

Minutes for the FIAC meeting of Wednesday, January 29th, 2014

7:00-9:00 pm – Westdale Secondary School Library

Attendance: Manny Figuerido, Christine Rees, Todd White, Denise Massie, Lisa Breton, Lynda Newkirk, Lindsay Snell, Allen Curnew, Lisa Urban, Jackie Brown, Sylvia Jarrett, Joanne Thompson

Regrets: Virginia McCulloch

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES
Welcome & Introductions		
1. Approval of the minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved by: Lisa Urban, Seconded by: Joanne Thompson 	Christine will ask to have minutes and terms of reference posted on FIAC site.
2. Norms & Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to address all agenda items during meetings within given time frame, we will set some meeting protocols to facilitate. I.e: time slots, “parking lot” to table discussions, and call a separate meeting if an important issue has not been resolved. Communication regarding an issue may occur via email, but no voting may occur, nor can an official position from FIAC be made without an in-person meeting. Terms of reference (created January 2013) do not reflect membership changes. FIAC meeting minutes no longer on FIAC website. 	<p>Manny will send us a template with protocols to help guide FIAC meetings.</p> <p>Manny to have staff update as needed. Christine to have minutes posted.</p>
3. Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French Immersion Policy Directive has been updated, including the new advisory committee rules, which outline membership (see section 2). Quorum is 5 (50%+1 of 9 members). Lisa Urban suggested that reminders for meetings be sent out in advance in order ensure quorum. Official FIAC members list has been created for approval by the Director of Education (as per new advisory committee regulations). To be approved at a February board meeting. 	Manny will ask to have the policy directive posted to site

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still 2 voting positions unfilled for parents of a secondary FI student, residing in North or South clusters. 	
<p>4. Business Arising</p>	<p>Sibling Policy for Westdale when Sherwood FI begins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to better communicate policy to families. • Manny: numbers are still good for Sherwood if grand-father policy is in effect. <p>Secondary program strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MOTION</u> • <i>“FIAC requests that the board re-examine the start date of 2015 for French Immersion at Sherwood and consider the feasibility of changing it back to 2016.”</i> • Proposed: Sylvia Jarrett, Seconded: Lisa Urban • Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern that the projected number of 97 grade 9s to begin in 2015 may not allow for a strong start to the program in comparison to the original projection by the board of 121 grade 9s for a 2016 start. It has been suggested that approximately 100 grade 9s per year are required to create a sustainable program with sufficient course offerings. If the program starts in 2015 and 97 turns out to be an over-estimate, the program risks having insufficient numbers. The projected number of 121 for a 2016 start gives a greater cushion and is more likely to actually start with sufficient students. ○ Further concern of weakening numbers with the possibility for students to attend Westdale if their sibling is currently enrolled there in FI. ○ More students in grade 9 will mean more possible course offerings and improve the viability of the program. ○ A 2015 start would not align with either the 2014 move of students on the mountain or the 2016 move of students in the North end. 	<p>Manny will have details for Sherwood (boundaries, sibling policy, etc.) posted on FIAC site. Manny and Christine – for the next FI administrators meeting Mar. 21st, will add to agenda and ask admin to send notice to families.</p>

- A 2016 start would provide more time to inform parents of the coming change and to arrange transportation.

Math- EQAO

- Impacts of changing the language of instruction of math to English:
 - Cons:
 - Fewer French instructional hours, unless alternate subjects could be taught in French.
 - More difficult/less flexibility for students to obtain sufficient (10) FI credits at the high school level to graduate with an immersion certificate: currently grade 9 & 10 math courses are offered in French – they would no longer be available if all grade 6, 7, and 8 students learned math in English
 - Pros:
 - Language of instruction in math would be consistent with EQAO testing language at grade 6 level
 - Easier for parents to assist children with homework
- Q. Amount of instruction in math in grade 6? A. 50-60min.
- Work in progress at the Board level regarding the language of instruction for math:
 - Superintendent Manny Figueiredo has asked all FI principals to report which subjects are taught in which language at their schools so that they know exactly where they are starting; they are to bring this report to their next FI administrators meeting on March 21st
 - Superintendent Figueiredo has also asked E-best (HWDSB's research department) to do a literature review of language of mathematics instruction in FI programs. The results of this literature review should be available by the March meeting.
- Q. What support is available for students taking math in French?

Manny will bring copy of literature review prepared by EBest next meeting

	A. Westdale Secondary Students may be available for tutoring. School administrator can inquire for more information.	
5. Accommodation & Planning	Nothing additional to report.	
6. Transportation Policy	<p>FIAC's motion from Sept. 25, 2013 to the Policy Committee (as communicated by Superintendent Manny Figueiredo): <i>"FIAC recommends that the policy committee amend the transportation policy to expand the yellow school bus transportation service to include all eligible elementary French Immersion students from grade 1 to grade 8 across the HWDSB."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Transportation Policy is being created staff will be presented to the Policy Committee and should appear on the agenda for Feb.6/14. It will reflect the current delivery model in place now. (The previous policy was rather vague.) There may be revisions by the Policy Committee, before it is approved by the board to go for public consultation. The earliest we could expect consultation would be by Mar.26th meeting. • FIAC's motion was transmitted to the Policy Committee, but the draft policy won't have incorporated the suggestion. • FIAC can send our motion again after the first draft has been presented. 	<p>Todd White will bring Draft Policy</p> <p>Denise will circulate revised drafts via email to FIAC members as they are made available</p>
7. Trustee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board is working on making Advisory Committee membership official. Should be approved at next board meeting. • Discussions on creating a Program Advisory Committee of trustees which could help FIAC channel discussions of FI programming. • Official report of FIAC meetings will need to be sent to Board by superintendent. • Names and committee changes must be communicated to the board and approved by the Director of Education, as they occur. 	
8. Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've changed the Epinette and Bouleau program this year. We have decided to go with the Forest of Reading program by the Ontario Library Association. For our junior students all French Immersion School Libraries have received the selection for Le prix 	

	<p>peuplier for Junior classes and Le prix tamarac for Intermediate classes. All schools will have access to the Library Association websites for activities as well as the HWDSB Forest of Reading blog. The book selection looks very engaging and it provides a variety of topics of interest. We are very excited about the program this year.</p>	
9. Community	<p>Canadian Parents for French Hamilton-Wentworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC Radio One's Ontario Today Program posed the question today, "Can French Immersion be too popular?" CPF Ontario's response to this question can be found at CPFHamilton.ca. You will also find recording of the program and the following online discussion. • French educational songwriter Jacquot is offering a free one-month membership for their new website for FSL (French Second Language) students, their parents and their teachers. Features include a complete audio collection of songs and raps written specifically for FSL learners + the instrumental (karaoke) versions to each song (165 in total) and a three video series (language, dance, and gesture). Details at jacquotfrenchresources.com. 	
10. All Other Business	<p>Request to discuss communication (notification) and assessment both pre and post at our next meeting. Feedback given after assessments: is this happening throughout FI?</p>	