



The Minutes of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. virtually through Google Meet.

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members: Kevin MacKenzie, Mark Joly, Nancy Guillemette, Elena Shaughnessy, Alan Morin, Bridget Cork, Aniela D'Avernas, Stacey Sambrook, Donna Paquette

Administration: Joan Carragher, Sheila Piggott, Adam White

Students: Jeffery Hardy

Regrets: Julia Greco, Lynne Milette Carroll

Recorder: Jennifer Hardy

A. Call to Order:

1. Territorial Recognition

Sheila Piggott acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe.

2. Opening Prayer

Sheila Piggott led the opening prayer.

3. Welcome

Adam White welcomed the committee to the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda / Additions to the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Nancy Guillemette, seconded by Jeffery Hardy that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 23, 2021

MOTION: Moved by Nancy Guillemette, seconded by Jeffery Hardy that the Agenda be approved.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Discussion/Presentations:

1. Preliminary DELF Results

Adam White

Adam White presented to the committee Provincial goals for French as a second language (FSL) and discussed the strategic focus areas included in the Boards 3 year FSL plans. The focus areas include;

- Heightened Awareness:
 - Partnership with Community
 - Foster Awareness
 - Teaching new material
- Enhancing Leadership and Accountability
 - Offering both core French and FSL teaching to students with key messages on inclusion for all students
- Strengthening programming to improve achievement
- Supporting all students (Core and French Immersion) with timetables and specialization courses
- Implementing Effective practices in planning, teaching and assessment
 - Offered A1 to B2 examinations
 - Immersion B1 and B2
 - Core French A1-B1

Adam went on to discuss the DELF assessments and reviewed the different levels and overall benefits of taking the DELF. PVNCCDSB has 16 trained teachers/staff to correct the DELF Exam. 6 full days were used to conduct the oral interviews and the examination in the schools.

2021 Results:

Peterborough Secondary schools: B2: 8 students, B1: 21 students

Clarington Secondary schools: B2: 30 students, B1: 4 students

1a. Discussion of areas for PD

There was discussion around classroom trends seen in both the Elementary and Secondary grades. With Elementary students there seemed to be poor attendance and the use of masks in the classroom made it difficult for students to see the formation of the mouth and properly hear the sounds of words during conversations. Online learning also posed a challenge as students had less opportunity to talk in conversations to practice their oral French skills.

In the secondary grades there was an observation that there seemed to be a level of social anxiety in the classroom as students were less engaged to participate and talk openly in French. It is very important for students to be practicing their French oral skills by increasing French

conversations. The committee agreed that we need to ensure French teachers are supported, there is also a re-focus on technology: Flip Grid in Classrooms. We need to make teachers aware of the technology that is available to all of them to increase literacy and reading comprehension.

2. Roll-out of Structured Literacy in an FI Context

Sheila Piggott/Adam White

Sheila Piggott reviewed some of the rollout of structured literacy in the classrooms. Right to Read is a Board initiative which will impact English languages in the 2022-2023 year. The French Immersion version has been updated but there is no date set on its release. Adam shared with the committee the vision and goals of the FSL curriculum and highlighted the importance of students developing strong oral French language skills, understanding the value of learning a second language and also focusing on the skills needed to strengthen their confidence in FSL.

There was discussion around the use of the Reading Rope model for word recognition and language comprehension and how we approach it in a PVNC context. Some ideas included;

- website for all students and teachers
- all resources in on place
- living documents: useful for teachers (you tube, Haggerty)
- decodable books
- Sound walls
- mirrors for students to help with mouth formation
- writing teams to explore options

3. Plans for Official Languages Grant Money

Adam White

Adam discussed the Ministry funded Learning Recovery program which will take place from April to June and September to December. 7 teachers will be hired that will tutor in areas of science, structured literacy and reading in all schools. These hired coaches will go into classrooms to work with teachers and provide resources/teaching aids.

Adam asked the committee to participate in a jam board session where the members were asked to share thoughts for funding. Some ideas included after school guest speakers, decodable books in French, DELF training, funding for teachers to increase their confidence and level of French.

4. ACPI Language coaching program

Donna Paquette

Clarification was sought around the selection of teachers for the ACPI Language Coaching Program. Adam explained that the program came from a pilot project grant from OPSBA and Queen's University. The parameters of this project required that participants be teachers in their first 2 to 3 years of teaching. This project is a part of the Federal Government funding for solutions to French teacher recruitment and retention. A call was put out to eligible teachers and four teachers responded and participated. In partnership with Association Canadienne des Professionnels en Immersion and their partner Première Class language school, the Board supported these teachers to participate in a confidential assessment followed by 8 to 10 individualized language classes with retired educators who act as coaches. This is meant to support teachers in growing their own confidence in French and translate into increased teacher retention. The Board will continue to participate in this program next school year and hopefully provide data that points to the long-term sustainability and importance of this kind of program.

C. Information Items:

1. Student Voice Update

Jeffery Hardy

Jeffery Hardy shared with the committee his preparation for the DELF exam which is a very stressful part of the year for students pursuing the assessment. Students generally practice with older DELF exams. Jeffrey also shared with the committee an observation of his classroom, that there seemed to be a lot of students struggling with verbs and grammar aspects of the exam preparations.

2. Tutoring program and Virtual School update

Sheila Piggott/Adam White

Sheila Piggott provided the committee with an update around the tutoring program that PVNC undertook this Spring. There are currently 68 teachers, supporting staff and retired teachers assisting students. The tutoring is available in both French and English classes and is being offered in all schools.

Sheila offered insight to the virtual school, stating that currently there are 616 students currently enrolled however next year there are only 165 students signed up from K-12. Due to the low numbers of students enrolled in the French Immersion program through the virtual school, PVNC has decided to not offer it. Several students have opted to return to in person learning.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting – Fall 2022
2. Selection of member for Opening Prayer - TBD
3. Selection of member for Closing Prayer -TBD

E. Conclusion

1. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Sheila Piggott.

2. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Stacey Sambrook and seconded by Alan Morin that the meeting adjourned – 6:10 p.m.

Carried