

The Minutes of the French as a Second Language Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. via Google Meet using this meeting link:<https://meet.google.com/pyr-oqsw-wqp>

## PRESENT

Trustees/Members: Trustee Jenny Leahy, Stacey Sambrook, Meaghan Tahon, Mandy-Sue Dubriel-Cirto, Alan Morin, Kathryn Lesperance, Donna Paquette, Natacha Couillard, Lisa Heitzner, Shannon O'Neill, Nancy McCarthy

Absent/Regards: Aniela d'Avernas, Lynne Milette-Carroll, Melanie Bergeron-Langlois

Guests: Jeannie Armstrong, Sandra Connolly

Administration: Sheila Piggott

Recorder: Shannon Carr

## **A. Call to Order:**

1. Territorial Recognition - Nancy McCarthy  
Sheila asked Nancy to lead with Territorial Recognition.
2. Opening Prayer - Stacey Sambrook  
Sheila asked Stacey to lead with Opening Prayer.
3. Welcome & Introductions  
Sheila thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves and their role on the committee.
4. Additions to the Agenda  
None.
5. Approval of the Agenda  
**MOTION:** Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Nancy McCarthy, that the Agenda be approved as amended.  
Carried
6. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meetings held on April 26, 2023  
**MOTION:** Moved by Jenny Leahy, seconded by Lisa Heitzner, that the Minutes be approved as presented.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

**B. Discussion/Presentations:**

1. Grade 3 EQAO Math data (french Immersion students) - Sandra & Jeannie

Jeannie shared Grade 3 EQAO results from french immersion students within PVNC Catholic. The vision and goals for french immersion students in Ontario is to ensure student confidence, proficiency and achievement. In addition, it is to look at the percentage of students studying french as a Second Language (FSL) until graduation and student, educator and parent engagement.

Sandra advised that EQAO only shares data within the last two years. A higher percentage of french immersion students have met the provincial standard in reading than non french immersion students. In addition, a higher percentage of french immersion students have met the provincial standard in writing than non french immersion students. However, a higher percentage of french immersion students have not met the provincial standard in math in comparison to non french immersion students.

Jeannie advised the purpose of this presentation is to see if providing math in french is productive or not? Jeannie advised many are talking about the challenges they face when writing math in french. Jeannie proposed to the committee an alternative schedule which would eliminate math being taught in french while still maintaining their minimum required minutes in french. Jeannie asked the committee if they had any questions and an open floor discussion took place.

2. Report on Funding and Board Projects - Nancy McCarthy

Nancy provided an overview on funding for Support staff, Enriched Learning Environments, Board developed FSL initiatives and Diplômes d'études en langues français. The total funding for all areas is \$101,100.00.

Nancy advised the committee on the Professional Development (PD) Sessions that have taken place for french teachers. On October 2nd and 4th the board hosted New French Immersion Teacher sessions for 18 teachers. On November 13th and 20th, the Board will host Core French Teacher Professional Development sessions for 35 teachers. Lastly, on November 23rd, the Board will host a French Immersion/Special Education Professional Development session for each school to send 1 staff member from each category: Primary Teacher, Junior Teacher, SERT and Administrator. The PD will also include a guest speaker, Lindsay Cochrane. A second session will be provided on March 25, 2024.

In addition, french teachers will have structured literacy professional development such as 7 Mighty Moves Book Study, IDAPEL Literacy Screener by Acadience and Acadience Training.

Looking ahead in the year, Nancy will be looking at further french Immersion/Special Education Professional Development Sessions, implementing

school plans through the FSL Enriched School Environment Grant, lunch and learns at schools to support CERF, class visits to support structured literacy for Kindergarten to Grade 2 and find opportunities to support structured literacy for Grades 3 and up.

Nancy asked if there are any questions regarding the Report on Funding and Board Projects. An open discussion took place amongst the committee members.

### 3. DELF Update - Nancy McCarthy

Nancy provided an overview of the 2023 DELF results for the B1 and B2 exam. Overall 100 students participated and 77 students were successful. 14 of the 19 students taking the B2 exam were successful and 63 of the 81 students taking the B1 exam were successful. In order to prepare students for the exam, Nancy provided some suggestions for secondary schools such as:

- i. Continue with rich listening tasks;
- ii. Focus PD for Curriculum Chair on best practices;
- iii. Increase DELF-inspired assessment opportunities; and
- iv. Modify guidelines around selection of DELF level

Current direction from the Ministry of Education is that students select their level with teacher guidance. The experience this year with the new scoring grids shows that students generally scored lower in writing and speaking tasks, especially at B2. After 2 years of post-pandemic DELF data, data suggests that Immersion students are not as successful at B2 as they previously were.

For the 2024 DELF Spring exams, Schools across PVNC have indicated that approximately 100 grade 12 students would be participating in the DELF. Dates have been decided by DELF de l'Ontario which will be the week of April 15, 2024 and May 13, 2024.

Nancy asked if there are any questions regarding the DELF update. An open floor discussion took place. The committee specifically discussed whether or not the board should have students take the DELF A1 and A2 exam or an A2 and B1 exam instead of doing the B1 and B2 in the hopes that it will encourage students to take the exam and be successful.

### **C. Information Items:**

#### 1. Member updates - All

Alan Morin - Alan asked if the board is going to invite student reps on our committee this year? Nancy has in the past asked that teachers bring forward students who may be interested to sit on the committee. Nancy will send out another correspondence to remind teachers to bring someone forward who is interested.

There were no other member updates and/or questions.

### **D. Next Committee Meeting:**

1. Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:30-6:30PM, Catholic Education Centre, Large Boardroom
2. Selection of member for Territorial Recognition for next meeting
  - a. Lisa Heitzner
3. Selection of member for Opening Prayer for next meeting

- a. Sheila Piggott
4. Selection of member for Closing Prayer for next meeting
  - a. Nancy McCarthy

#### **E. Conclusion**

1. Closing Prayer - Jenny Leahy

Sheila asked Trustee Jenny Leahy to lead with closing prayer.
2. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Moved by Lisa Heitzner, seconded by Nancy McCarthy  
The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.