

French Advisory Committee - MINUTES

Thursday February 20, 2024

Time : 1:00-2:30

Venue : MSS Conference Room

In Attendance: Marcy, Kassie, Ayla, Shanavi, Lara, Josée, Nicole S, John, Nicole M-S, Maria Brandon, Presley, Lillian, Adriane & Jane (via Teams/Zoom)

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

- a. Adriane

2. Events & News

- a. Maple Man
 - i. Successful event for French Immersion students and FSL students from Bench, Nicola Canford and Diamond Vale.
 - ii. Would like to offer a Maple Man visit to Vermilion Forks & include PSS FSL students next year
- b. Carnaval
 - i. Successful event for Collettsville
- c. Pre-K French for a day/Ready Set Learn – Nicole MS
 - i. Nicole M-S with help from grade 7s hosted 5 Pre-K events at 3 Strong Start Classrooms and twice at Collettsville
 - ii. Nicole M-S, Brandon, Lara and Carmin hosted a FI information night
 - iii. Daniella and Marni with help from Nicole hosted Ready Set Learn at Collettsville
- d. Quebec Trip 2025 and 2026 Updates
 - i. Great trip with some unique experiences for staff, students and parents
- e. LeFLOFRANCO – Nicole MS
 - i. AWESOME concert for grade 5-12 F.I. students and grade 8-12 FSL students
 - ii. Both artists were very interactive and great with the students
 - iii. Great event to promote French and be proud to be French speakers
- f. Visits to CCFO – Nicole MS
 - i. Nicole M-S will send out options and dates to CV staff and Josée
- g. French Education Assistant from France – Nicole MS
 - i. Nicole M-S is in the process of securing an assistant for the 2025/2026 school year
 - ii. Will need to find an accommodation/host family

3. OLEP Funding and French Immersion Growth Grant

- a. Videographer (Final Stages)
- b. French Speaking TA (In progress)
- c. French Advisory Committee (Done)
- d. Complete Program Review (Done)
- e. Cultural Field Trips (In progress)
- f. Purchasing Resources (On going)
- g. Professional Development (On going)
- h. Online courses (Moved \$ into Purchasing Resources)
- i. Pre-K Symposiums (Done...will support K orientation)
- j. Support for F.I. teachers (On going)

4. Supporting FI students transition to the high school

-Josée and MSS students will host 2-3 visits for grade 7 students

March: Wednesday 12th
April: Wednesday 16th?
May: Wednesday 14th?

5. Supporting FI Graduating students

- Nicole MS gave a summary of her meetings with FI grads and Dave Anderson
 - Key points :
 - Explained the introduction of the new achievement chord vs honour chord (categories, application process, etc)
 - Nicole M-S suggested giving FI graduates a pin to wear to honour/acknowledge graduates...this idea was discouraged by DA
- Open for input from committee
- Nicole shared ideas from other southern interior school districts
 - Special dinner for FI staff & graduates
 - « Nuit Blanche » everyone dresses in white, fancy meal
 - Pin from Canadian Parents for French

Notes from committee input/discussion :

Student voice :

- Proud to be a French Immersion student and part of the French Immersion community.
- F.I. is a big part of their educational career, yet not feeling like it's being showcased/valued
- Want to be proudly represented

Parent Voice :

- K-12 program/commitment
- Want to have children acknowledged
- Suggestion to physically give 2 « certificates » when graduates cross the stage

Teacher Voice :

- Make sure to explain the meaning of Dual Dogwood to audience (Established title of « French Immersion Dual Dogwood »)
- The program should not be comparable to other programs like Trades. This is a K-12 commitment with big effort and sacrifices

Admin Voice :

- New Achievement Cord idea was in progress last year
- Would like to acknowledge more than academic achievements
- Shine a light on greatness areas/kids doing great things – going above & beyond
- What represents you the best/most important to your educational career/experience
- students will cross stage, name announced, student write up will be read, a statement acknowledging the graduate is receiving a «French Immersion Dual Dogwood » will be made.

Trustee Voice :

- Hearing that parents/students feel that students have not been recognized in the past and that they are currently not being adequately recognized
- We should explain to the community the value of the Dual Dogwood
- District can demonstrate that it respects and values the FI program
- We don't know what each student has gone through to achieve their Dogwood
- These students have « Earned it »

6. Recruitment

- Online French Education Job Fairs-Make a future: February 27, June 5

7. State of French Immersion Program

Grade 6/7 students are without a French speaking teacher, Readiness to enter to FI at the High school, Second French Immersion teacher for high school, what does the future look like for the SD 58 FI students?, etc

What came out of the discussion :

- FI staff/French Coordinator need to be informed/involved with decisions as they know the program
- Staff working with many learning capacities/levels and will meet student needs
- Parents want to know how things work/be kept up to date
- Make an admin/district «Update Section» in the monthly L'action Française! Newsletter

8. Alumni Spotlights

- Nicole M-S shared first drafts of two of the spotlights and committee liked the product
- Would like to include first spotlight with our April «L'action Française!»

9. How to spend final \$ in FAC account

- Year end celebration for French Immersion Program
- 42 years of French Immersion in our community
- Last celebration was 35th anniversary
- Incorporate celebrating our F.I. Graduates

Date/Time: Thursday May 15

- Create a Sub committee to plan the rest of the details (Location, entertainment, food/refreshments, guest list, etc.)

10. Action items from last meeting

Completed :

- Nicole M-S/Josée ask our senior French Immersion students if they would like to sit on our committee (Marcy, Kassie in attendance)
- Nicole M-S set dates for Pre-K French for a day events (Done – January 14, 21, 27 Feb 4, 6, 13, 18)
- Nicole M-S/Josée set dates for grade 7 visits to MSS
- Nicole S will share her manager's info and Jane will see if we are permitted to display flyers/posters/pamphlets
- Nicole M-S will continue to move forward with alumni spotlights
- Nicole M-S will ask Barb McLean for calendar of virtual job fairs for French Immersion teachers
- Nicole/Adriane reserve MSS board room for FAC meeting on February 20th

In progress :

- Nicole M-S compile documentation to create “French Immersion Page” on the SD 58 website. Send this to Jane/Simone to have website updated.
- Adriane/staff involved with MSS graduation – establish how to recognize for FI graduates at commencement ceremony
- Jane will send out the summary of the equity survey/why families are not choosing FI or leaving the program to FAC members via email
- Nicole M-S will set up a zoom meeting with the FAC from Salmon Arm
- Set date for celebration of our FI program hosted by FAC (Nicole will email FAC)
- Jane will send out summary of FI Review to FAC once CV staff has seen the report

11. Promo Videos

- No time to share
- Would like to do a « unveiling of the videos » with students and staff before sharing publicly

12. Round Table –

- No Time

13. Confirm next meeting date

Thursday May 29 @ 1:00pm @ SBO

14. New Action Items

- Nicole M-S will send out options and dates to CV staff and Josée
- Nicole M-S will need to find an accommodation/host family for French Language Assistant
- Nicole M-S will create sub committee for French Immersion celebration
- Adriane follow up with Dave Anderson about grad ceremony & possibility of French Immersion pin
- Nicole/Jane will book SBO conference room for Thursday May 29 @ 1:00