

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Review of French Second Language (FSL) Programming

Background:

In 2011-2012, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the French Second Language (FSL) programs (Core and Immersion), with the goal to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality and sustainable programs. This will coincide with the implementation of a refreshed French as a Second Language Curriculum from the Ministry of Education.

The review included literature research, analyzing other jurisdictional practices and public and internal input to both the Core and Immersion programs. Public input was sought through an independent organization, which conducted telephone interviews, an online survey and targeted focus groups with school councils. Internal input was gathered through focus groups and surveys, which included staff and students. Following the data gathering and analysis components of the review, the FSL Lead Team, chaired by K. Thurston, Director of Education, received and reviewed recommendations put forward by its FSL Advisory committee, chaired by Pat Zrihen, Principal on Assignment.

Director of Education K. Thurston, presented the final findings of the FSL Review with action items to continue to provide high-quality, sustainable French language programs to staff and trustees in June 2012.

Rationale:

This report is a summary of the key findings of the FSL Review, and operational changes to be communicated in 2012-2013 and implemented in 2013-2014.

Core French:

- Infuse French in the primary grades through various subjects in an authentic way.
- Raise the profile of French in all schools (for example, in assemblies, opening exercises, newsletter, bilingual signing, character traits posters) and promote the benefit of knowing both Canada's official languages.
- Focus on authentic oral language use.
- Provide varied professional learning opportunities for Core French teachers with a focus on co-work and differentiation.
- Integrate technology effectively to engage students and to provide authentic and relevant topics of conversations.

French Immersion:

- Establish consistency among all schools in YRDSB (both in hours and subjects).
- Ensure consistency in special education services and accommodations.
- Use existing vacant pupil spaces to create a variety of dual track programs.

Estimated Cost:

Not applicable.

Timeline:

The final findings of the FSL Review will be implemented for the 2013-2014 school year, which provides the 2012-2013 school year to put in place necessary supports and logistics, including communication internally and to the public.

Recommendation:

That the York Region District School Board receive the Review of French Second Language (FSL) Programming report for information.

Communications/Implementation Plan:

A comprehensive communication plan will be developed and implemented over the 2012-2013 school year and executed commencing in the 2013-2014 school year. These timelines are consistent with previous reports to the Board.

Appended Data:

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Thurston
Director of Education

Date: September 19, 2012

For further information, please contact Pat Zrihen, Principal on Assignment, Licinio Miguelo, Manager, Public Affairs and Communications, or Director of Education Ken Thurston.