. One thing she has noticed, many students who need help wont ask for it. Adam asked if Julia is comfortable to speak with her peers to understand why that is. It could be very closely tied to why students aren't staying in French.

Helen McCarthy suggested setting up some sort of a helpline or chat line where students could anonymously ask questions and get the help they need. They may be more prone to asking for help, less anxious.

Adam thanked Abbey and Julia for bringing their perspective to the committee.

Adam thanked the committee for their input and emphasized the importance of the FSL 3 year plan. Adam asked that members comment and give feedback on how we can make goals more achievable and attainable.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 4:30 p.m. – Google Meet
2. Selection of member for Opening Prayer for April 21, 2021 – Aniela d'Avernas
3. Selection of member for Closing Prayer for April 21, 2021 – Elena Shaughnessy

E. Conclusion

1. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Adam White.

2. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Helen McCarthy and seconded by Nancy Guillemette that the meeting adjourn – 6:24 p.m.

Carried