

Minutes for the FIAC meeting of Wednesday, October 1, 2014
7:00-9:00 pm – Westdale Secondary School Library

Present FIAC voting members: Joanne Thompson, Sylvia Jarrett, Denise Massie, Lisa Breton, Allan Curnew, Lisa Urban, Sue Zdero
 Present FIAC non-voting members: Manny Figueiredo, Christine Rees, Timothy Powell-McBride, Jackie Brown, Lindsay Snell
 Other: Dana Gardiner-Rousseaux, Michael Cain, Louise Adam, Lynda Newkirk

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Welcome & Introductions	Review membership at next meeting.	
2. Community announcements	<p>a. Lisa Breton: Centre français announces their new programming of events. New concert and theatre series for 2014-2015, Free conversation circles for adults, Free French story time for children, After school homework support and arts program for FI students, French classes ages 5-18, media arts workshops, etc. Visit the Centre's website for details: www.centrefrancais.ca</p> <p>b. Denise Massie: Canadian Parents for French Hamilton-Wentworth has a Facebook page that keeps you in touch with news, events, and resources that interest families in French Immersion. Like the page and visit often: www.facebook.com/cpfhamilton/</p>	
3. Approval of minutes from May 28th	Proposed by Joanne Thompson. Seconded by Allan Curnew.	
4. Business Arising from Last Meeting	<p>a. Sherwood Transition Committee Update from FIAC motion asking to explore the possibility of delaying start time of Sherwood transition. This past Monday, trustees decided to stay with original plan of a 2015 start time.</p> <p>Reasons: i) Westdale is struggling to accommodate all the students. Not enough</p>	

	<p>space.</p> <p>ii) Numbers are healthy enough to begin in 2015.</p> <p>As a result there will be a transition committee to discuss and help implement proper transition strategies.</p> <p>Committee makeup: Manny Figueiredo and Executive Superintendent Reinholdt, Principals, parents, Christine, FIAC co-chairs, Sherwood staff member and students, Trustees, student trustee in FI (Hanna), Sherwood school council, school council rep from each feeder school, Westdale Department head, SEAC member, rep of corporate communication department, etc. 25-30 people to form the working group.</p> <p>The committee will meet 5 times. First meeting set for Oct 7th.</p> <p>Topics will cover all subjects pertaining to transition: grandfathering, transportation, staffing, clarifications on boundaries, etc.</p> <p>b. French Immersion Review 2013 – 2014</p> <p>Hours of instruction: Results should be compiled and received by November, reflecting what has been implemented in the schools.</p> <p>c. EQAO Data</p> <p>EQAO cohort data should be ready by November. A forensic analysis will be performed on grade 3, 6, 9 Math data to see if there any trends emerging. Manny will share the results of the analysis. The grade 6 math results scores are lower than previous year. This is a province-wide trend for gr. 6 math.</p> <p>Diagnostic and intervention strategies in literacy over the past 10 years have shown great results. Hoping to implement a similar approach in numeracy. One challenge noted is that there are not as many teachers in elementary with a specialization in math as there are in high school.</p>	<p>Lisa Breton and Lisa Urban will attend first Sherwood Transition Committee on behalf of FIAC. Will have report for next FIAC meeting.</p> <p>FSL Consultant and Superintendent to bring more data following their administrators meeting.</p> <p>Superintendent to share results of math analysis next meeting.</p>
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	<p>FI Results in grade 3 Reading, Writing, Math for are up from last year. Results in grade 6 Reading and Writing are up from last year.</p> <p>d. Board wide resource purchasing review Christine Rees: Currently looking into and researching available and appropriate resources. Resources purchased for each school in board: - Home Reading home kits for Grade 1 and 2 (2 for each FI school). - Teacher resources for science experiments gr. 3-8 (1 per FI school).</p> <p>The board is trying to fill in the resource gaps but budget is limited. Schools have individual budgets for purchases and are given a Recommended List of resources for FI teachers. School principals are not necessarily experts on FI resources and can use the Recommended List as a guide in purchasing. Schools can also receive advice and see samples from Publishing House reps.</p> <p>e. Numbers – Grade 1 enrolment for 2014-2015 Total: 508 Last year 490</p> <p>f. FDK Out of Catchment Policy Nothing has changed. Out of catchment policy is status quo. If school has space, parent may request out-of-catchment for child.</p> <p>Middle school scenario is a concern for FI families. Some have children in three separate schools. Parents are concerned that board is creating barriers for families who wish to enrol in FI and ultimately impacting numbers for schools such as Sherwood that is launching a new FI program next year.</p> <p>Suggestion: that board consider only K-8 model for FI schools. Superintendent explained that the K-8 model is a long transition. Some communities want to maintain the middle school model. However, most new builds have consolidated schools. There will be an upcoming</p>	<p>Trustee to report on status of FIAC's recommendation to Program Policy regarding FDK Out of Catchment.</p>
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	<p>elementary program strategy review where this may be considered.</p> <p>Transportation Policy consultation ended September 30th. The revised policy does not include operational procedures, such as mode of transportation provided.</p> <p>g. Transportation The Policy Committee report from May 14, 2014 stated that the transportation costs for elementary FI 2013-2014 were expected to be approximately \$920,000. The current service provides black and yellow buses for grades 1-5 and HSR for 6-8. If the board were to move to black and yellow buses for all FI students gr.1-8, it is estimated that it would cost an additional \$225,000.</p> <p>Parents are concerned for the longevity of the FI program – transportation creates a situation of “elitism”. Only parents that can afford childcare or schedule around distant group bus stops access FI. It creates additional hurdles. Suggestion to take a look at the budget. Parents are getting more and more frustrated. Example – Guy B. Brown, some group pickup stops are 5 km from child’s home. Example – Sir William – beginning group was 18 and it is now down to 8. There are too many challenges for parents. Superintendent Many Figueiredo explains that the board of trustees have difficult financial decisions to make. As the program grows – there will be growing pains. Many programs have needs just as FI has needs.</p>	<p>Next meeting look at whether FIAC wants to pursue gr.6-8 yellow & black bussing.</p>
<p>5. New Business</p>	<p>a. TFO – Education resources for FI A joint initiative between Canadian Parents for French Ontario, TFO, and the Ministry of Education, means that all English speaking boards may now access TFO Éducation for free. This is a website that offers over 5,000 French-language multimedia educational resources. More information here: http://on.cpf.ca/blog/whats-new/tfo-education/</p>	

	TFO will come and talk with teachers.	
6. Reports	<p>a. Program</p> <p>Curriculum expectations have been mapped from grade 1-8. FSL Consultant Christine Rees, with the help of Jackie Brown and Vanessa Swan have prepared a document listing strategies and available resources for teachers to use to address those expectations for Core French and French immersion. Document will be made available to teachers in print and digital form by the end of October.</p>	

Meeting Schedule: Wednesdays – December 3, January 21, April 1, May 27