



French Advisory Committee

Date: February 20, 2025

Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Venue: DESC- Shuswap Lake Room

MEETING Minutes

Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgment (Megan)	Members present: Marianne VanBuskirk (Board Trustee), Michelle Guillou (Assistant Superintendent, HR), Emily Johnson (Recording Secretary), <u>Bastion Representation:</u> Megan Weir (Vice-Principal), Megan Hanson (parent rep), Julie Delcid (parent rep), <u>Shuswap Middle Representation:</u> Lara Matthews (Vice-Principal), Amanda Tait (Teacher), Rebecca Scott (parent rep), Emma Nieman (student rep), <u>J.L. Jackson Representation:</u> Gloria Cox (Vice-Principal), Megan Glasser (teacher rep), Avery Mullins (student rep), <u>Salmon Arm Secondary Representation:</u> Martine Dollack (Teacher), Susan Lorenz (parent rep). Member regrets: Candy Martel (Bastion Teacher rep), Melinda Smyrle (J.L. Jackson parent rep), Rhys Waters (Salmon Arm Secondary Vice-Principal), Ben Bonthuys (Salmon Arm Secondary student rep) Megan Weir, District French Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and opened the meeting with the acknowledgement that the Committee holds its meeting on the traditional and unceded land of the Secwépemc peoples.
2. Meeting Norms (Megan)	Megan Weir noted the norms are listed on the agenda.
3. Budget Updates	Megan Weir shared that the district has been given the figure for the budget and with the new funding guide, there came additional funds for this year, which provided a difference of \$25,000 to move forward with some support initiatives and projects that were previously paused: • CEA support for literacy in FI classes at Bastion The district is able to fill this role full-time for the rest of the year. Available funds were granted to be used in this way with special permission from the ministry. • ImmersArts Grant funds for culture (District cultural funds for French film for primary classes) For those not participating in the La Flo Franco Concert, they will be able to access additional funds.

OUR MISSION Empowering students to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who thrive in their learning, relationships, and community

OUR VISION Preparing students to become educated citizens who contribute positively to a dynamic, sustainable, and diverse world

OUR VALUES Belonging, Respect, Reconciliation, Empathy, Equity, Perseverance

3. Budget Updates <i>Continued</i>	• Additional resources for Core French at PVSS and JLJ That's how that money got reallocated, but there was a little bit left over for: • Chromebooks for JLJ • DELFL training DELFL is an internationally recognized French language exam from France for core French and French immersion (FI). Students who pass can add a DELFL level to their resume. Passing the DELFL can also allows students to get the same rate as French citizens in France with tuition fees about \$500 per year.
4. French Funding Guide	Megan Weir shared the French Funding Guide with the committee. This is a new document that came from the Ministry in December that guides the district through to 2028-2029; sounds like they're still accepting feedback. Megan Weir highlighted the key differences with the committee: - Unspent monies will not carry forward – it is important to use the funding in the year it was allocated. This means not saving up for multi-year projects. - Incremental costs – this shows examples of how the French funding can be used for incremental costs. i.e. similar programs are offered in French and English, but the French program costs more; the incremental difference will be paid through District French funding (OLEP). - Core French reporting categories have changed – was more about how we allocate learning assistants, learning resources, core French and cultural – now Core French and FI are coupled and it's really around student learning and academic achievement. - Newly added section: Staffing Recruitment and Student Growth and Retention. School District No. 83 can fund a 1.0 FTE teacher or CEA position from our of French funding. - More information will be coming about the reporting requirements, which will be new to School District No. 83. It looks like it will look at reporting how the money spent translates in terms of student growth and engagement, improved reading results, etc. - French Teaching Assistant program is being revived and encouraged. This program funds two teaching assistants who are students in France who have completed their third year in a Bachelor of Education or Language, including French or English Literature. - French Ed Bursary Program – School District No. 83 has had local bursaries for our grads who have Core French for post-secondary education. This has changed so that it is specifically for post-secondary studies courses taught in French. - Online Learning Resources for K-7 – There is a free online reading tool that many have shared with their parents.

4. French Funding Guide <i>Continued</i>	- School districts with French Advisory Committees receive \$1,500 in additional funding. - French Immersion regional network – supports including teacher resources and professional development specific to FI. Megan Weir encouraged the committee members to discuss the French Funding Guide in break-out groups and to share afterwords about notes, wonders, questions and feedback. Trustee VanBuskirk provided feedback that she didn't see anything in the guide about having students on the French Advisory Committee and shared that she appreciated having student voices on the Committee. Trustee VanBuskirk also commented that she would like to see something formalizing the French Advisory Committee, as currently, she is attending as a guest of the committee. Megan Weir thanked Trustee VanBuskirk. Megan Weir discussed the implications of the 40% cap for a position, and noted that the district had to ask special permission to hire a Certified Education Assistant from January to June, but that that can't happen next year. 40% cap means that the District can't have a full-time CEA for the whole year, so that has limitations. Amanda Tait noted that their breakout group also talked about the budget of 40% and explained that the 40% cap seems pragmatic but is very hindering. This break out group also discussed the French bursary and noted disappointment with the changes that it will only be available for grads pursuing French programs, as it is less likely to go to a kid in our community. Megan Glasser shared for their breakout group. Megan Glasser noted that she had gotten to utilize these types of scholarships but that it was quite a process to apply for it and that it would be great to see some money set aside locally as opposed to provincially. Rebecca Scott shared for their breakout group about the allocation of funds. It looks like the Ministry has taken away the difference for Core French; French Immersion (FI), no direct parameters. Their group noted that it seemed grey about what needs to go where and would like more clarification around the parameters. Megan Weir noted that she had the same wonder around how they calculate the funding for core French versus French Immersion. The committee discussed the teaching assistant program. There were some concerns about the availability of accommodation/lodging for the teaching assistants, and what transportation might look like in a rural community. The committee discussed solutions, such as a partnership with Okanagan College or homestay. It was also noted that this is for French post-secondary students
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4. French Funding Guide <i>Continued</i>	who are looking for language experience, and they may not be coming with background in a teaching program. Megan Weir thanked the committee for their feedback.
5. Exciting Events and New News (School teams)	<u>District</u> Megan Weir presented information about the following: • Le Flo Franco concert (gr. 4-11) : March 7 To take place at SMS, this was originally planned for grades 6-12 but the Grade 12s are done in French, and this has been opened up to grades 4-5. Students are excited for the concert. • Collaboration: time for FI staff gr. 8-12 to meet for a half day This is around conversations that started last year and are continuing. As reconfiguration unfolds, this gives affected staff time to connect, enjoy each other's company, share ideas, and start conversations. • April 7 Pro D: FI Conversations & Collaborations This bubbled up from grass roots and will be a school based professional development day. Many FI staff will come together to talk about scope, successful strategies, everything to do with FI. <u>Bastion</u> Megan Weir presented information about the following: • One to one reading: Jan-June with CEA/in class support There has been an exception to go above 40% for this year, so there has been CEA/in class support with one-to-one reading that will continue until the end of June. • French Film for K-3 FI students: March 11 This is available thanks to additional funding. • Malicounda Drumming at Bastion (with CPF support): March 12 Megan Weir thanked Canadian Parents for French (CPF) for their support and for funding for the Malicounda Drumming at Bastion. <u>Shuswap Middle</u> Amanda Tait presented information about the following: • Reconfiguration: There has been some turmoil with reconfiguration as it means many changes for SMS. • Mani Musical: SMS has started Mani Musical in many classrooms. Students like the music and are very excited, especially with Le Flo Franco coming up. Free resources are also helpful for teachers. • Quebec Trip Students are getting excited for the Quebec trip. Amanda Tait shared information about the fundraising efforts. • Assistance in classroom Amanda Tait shared that she's been enjoying support of Madison Dickie in her classroom to help with teaching one block a week.

5. Exciting Events and New News (School teams) <i>Continued</i>	Late FI Parent Meeting Parent meeting will be coming up next Thursday (February 27, 2025). Information sessions with grade 5 students. One has already happened and there will be another one next week on Tuesday (February 25, 2025). <u>J.L. Jackson</u> Megan Weir presented information about the following: Mani musical The grade 9's like it a lot. Breakfast Had a great breakfast with all students at Jackson. Want to do another one before the end of the year. Thrilled to have them staying at Jackson. Create community, eventually have them as students for 5 years. <u>Salmon Arm Secondary</u> Martine Dollak presented information about the following: - Grade 12 just finished their last semester in FI, super fun. DELF Most of our students challenged the DELF and there was a success rate of 86%. One takeaway was that students did very strong on the aural component, and the students who needed improvements saw room for improvement with the written component. Understanding this is helpful to address these issues. France Trip Martine Dollack shared the excitement around the France Trip, and some of the plans for the trip, including that the SD83 group happens to have the opportunity to join up with Vernon for part of the trip, which is fantastic to help create memories and opportunities for new friendships. Martine Dollack also shared information about some of the fundraising efforts. Reconfiguration Martine Dollack also shared concerns around reconfiguration and its impacts on the number of students in French Immersion students and what that means for a couple of staff, as well as questioning what will happen with the resource materials for FI, and whether they will also move with the program. Assistant Superintendent Guillou shared that Superintendent Kriger is visiting the schools that will be impacted to determine these kinds of issues and come up with a plan that works for everyone. She also shared that those materials would have to move, though decisions about equipment will be made at the school level. As for staffing, no decisions have yet been made. Megan Weir encouraged the committee to help champion the program back at their sites.
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6. Round table thoughts on improving French programming (open)	Megan Weir expressed her appreciation for the conversation and welcomed the committee to reach out if there are questions.
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Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.