



**French Immersion Transition Committee
November 10, 2015 - 4:30 p.m. - Sherwood Secondary School (Library)**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Jeannette Chehowski- Michaëlle Jean/ Sherwood
Sharon Metcalfe- Michaëlle Jean/Sherwood
Joanne Thompson- Fessenden/Norwood Park/ Sherwood/Westdale
Fariha Woolrett- Norwood Park/Sherwood
Lisa Urban- Lawfield- FIAC
Jordan Papadopoulos – Sherwood Student Rep
Autumn Pereira – Sherwood Student Rep
Bob Pratt- Principal- Sherwood Secondary
Shelly Ferney- Vice Principal- Sherwood Secondary
Cynthia- Student Services- Sherwood Secondary
Jackie Oliver- French Immersion Head- Sherwood Secondary
Brian Patton- Principal- Lawfield Elementary
Timothy Powell- McBride- Principal- Westdale
Lindsay Snell- Teacher- FI Teacher- Westdale
Sue Dunlop- Superintendent of Student Achievement
Jamie Nunn- Superintendent of Leadership and Learning- Co-Chair
Laura Romano- Superintendent of Student Achievement- Chair
Pam Reinholdt- Executive Superintendent of School Operations & Facilities
Alex Johnstone- Trustee
Christine Rees- FSL Consultant K-12- Leadership and Learning

Regrets: Rene Contant, Lisa Neale, Sean Malcolmson, Dawn Danko, John Bradley, Chris Upshall, Dana Gardiner-Rousseaux,

Recording Secretary – Teresa Movre

1. Welcome and Introductions

Laura Romano welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided introductions.

- **Agenda Review** - The agenda was reviewed. No changes required.
- **Review of our Purpose**- Reviewed slides from attached Power Point Presentation
 - The intent was to consider input from students, staff and parents to ensure a smooth and successful transition for the first cohort of students into Sherwood’s FI program.
 - To review and respond appropriately to the responses we were hearing. To provide advice to senior staff and the System Transition Advisory Committee and to raise awareness of the FI Program at Sherwood.
- **Working Agreements**- Reviewed slides from attached Power Point Presentation
 - Protocol for working through meetings as reviewed at the first meeting will continue.

2. Transition Update: Sherwood Secondary School

- Jackie Oliver: Reviewed slides from Power Point
 - A snap shot of what we are doing in our classes
 - 5 courses offered to grade 9s- French, Geography, Math, Science and Family Studies
 - Resources- Blended learning approach- Using technology and text books
 - Science & Math- 30 iPads in addition to text books - Inquiry based learning- Supports Science course- Gizmos-On-line simulation. Math- Using iPads to introduce units. Using on-line HUB- giving students the ability to be successful and the opportunity/responsibility to check their own learning
 - French- Blended text with an on-line component. Recently trained on the “super site” and explanation of use
 - Geography- Using iPads in addition to current text book-new text book available in January. Stay in line with English stream to ensure consistency
 - Family Studies- Course has been developed from scratch- No FI course available- Teacher has been translating resources into French- in line with English Stream to ensure a pathway into courses in Grades 10-12 which are offered in English only- Use of iPads

Questions:

- a. **The first cohort of students were surveyed when they were in grade 8 and Family Studies was the course the students requested. Will the grade 8s be surveyed each year? Can the course next year be Drama?** No. The students chose Family Studies. The program will remain consistent. It’s a huge development translating a course from English into French. Our philosophy is – “Do something really well and then expand”- course selection.
 - b. **Is there an English Family Studies program available in French?** Unfortunately no. The course isn’t offered in French in the francophone schools in our area.
 - c. **How many students in the Family Studies course?** 15 students out of 49 are taking Family Studies.
 - d. **Will Family Studies continue to be offered next year?** Yes
 - e. **Have the courses been chosen for Grade 10- 2016-2017?** Core program will be available- compulsory courses will be offered in French- French Math, Science, Civics/Careers and History. The only course available in grade 10 at Westdale and not at Sherwood is Visual Arts.
- **French Immersion Forum Follow Up-** Reviewed slides from Power Point
 - Forum took place a couple of weeks ago to check how our students are feeling regarding the transition into Sherwood
 - 3 categories- Academics, Social and Extra-Curricular

- Students commented on “Look how worried we were.”
- What would I tell my grade 8 self? Grade 8 Teacher? Grade 8 Parent?
- Bus rides were too long seemed to be the only negative comment.

- **Comments from our Student Reps**

Social:

- **Jordan Papadopoulos-** Previously attended Lawfield
- FI is a tight knit community. At first was anxious and nervous. Met a large group of his friends and settled in right away. Pleased his class size is small- 22 in his French classes versus English courses are approximately 30.
- **Autumn Pereira-** Previously attended St. Eugene’s
- From another school board- Did not know any students which made it difficult at first.
- Made a friend which has led to more friends.
- No one points out that you aren’t in the English Stream.

Extra-Curricular:

- Nice blend of English and French Immersion students.

Academics:

- Classes are manageable.
- The vocabulary with the family studies can be difficult. Work can be time consuming.
- A good balance of different learning styles supported.
- Math- Includes the answers on the Hub. We can email our teacher any questions and she responds very quickly.

Questions

Jamie Nunn- Transition from Grade 8 & Grade 9

- a. **Did you and/or your parent/guardian attend any of our Board information nights? Grades 7 & 8 Parent Information session held in November in addition to the Option Sheet Information session? Did you held these sessions to be beneficial?** Students did not attend but one student stated his mother attended and found it very informative. Student felt it did not help with the nervousness of changing schools. One student stated the information was not easily available as she was from another School Board. Students both felt the Eight’s to Saints session was very helpful. They were able to meet their teachers.
- b. **Feeder School Visits- Are those sessions helpful?** One student had difficulty recalling the Sherwood visiting his class and the other student was out of Board so there was no visit. One student felt the Chalk Talk was helpful- felt as if he had a voice. The visit in early September was most beneficial but wished it was longer.
- c. **Could the Board have done anything more to prepare you for your first day in Sherwood’s French Immersion Program?** Another orientation day- simulate a day at Sherwood. The visit felt a bit rushed-and would recommend a full day. Parents were

not given much notice of the orientation day- approximately 1 week notice making arrangements difficult.

- d. **Next year you will be our grade 10s. Is there a role for the grade 10's to be Sherwood's FI mentors to welcome the next set of grade nines?** Yes. That would help build relationships. Volunteer first day of school to buddy up with a new student. Student shared a brief description of a program at Westmount where the Grade 12 students shared lunch with the grade 9 students during the first week of school.
- e. **Regarding the Chalk Talk forum did you see your feedback reflected in your transition into Sherwood? Did we deliver what you asked for?** Yes, one student felt the board listened to the students the other student did not participate. The social aspect was certainly supported. They both felt it was a good transition.

Parent Comments:

- Enrichment Band- French Immersion. A lot of cross over (FI/English stream) in extra-curricular. 15 FI students in the Band from Glen Brae and Norwood Park.
 - I wasn't sure about the program. Originally wanted son to attend Westdale. Very happy they made the decision to attend Sherwood.
 - Many programs in the school. Hockey, Band, French etc. Just as good as Westdale- Important to get this message out
 - Hardest part was being the first cohort- found it difficult separating from friends
- a. **As a parent did you feel you were receiving a lot of information regarding the FI program? Did you feel you were in a ready stance for your child in preparation for September?** Yes. However, I was on the Norwood Park School Council which I think helped.
- Norwood Park parents are currently asking about Sherwood's program. We need to get the message out now that " they don't need to find a way into Westdale". Sherwood is a good school. Consider more advertising regarding what Sherwood has to offer. Feedback is very important. Get this type of information out to parents at Norwood asap
 - My Path My Way- this was a great opportunity for Grade 9s sharing with Grade 8s. Message was very strong. A United program.
 - The biggest draw will come from the students.
 - There is an image that Sherwood couldn't be as good a Westdale. Parents believe other parents. Students believe other students.
 - Our best advocates are our kids. Unfiltered and real these are the voices we want them to hear.
 - Come in and FEEL the school. All of the school not just FI.
 - Parents appreciated the opportunity to participate and have input. Voices being heard.
 - Walked the tour of the school- friendly teachers- had a good feeling about the building. It wasn't really all about FI.
 - Transportation information- The information arrived very late.



- 2016-2017 discussions will begin soon
- City buses can be over-crowded. The School Board is working with HSR to ensure transfers can be made in a timely manner.
- There is a temporary interruption of service down Highway 20. The policy does state a scheduled 60 minute maximum. Working with HSR.
- The FI program is up and running- a successful transition.
- For new parents- the biggest questions is regarding transportation.
- Involve the grade 9 students they are our best ambassadors.

Meeting was adjourned at 5: 41 p.m.

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