



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR THE NORTH-WEST QUADRANT

“And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different tongues, as the spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

(acts 2:4)

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First Tabling

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Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

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RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a recommendation for a school location for the French Immersion program in the north-west quadrant part of the city that will accommodate the French Immersion needs of the St. Conrad Community. After reviewing schools based on the French Immersion criteria, St. Robert is being recommended for the introduction of a French Immersion program in the north-west quadrant. Further consultation with school community will need to take place once this location option is approved by board.

B. PURPOSE

This report responds to a motion moved at the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 22, 2015. The purpose of the report is to recommend a school location for the French Immersion program in the north-west Quadrant of the city that will accommodate the French Immersion needs of the St. Conrad Community.

C. BACKGROUND

1. On June 5, 2012, a report was presented to Board regarding French Immersion programs in TCDSB schools. The report concluded that there was a need to consider an expansion of the program or in some instances, relocation.
2. On November 1, 2012, at the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting, an action plan was outlined to help inform the potential expansion of French Immersion programs in the TCDSB, focusing on dual-track French Immersion programs.
3. On December 4, 2012 a report was presented to the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee. The report recommended the expansion of FI programming to alleviate crowding in schools with FI programs, and to provide French language programming in parts of the city currently under-represented

4. On December 4, 2012 at the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting, trustees requested information regarding the benefits of single-track FI programming models.
5. On February 7, 2013 at the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting, trustees requested options for expansion of FI sites that include: an examination of the current location of FI program sites in the TCDSB and TDSB; school sites in Ward 11 and central Toronto; a review of ARC results; the possibility of offering the FI program before considering a school closure; a review of the distribution of the FI sites across the city.
6. On December 3, 2013, at the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting, recommendations were made for oversubscribed French Immersion Program schools. Staff was directed to investigate possible solutions for the oversubscribed French Immersion Program at St. Cyril Catholic School.
7. A trustee motion arising out of the Corporate Affairs, Strategic Planning and Property Committee of January 23, 2014 was referred to staff to investigate the feasibility of a French Immersion program at St. Conrad Catholic School.
8. On March 6, 2014, at the Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee Meeting, a five year plan was recommended by staff which listed St. Conrad as a French Immersion site commencing in the 2016-17 school year.
9. On December 2, 2014, at the Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee Meeting, a motion was passed to select St. Conrad as the location for a French Immersion program during the 2016-2017 school year and that students in Junior and Senior Kindergarten in 2015 be included in the French Immersion program.
10. A Consideration of Motion out of the Regular Board meeting on October 22, 2015 rescinded the previous motion of March 6, 2014 regarding the selection of St. Conrad as the site for a French Immersion program. Arising from an amendment to this Motion, staff was directed to research other

options for the French Immersion program in the north-west quadrant of the city that will accommodate the French Immersion needs of the St. Conrad Community.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Currently there are no French Immersion programs in the north-west quadrant of the city. An Extended French Program exists at the following schools in this area: D'Arcy McGee, All Saints, and St. Benedict.
2. There are 7 TDSB Early Immersion programs and 4 Extended French Programs in the north-west quadrant of the city.
3. There continues to be an increasing demand for French Immersion programs across the city, as described in recent news articles.
4. Parents in the St. Conrad community have requested that staff consider an alternate location for a French Immersion program in close proximity to St. Conrad CS.
5. The closest TCDSB French Immersion program resides at St. Cyril (Ward 5). St. Cyril is currently oversubscribed with a utilization rate of 12.9%. There are 189 students living in the north-west quadrant who are registered at St. Cyril, with only 9 of these students living west of highway 400.
6. Schools in the north-west quadrant, near the St. Conrad community were considered based on the French Immersion selection criteria outlined below:

The establishment of a French Immersion program is governed by Toronto Catholic District School Board Policy S.P. 10. In addition, selection criteria (*Appendix B*) are applied when potential French Immersion start-up sites are being considered. These include [but are not limited to] the following considerations:

- Utilization rate: less than 75% (current and projected)
- Capacity: should be around 400-500 for a Dual-track FI program school

- Current school population
- Size of school building and property
- Enrolment to ensure a self-sustaining dual-track program: minimum of 400 students
- Boundary review completed/in progress
- Enrolment and utilization rate of neighbouring English program schools
- Available classrooms: Minimum of 5 classrooms for a fully established FI program (e.g., JK/SK, Gr. 1 / 2; Gr. 3/4; Gr. 5/6; Gr. 7 / 8)
- Parent demand following consultation (e.g., survey results)
- Space for further expansion due to parent demand
- Existing specialized programs
- Existing lease agreements
- Proximity of other TCDSB English program schools
- Proximity to FI and Extended French program schools in other Boards
- Proximity to Secondary school offering a FI program
- Childcare; before and after school program
- Sufficient Board budget funds have been allocated to support the implementation of the FI program.

7. The school that is being recommended in this report for a French Immersion Program is St. Robert for the following reasons:

- St. Robert, a school in the north-west quadrant of the city, is 7.2 km from St. Conrad (7 minute drive)
St. Robert is in close proximity (9.7 km from St. Cyril – 19 Minutes) to St. Cyril, which is currently oversubscribed. An additional French Immersion program in this area could relieve some of the enrolment pressures at St. Cyril.(Appendix A)
- 7.2% of population in this area have knowledge of English and French, which is the highest among schools in the north-west quadrant.
- There are no schools in the north-west quadrant that are below the 75% utilization rate criteria for French Immersion.

- Currently, St. Robert has 585 students registered, representing a utilization rate of 116%. St. Robert does have a downward enrolment trend.
- Past trends indicate that most students registered in French Immersion programs live in areas clustered around the school. A French Immersion program at St. Robert would be able to draw from the incoming FDK students.
- St. Robert has an expansive property which can accommodate additional portables or potentially an addition should the introduction of the program require additional classrooms.

E. VISION

VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
To create equitable learning environments for all students we will be providing equal access to learning and technology and strive to close the opportunity gap so that the most vulnerable students achieve their full potential.	All students in TCDSB schools across the city will have equitable access to all programs.	To introduce a French Immersion Program in the north-west quadrant of the city where none currently exists.

F. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Consultation with the school community to assess interest in a French Immersion program at St. Robert CS.
2. Staff will bring a report to Board in the spring outlining the results of the consultation with the St. Robert Community and recommend whether to initiate a French Immersion Program. Board to have a final vote based on the consultation findings.

G. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. Carry out consultation with the St. Robert CS community.

2. Bring final recommendation, with analysis, back to board for consideration and a final vote.

H. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board approve the preliminary identification of St. Robert CS as the location for the French Immersion program.
2. That staff begin the consultation process with the St. Robert CS Community and return with a report to Board in the spring, outlining the findings of the consultation. Board will then have a final vote on whether to move forward with the introduction of a French Immersion Program at St. Robert.