

French Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES

October 29, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:30

Venue: Collettsville Elementary Library

Attendance

-Dave Anderson, Brandon Sambrook, Jory Berthelet, Sara Derosiers, Josée Warren, Nicole Schulte, Maria Thuveson, Misty Sheldon

-Absent: John Chenoweth

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

-Land Acknowledgement (Misty)

-Round table for member introductions

Meeting Norms/Terms of Reference

-Quick read through of the updated document (Nicole)

New French Immersion Staff

-Lexi Clarke (EA at Collettsville)

Events & News

-Language Coordinator Conference – Sept 26

-Malicounda – Sept 29

-L'action Française! - monthly

-Private & Public Collettsville Facebook Page – updated regularly

-Carnaval – January 26-30

-Québec Trip – April 20-24

-Éloïz Concert– April 23

Current Enrollement

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Kindergarten	14	6	15
Grade 1	14	15	6
Grade 2	20	12	14
Grade 3	12	20	12
Grade 4	15	10	19
Grade 5	24	15	10
Grade 6	18	22	15
Grade 7	9	14	20
Grade 8	5	9	9
Grade 9	13	1	7
Grade 10	4	12	2
Grade 11/12	8	4	11
Dual/Dogwood Grads	?	9	4
Total	156	149	144

OLEP Funding and French Immersion Growth Grant

***OLEP Fund ***

- Flexibility with OLEP fund to move \$ between five categories.
- This budget cannot be carried over to the next school year – needs to be spent by the end of June

\$80,946.00 (Divided between 5 categories)

Student Learning and Academic Achievements

This category supports student success by developing and purchasing French language learning resources and funding teacher collaboration to create materials—all aimed at enhancing literacy, numeracy, and overall academic growth in French.

Cultural Activities

This category promotes cultural engagement through partnerships with Francophone organizations, school-wide cultural events, and field trips, helping students experience and connect with French language and culture both locally and nationally.

Teacher Retention and Professional Learning

This category enhances teacher capacity and job satisfaction by funding professional development, mentorship, and resource acquisition, ensuring educators are supported in delivering high-quality French instruction.

Staffing and recruitment

This category focuses on attracting and retaining qualified French Immersion and Core French teachers, as well as expanding program offerings to meet student demand and strengthen French education across the district.

Program growth and student retention

This category encourages program sustainability and student engagement through promotion of bilingualism, transition support between grades, parent information sessions, and opportunities that build students' sense of belonging in French programs.

French Immersion Growth Grant

10 prescribed initiatives below (Finishing Spending in 2025/2026)

- 1. Hire videographer to create promotional video for FI program (*Done*)**
- 2. Hire French speaking qualified Education Assistant (*Part-time posting currently open*)**
- 3. Plan & Form a French Advisory Committee (*Done*)**
- 4. Complete a FI program review (*Done*)**
- 5. Cultural Field Trips in and around BC & Canada (*On Going*)**
- 6. Purchase FI resources (*On Going*)**

7. Offer pedagogy and engagement specific training for FI teachers (*On going*)
8. Sourcing & purchasing French online courses (*Moved \$ to Grant #6*)
9. Facilitate “French for a Day” Pre-K symposium at daycares to promote the intake of FI students (*On going*)
10. Co-teaching support for French Immersion teachers (CV & MSS) (*On going*)

Other Items

a. Student & Parent Voice Meetings

- i. Opportunity to hear from more voices
 1. Primary Group, Intermediate group, High school group
 2. Give questions to staff – help students prepare before meetings
 3. Will inform parents that their child will be participating
- ii. February & May – before FAC meetings
- iii. Note: multiple sources have commended the quality of our FI students’ oral abilities

b. Supporting FI program at high school/Student Retention

- i. Information sessions - November & March
 1. November session: General French Immersion Information
 - a. What are the benefits/value of F.I.
 - b. Bring awareness to the full program
 2. March session: Grade 7 transition to MSS FI information
 - a. Address questions/concerns/misconceptions
 - b. Value of continuing the FI journey
 3. ADDITION: MSS Open House - November 20 - 6:00-8:00
 - a. Have a table set up in the multi-purpose room
 - b. PR opportunity, answer questions, etc.
- ii. Student engagement
 1. Jory and Josée working on a yearlong collaborative project with 6/7s and MSS FI students

c. Dual Dogwood Graduates Celebration

- i. Review of last year’s event
 1. Last year was a two-part event: FI celebration and Dual Dogwood ceremony/Dinner
 2. Both parts of the event were very appreciated by F.I families
- ii. What could this look like this year
 1. Dual Dogwood Ceremony & dinner
 2. Invite FI community to ceremony but mainly a rite of passage for our graduates
 3. Dinner for graduates, their families and FI staff
 4. Stick with an early June date and make it an evening event

5. Ask four graduates for input on their preferred date and hopes for the event
- iii. Subcommittee
 1. Will form a sub committee at February meeting
 2. Roles: Catering, décor/setup, pins, coordinating grads, etc.
- d. Publicity
 1. School District Website/French Immersion Information
 - i. Would like more information for families currently in FI or considering FI
 1. What FI looks like in SD 58
 2. Frequently asked questions
 3. Links to articles/info on the benefits of FI
 4. Promotional videos
 5. Parent/Staff/Student testimonials
 6. Ensure it is clear our FI program is K-12
 2. Promotional Videos
 - a. Colletville/MSS/SD 58 Facebook pages, CV/MSS/SD 58 websites
 1. "Pin" the videos at the top of Facebook page
 - b. Can the link be shared with FI job postings?
 - c. Nicole will send videos to Joanne Brunel for SILC site
 3. Alumni spotlights
 - a. Where/how to share
 1. Social media, in schools, L'Action Française!
 - b. Make a FI bulletin board outside of Josée's classroom
 1. Alumni posters
 2. Blow up Newsletter
 3. Anything to build FI pride
 4. Other ways to share information about F.I. program
 - a. "Hi Neighbor" program- United Way (Sara D)
 - b. The Y at E-Free Church
 - c. Health Unit (Nicole S)
 - d. French Immersion Facebook Page
 - a. Keep current FI families in the loop
 - b. PR with new families to our community
 - e. Could the city of Merritt promote our schools?
 - a. Add a schools section on their website
 - b. Digital board up at Gasoline Alley
- e. Québec Trip
 - i. 2025 Trip = 14 grade 6/7 students / April 20-24
 - ii. 14-15 participants keeps the price point at approximately \$3000/each
 - iii. Considering offering the trip every other year to grade 6/7 groups – allows for larger groups, more planning time and more time to fundraise
- f. Idea from last year: Addition to CCFO year-end field trip

- i. Find pen pals for the school year and meet up in May/June
- ii. Good opportunity to develop writing skills
- iii. Great opportunity to meet other French speakers/use oral French

Establish meeting dates/times for February & May

- g. Wednesday February 25 @ MSS (**Dave** will book the conference room)
- h. Thursday May 14 date @ SBO (**Misty** will book the large board room)

Action Items

- i. **Dave** send Nicole information about MSS Open House November 20
- j. **Sara** find information on “Hi Neighbour” program
- k. **Nicole M-S** get FI Kindergarten-Graduation data
- l. **Nicole M-S** make a FI Facebook Page
- m. **Nicole M-S** set up FI Bulletin Board
- n. **Nicole M-S** communicate about Student/Parent voice sessions
- o. **Nicole M-S** communicate about FI information sessions
- p. **Nicole M-S** create PR/Kiosk presentation for November 20
- q. **Nicole M-S** create FI presentation for December 2
- r. **Nicole M-S** compile documents/info for FI page/website
- s. **Nicole M-S** ask Jory/Merrill/Caroline about pen pals
- t. **Nicole M-S** reach out to four dual dogwood graduates
- u. **Nicole M-S** continue FI Alumni Spotlights
- v. **Nicole M-S** send out FI promotional videos

Important/Suggested dates

Thursday November 20 – MSS Open House

December 2 – French Immersion Information Session 6:30-7:30

Thursday January 8 – Strong Start Visit #1

Wednesday January 14 – Strong Start Visit #2

Thursday January 22 – Strong Start Visit #3

Tuesday February 3 – Kindergarten Information Session @ CV 6:30-7:30

Thursday February 5 – Pre-K Event @ CV 4:30-5:30

Thursday February 12 - Pre-K Event @ CV 9:30-10:30

Thursday February 19 – Student voice meetings CV & MSS –ALL DAY

Thursday February 19 – Parent voice meetings CV & MSS –7:30-8:30pm

Wednesday March 11 – Grade 7 French Immersion Information Session

Tuesday May 12 – Student voice meetings CV & MSS –ALL DAY

Thursday May 14 – Parent voice meetings CV & MSS –6:30-7:30pm

June 1/2/8/9 (TBD) - Dual Dogwood Ceremony –5:30-6:00 & Dinner 6:00-7:30