



REPORT TO

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

LONG-TERM PROGRAM PLAN - RESULTS OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR FRENCH IMMERSION SITES

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Romans 13:1 | NIV |

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
January 31, 2017	February 2, 2017	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 uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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Associate Director of Academic Affairs

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Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

Angela Gauthier

Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The draft Long-Term Program Plan (LTPP) was approved in principle by the Board of Trustees on October 20, 2016, subject to consultation and gathering feedback. The consultation survey period was initiated on November 16, 2016 and concluded on January 13, 2017. Consultation consisted of direct communications to organizations such as CPIC, OAPCE, CSPC Chairs, and the TCDSB system, a virtual town hall, presentations to specific groups, and an online consultation survey.

In consideration of the annual French Immersion registration pressures presently being felt across the TCDSB, and without information about the approved new French Immersion sites, staff analysis of the proposed implementation of new French Immersion sites is being expedited. Contingency measures have been developed that, once approval for new sites is provided, will directly communicate with and re-engage families seeking placement in French Immersion for Kindergarten for September 2017.

Results of the consultation process specifically related to proposed French Immersion programs are provided, along with unfiltered comments. The comments have been organized into 4 themes for ease of reference.

This report will provide revised recommendations for the implementation in September 2017 of French Immersion sites at six (6) elementary schools and one (1) secondary school.

The cumulative staff time required for the preparation of this report was 18 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. To provide information and stakeholder feedback related to the LTPP consultation survey period, which was initiated on November 16, 2016 and concluded on January 13, 2017.
2. To make recommendations for the successful implementation of French Immersion programs at elementary and secondary schools for September 2017.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **October 20, 2016** – At the Regular Board meeting, the draft Long-Term Accommodation and Program Plan (LTAPP) was approved for consultation.
2. **November 16, 2017 - January 13, 2017** – Stakeholder consultation undertaken.
 - a. **November 16** – Launch of LTAP/LTPP consultation:
 - Board-wide system email invitation announcing GO LIVE for TCDSB mini-website hosting online LTAP and LTPP survey, and featuring online tools such as confidential comment box, Ask the Director page, opportunity to submit questions in advance to Nov. 23 Virtual Town Hall.
 - Special Spotlight graphic on LTAP/LTPP information on main TCDSB web page and all school websites. Contained all LTAP and LTPP Board reports, presentations and information resources, contained in broad communication to the entire TCDSB system including all CPIC members, chair, OAPCE, CSPCs.
 - Direct e-mail communication delivered to all key TCDSB stakeholders across the system including Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC), Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education-Toronto (OAOCE), all Catholic School Parent Council Chairs, and Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT).
 - Archdiocese informed and all local parishes advised of consultation via email to include notice in church bulletins.
 - Public Service Announcement to community calendars for inclusion in local newspapers was published in SNAPd and the Scarborough Mirror-Etobicoke Guardian.
 - b. **November 23** – A Virtual Town Hall Information session with over 100 online viewers. It consisted of a formal presentation, followed by the answering of 53 questions by staff panel in 90 minutes.
 - c. **December 5** – staff presentations to CSLIT and OAPCE
 - d. **December 19** – staff presentation to CPIC
 - e. **January 11** – staff presentation to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

- f. **November 16 - January 13** – online stakeholder consultations hosted for duration of 2 month consultation. Reminder to engage in LTAP/LTPP surveys promoted weekly through TCDSB E-News and Twitter began on November 15th, and continued throughout the duration of the consultation period.
3. To overcome language and cultural barriers, the Communications and IT teams refined and customized the standard Google Translator web tool to embed it as a large button on the survey page to ensure its visibility for use by non-English language users. (Google Translator tool normally sits on the top menu bar on most websites).
4. The main goal of this consultation process was to increase transparency and inclusiveness in order to capture the views of all TCDSB community members by overcoming language, cultural and socio-economic access barriers. Several online web-based communications tools were deployed to support the consultation process sessions. This was achieved by dedicating a section of the TCDSB website that hosts a micro-site focused on the LTAP/LTPP consultations.
5. **January 18, 2017** – TCDSB began its student registration for the 2017-2018 school year. Inquiries were received regarding registration for French Immersion programs as well as about potential new French Immersion sites for September 2017, as per the recommendations in the Long Term program Plan Report of October 20, 2016.
6. **January 26, 2017** – At the Regular Board meeting, Trustees approved a motion that:
Staff bring an Action Report to the Student Achievement and Well-Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee, February 2, 2017. This report will deal specifically with recommendations for new French Immersion programs, extracted from the consultation feedback received.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

7. The draft Long Term Program Plan, approved in principle by the Board on October 20, 2016, recommended the implementation of French Immersion (FI) programs in elementary schools occur in three (3) phases, as outlined in the **Table 1** below:

Table 1: ORIGINAL LTPP RECOMMENDATIONS

2017	2018	Later Phase (year)
Cardinal Leger	St. Alphonsus	Railway Lands elementary (2019)
St. Benedict	St. Brigid	St. Monica (2024)
St. Eugene	St. Gerald	Bloor-Dundas elementary (2025)
St. Jerome	St. Jane Francis	Beaches-Waterfront elementary (2029)
St. John	St. Mary	
St. Vincent de Paul	The Holy Trinity	

LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

8. Online stakeholder consultation surveys were initiated on November 16, 2016 and concluded on January 13, 2017 and 481 responses were received to date for the Long Term Program Plan, as shown in **Table 2** below. This sample size of respondents means the LTPP survey results are considered accurate 95% of the time, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5%.

Table 2:

Participant Groups		# Responses	% Responses
a.	Parent	217	45.1%
b.	Staff	154	32.0%
c.	Student	23	4.8%
d.	Catholic Ratepayer/ Community member	27	5.6%
e.	Other	60	12.5%
TOTAL:		481	100.0%

9. The survey results from the Long Term Program Plan for three (3) questions pertaining directly to French Immersion are provided in **Appendix A**. The survey questions and high level summary are presented as follows:
- i. In response to a growing demand for French Immersion (FI) programming, the Board is proposing to implement FI across the city according to the following phases: 2017 – Cardinal Leger, St. Benedict, St. Eugene, St. Jerome, St. John, St. Vincent de Paul.
Summary of consultation: Over 65% of respondents “Agree or Strongly Agree” with this recommendation.

- ii. The Board is proposing to implement an Extended French program at St. Angela Catholic School in 2017.

Summary of consultation: *Over 41% of respondents “Agree or Strongly Agree” with this proposal, with a majority expressing “No Opinion”.*

- iii. There is a growing demand to expand French Immersion (FI) programs in secondary schools. The implementation of French Immersion (FI) programs in secondary schools will occur in the following phases: 2017 Blessed Cardinal Newman C.S.S.

Summary of consultation: *Overall, 58% of respondents “Agree or Strongly Agree”, with students recording 86% support.*

10. Stakeholder comments explicitly related to French Immersion/Extended French programs were taken directly from the textboxes found at the end of the LTPP Survey. Overall, there were 44 comments related to French Immersion/Extended French programs. The comments have been organized into 4 themes for ease of reference. (**Appendix B**).
11. Common concerns expressed in the stakeholder consultation about offering new French Immersion programs included:
 - The board’s ability to hire qualified French teachers who could handle the demands of an immersion program.
 - Uncertainty about funding priorities to support FI schools
 - The need to provide additional supports for FI programming.
12. Superintendents consulted with school principals about the viability of offering French Immersion programs commencing in September 2017 and have incorporated suggestions for new programming accordingly.
13. Consultation with teachers’ unions occurred at the regularly scheduled Joint Staffing Committee meetings.
14. As of January 27, the Communications department has provided notification on the website that TCDSB will be expanding its French Immersion programs for September 2017. Once the new French Immersion schools are approved, the website will be updated with more specific information. This will be followed by a comprehensive communications plan to promote awareness, including issuing a media release to the general public and the use of social media to reach the TCDSB’s 23,200 followers on Twitter.

- 15. Once the new French Immersion schools are approved for September 2017, staff will communicate directly with families on waitlists for existing FI schools about French Immersion opportunities at the new schools or who have indicated an interest in a FI program and have registered in the local school.
- 16. Further, staff will develop a specific Student Online Application Registration for French Immersion (SOAR-FI) website to ensure ease of registration or re-registration at TCDSB French Immersion schools.
- 17. **Table 3** reviews the **REVISED** recommendations for French Immersion programs in elementary schools.

Table 3: Elementary FI Programs

2017	2018	Later Phase (year)
Cardinal Leger	St. Alphonsus	Railway Lands elementary (2019)
St. Benedict	St. Ambrose	St. Monica (2024)
St. Eugene	St. Brigid	Bloor-Dundas elementary (2025)
St. Gerald	St. Jane Francis	Beaches-Waterfront elementary (2029)
St. Jerome	St. Mary	St. John (2019)
St. Vincent de Paul		

- 18. Table 4 reviews the **REVISED** recommendations for French Immersion programs in secondary schools.

Table 4: Secondary FI Programs

2017	2018	Later Phase (2019-2029)
Bl. Cardinal Newman		Blessed Mother Teresa
		Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton
		Marshall McLuhan
		Msgr. Percy Johnson
		St. Basil the Great College

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1. Superintendents, Principals and IT staff will closely monitor registration into the JK/SK French Immersion programs.

2. Superintendents, Principals and IT staff will monitor the impact of French Immersion enrolment on the overall school population and the physical plant.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board of Trustees approve the creation of French Immersion sites at the following elementary schools for September 2017:
 - i. Cardinal Leger
 - ii. St. Benedict
 - iii. St. Eugene
 - iv. St. Gerald
 - v. St. Jerome
 - vi. St. Vincent de Paul
2. That the Board of Trustees delay the implementation of the Extended French program at St. Angela until 2018.
3. That the Board of Trustees approve the creation of a secondary French Immersion site at Blessed Cardinal Newman for September 2017.