

## Minutes for the FIAC meeting of Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

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

**Present FIAC voting members:** Joanne Thompson, Denise Massie, Lisa Breton, Lisa Urban, Sue Zdero, Nickolas Shyshkin, Joyce Appiah-Kubi

**Present FIAC non-voting members:** Manny Figueiredo (Superintendent), Christine Rees (FSL Consultant), Todd White (Trustee), Timothy Powell-McBride (Principal – Secondary), JoAnne AuCoin (Vice Principal – Elementary), Jackie Brown (Teacher – Elementary), Lindsay Snell (Teacher – Secondary)

**Other:** Michael Cain, Kyra Paterson, Sharon Metcalfe, Catherine Roberts

**Regrets:** Lynda Newkirk, Louise Adam

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Welcome & Introductions		
2. Community announcements	<p><b>a. Lisa Breton – Centre Francais</b> Lisa Breton reminds the group that an important component to learning French is community participation, whether families of FI students or FI teachers, in francophone cultural activities (consult sites of organizations such as CPF, ACFO, Théâtre français de Toronto, Centre français Hamilton, etc.) that happen throughout the city. <a href="http://CentreFrancais.ca">CentreFrancais.ca</a></p> <p><b>b. Denise Massie – Canadian Parents for French Hamilton-Wentworth</b> Shared the membership incentives that CPF Hamilton is offering for new and renewing members: a choice between Verbs 2 Go, a French verb guide, or; Un canard a New York, a French storybook with songs and a CD.</p> <p>Frenchapalooza will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm-8:00pm at A.M. Cunningham School. It will consist of information sessions with speakers for the parents, a French book sale, and child care in French. Admission is free and it is open to all French Immersion families in Hamilton-Wentworth. <a href="http://CPFHamilton.ca">CPFHamilton.ca</a></p>	
3. Approval of minutes (Oct 1)	Proposed by Joanne Thompson, Seconded by Mike Cain	
4. Business Arising	<p><b>a. EQAO Results</b> Manny shared the report and mentioned that FI students compared with non FI students follow the overall trend of board results. With the exception of Math</p>	

for certain grades. HWDSB is exploring within the board and across the province an effective diagnostic tool and interventions in the early years for Math.

In language we are seeing changes thanks to early intervention. Now, Math has become a focal point. The board is comparing with other provinces and looking at international assessments.

Dr. Ruth Beattie is working with department heads to help build our knowledge and understanding of Math results, in order to help the teachers. Forensic analysis around themes that have emerged – seems to align with provincial pattern. Geometry and measurement become a challenge. Spatial reasoning – how address this in the early years to help the students learn over time. The board is also analyzing individualized pattern response to standardized testing compared to the province. The board needs a proper diagnostic that will allow them to find solutions.

Teachers that have math focus at elementary or middle school is less than 11%. Most teachers are from general arts or languages. Some boards are offering additional qualification (AQ) courses.

Initiatives are being made and investments (\$400 000). Ie: support for teachers who are interested in teaching more math in junior grades.

Grade 6 reading is 96% \$400,000 focused on mathematics, focusing on math champions.

What are the results in Math for students transitioning from French to English. Anecdotal data: A student's response was that the transition was easy. The variety of students and atmosphere was different. Another student found it to be constricting – FI classrooms students are motivated. But the teachers are reaching out to students coming from FI.

Hard data: Principal of Westdale did not find any statistical difference from both groups of students. There was no drop in results in FI students when they transition.

	<p><b>b. French Immersion Review</b> Christine Rees distributed a draft copy of the FI Review. The HWDSB is making efforts to surpass the 50% French content in the classroom.</p> <p>The challenges to maximize hours of instruction in French arise from the variety of models that exist in FI schools. Ideally the range of difference of hours of instruction between schools is 10%. During the Elementary staffing meetings in January and February, the group will be looking at narrowing the gap in favour of more hours of instruction.</p> <p><b>c. Transportation – grade 6-8 yellow bus request</b> The parents with children in grade 6 feel the HSR bussing poses a security risk for children. Some parents feel, especially when the child is alone taking the HSR bus or having to transfer, that the children are too young. Additional concerns about the distance travelled and/or the number of transfers required.</p> <p><i>Motion: FIAC asks for a revision of the initial estimate of \$225 000 to add Yellow &amp; Black bussing for FI schools for grades 6-8. FIAC wonders if there are possible cost savings to be had that would lower this number. For example: adding bussing for grade 6 only. FIAC also asks the Board to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>investigate what other Boards with urban schools are doing in these situations</i></li> <li>• <i>provide a school-by-school breakdown</i></li> </ul> <p><b>d. Transportation – Guy B. Brown to Westdale</b> FI students from Waterdown do not have HSR service. These students are at a big disadvantage for extracurricular activities should they attend Westdale Secondary. Currently there is no model for late yellow and black busses.</p> <p><b>e. FDK Out-of-catchment</b> Currently families are dealing with multiple school transitions and larger families may have children enrolled in up to 4 different schools providing significant challenges for those interested in French Immersion (e.g., Different bell times between schools, extracurricular activities, childcare, transportation, etc.).</p> <p><i>Motion: FIAC would like the Program Committee to discuss courtesy spots in schools for out-of-catchment kindergarten students intending on entering</i></p>	<p>Christine Rees to bring more information to May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>Manny Figueiredo will research if other boards provide a second bus.</p>
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	<p><b><i>French Immersion in grade 1. FIAC recommends that spots be re-introduced or that the Program Committee present alternative solutions to the current procedure.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Factors to consider: The number of schools affected and updated accommodation pressures.</i></b></p>	
5. New business	<p><b>Change to FI Directive – Add Rural Parent</b>  Manny Figueiredo was asked if FIAC could add a Rural representative. Mike Caine has volunteered for the position. In order to make this an official voting position, the FIAC directive must be modified to add a Rural voting member to the committee.</p>	Change to FI Directive to be presented in report.
6. Reports	<p><b>a. Program</b>  New FSL secondary curriculum has been released by the ministry. Mandatory implementation is set for September 2015. Two documents have been created to help teachers with implementation. Christine Rees is working directly with schools. Teacher training to begin mid-February.</p> <p>Activities:  Forest of reading - Series of French books accompanied with activities. Primary to secondary.</p> <p>Concours d'art oratoire – will be announced the week before march break and after march break. For students from grade 4 to Secondary in FI and Core. French. Categories are defined by number of hours of instruction in French. Winners go on to York Glendon campus for provincial finals.</p> <p>Q: Joanne Thompson asked for numbers on success levels of children in grade 1, without SK in FI.  A: The curriculum has always had a Grade 1 start. Can't change the benchmarks for GB+ levels without waiting a few years to collect data from students once they are all beginning FI in grade 1. HWDSB benchmarks are comparable to those of other boards with grade 1 start for FI.</p> <p>Q: Is there LLI to help FI students?  A: There are lessons and resources that are available to use that follow a similar</p>	

	<p>model to LLI.</p> <p><b>b. Trustee</b></p> <p>Todd White was named chair of Board. Vice Chair is Alex Johnstone. It has been decided that two Trustee liaisons will support FIAC. They commit to having one trustee present at every FIAC meeting. The second trustee is Penny Deathe.</p> <p>Program committee – (forum to discuss program issues). A new chair will be selected in the next month or two.</p> <p>With the departure of John Malloy on December 15<sup>th</sup>, the board will be searching for a new Director of Education.</p> <p><b>c. Sherwood Transition Committee</b></p> <p>\$30 000 000 invested in renovations and programs. Concerns regarding portables and transition.</p> <p>There is a commitment to make the program work regardless of numbers. Questions about finding qualified staff.</p> <p><b>d. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)</b></p> <p>Lindsay Snell provided agenda, will send us notes at a later date.</p> <p>Transforming Learning Everywhere (TLE): About improving teacher pedagogy, not an “iPad project”. Trying to identify a deployment plan of mobile tools. HWDSB is a pioneer in the province. The board is exploring how to repurpose current resources and place technology in a 1:1 environment in all classrooms from grade 4 to 12 by 2019.</p>	<p>Manny Figueiredo to present more information on TLE at the next meeting.</p>
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***Upcoming Meetings: Wednesdays – January 21, April 1, May 27***