

Phasing Out of Extended French Grade 7 Entry Point

Summary with the TDSB Staff Discussions re this subject to Date

Extended French programs within the TDSB currently have two entry points. One is at grade 4 and the second is at grade 7. Since last spring, the TDSB has been reviewing the entry points for this program. Based on a number of issues, including Ministry of Education policy regarding the number of hours of French deemed necessary to meet its requirements, the TDSB program as it is currently structured, timetabling and multi-track schools, application and retention and achievement, the Board is considering phasing out the grade 7 entry point over the next four years. They would also concentrate on expanding the grade 4 entry point for the program.

Parents from Ward 7 schools, Swansea and Humberside Collegiate Institute in particular, held an open meeting on Tuesday, January 6 with Nadine Segal, System Superintendent Special Programs, TDSB and Alison Pearce, Program Coordinator, French as a Second Language, TDSB to find out more about the rationale for phasing out the second entry point. All trustees were invited to attend the meeting. The parents expressed concern about the lack of consultation with parents and the reasons behind phasing out a valuable and successful program.

They are also concerned about the short time frames involved before the Board of Trustees are being asked to make a decision about the program, and the perennial problem of not all wards having the same entry points.

Although this item is on the Ward 10 Council meeting agenda for January 15, **parental voices need to be heard at the Board before then.** In order to save this program – please add your voice. The information below provides the time frame and next steps that are required. Also, please keep Trustee Chris Bolton informed as to any actions you take.

The next steps:

Tuesday, January 13: FSLAC meeting at 7:00 p.m. at 5050 Yonge St. (North of Sheppard), the TDSB Head Office. FSLAC will hear what happened at this meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday, January 15: Ward 10 Council meeting discusses the phasing out.

Saturday, January 17: the full report recommending the phasing out of the Grade 7 Extended French Program will be posted on the TDSB website under: Boardroom, Agendas, Program and School Services Committee (PSSC).

Monday, January 19: 4:00 p.m. is the deadline for requests to make a deputation and/or send email deputations to the Program and School Services

Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 21.

Wednesday, January 21: PSSC meeting -- at 6:30 p.m. at 5050 Yonge Street. Nadine Segal and Alison Pearce will present their recommendation to phase out the Grade 7 Extended French Program entry point to the Program and School Services Committee. This is a public meeting, depositions are heard first; written (email) ones are included in all Trustees' reading material on the Friday prior to the meeting. Deadline to request to speak or have an email forwarded to the Trustee's is **Monday, January 19 by 4:00 p.m.**

To request to be allowed to speak to this standing committee you must submit your written request (fax or email) to David Tomczak, Senior Manager, Board Services by **4:00 p.m. on Monday January 19th.**

David's Fax # 416-393-9969 Email david.tomczak@tdsb.on.ca

Your request must include:

The topic that will be addressed: Grade 7 Extended French Program

The name of the speaker

Address of the speaker

Contact information for the speaker (phone, fax, email)

The name of the organization if the speaker is representing an organization such as a school council or community group.

Wednesday, February 4: full board meeting at TDSB Head Office, 5050 Yonge St. Twenty-two (22) Trustees will vote on this issue -- 11 of these Trustees do not have the program in their ward and it would be helpful for all Trustees to hear from parents in our area who have experience with the Grade 7 Extended French and/or value it. If you wish to email the Trustees, just cut and paste these into your email.

Irene.Atkinson@tdbs.on.ca, Nadia.Bello@tdsb.on.ca, Chris.Bolton@tdsb.on.ca,
John.Campbell@tdsb.on.ca, Sheila.Cary-Meagher@tdsb.on.ca,
Shaun.Chen@tdsb.on.ca, Michael.Coteau@tdsb.on.ca, Gary.Crawford@tdsb.on.ca,
Cathy.Dandy@tdsb.on.ca, Bruce.Davis@tdsb.on.ca, Gerri.Gershon@tdsb.on.ca,
Howard.Goodman@tdsb.on.ca, Scott.Harrison@tdsb.on.ca, John.Hastings@tdsb.on.ca,
Josh@joshmatlow.ca, James.Pasternak@tdsb.on.ca, Stephnie.Payne@tdsb.on.ca,
Maria.Rodrigues@tdsb.on.ca, Mari.Rutka@tdsb.on.ca, Chris.Tonks@tdsb.on.ca,
Sheila.Ward@tdsb.on.ca, Soo.Wong@tdsb.on.ca