



REPORT TO

SPECIAL BOARD

DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF BOARD APPROVED NEW FRENCH IMMERSION SITES

Your servant Joab did this to change the present situation. My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God – he knows everything that happens in the land. 2 Samuel 14:20

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
February 10, 2017	February 13, 2017	Click here to enter a date.

R. McGuckin, Associate Director of Academic Affairs

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.



R. McGuckin

Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

C. Jackson

Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

Angela Gauthier

Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting of February 2, 2017, the Board approved motions regarding the Long Term Program Plan for new French Immersion programs effective September 2017 and September 2018.

Arising out of specific situations with two (2) proposed French Immersion sites in Ward 10, there is a need to delay implementation pending further consultation. The sites are:

- Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S.
- St. Vincent de Paul C.S.

The specific situations surrounding each school will be described in this report.

This report will provide recommendations that the Board delay the implementation of the French program at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S. until 2018, and reconsider its decision to implement French Immersion programs at St. Vincent de Paul C.S. in September 2017, and delay the implementation to allow for a deeper consultation process as requested by the school community, with possible implementation in September 2018.

The cumulative staff time required for the preparation of this report was 7 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. To provide information about recent developments subsequent to the Board approved motions Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting of February 2, 2017 and recommend the delay for implementation of proposed French Immersion programs at St. Vincent de Paul C.S. and Bishop Marrocco/Merton C.S.S.

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 using a variety of community engagement and communications methods.
3. **February 2, 2017** – At the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee the Board approved motions regarding the Long Term Program Plan for new French Immersion schools effective September 2017 and September 2018:

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*
- vii. *That staff do the appropriate consultation on the creation of a French Immersion Program in Ward 11 that would serve the southeastern section of the City*

That the Board of Trustees approve the creation of French Immersion sites at the following elementary schools for September 2018:

- i. *St Alphonsus*
- ii. *St Ambrose*
- iii. *St Brigid*
- iv. *St Jane Frances*
- v. *St Mary*

That the Board of Trustees delay the implementation of the Extended French program at St. Angela until 2018.

That the Board of Trustees approve the creation of a secondary French Immersion site at Blessed Cardinal Newman and Bishop Marrocco /Thomas Merton for September 2017.

That the Board of Trustees approve the creation of French Immersion sites at St. Patrick's Secondary school

4. **February 3, 2017** – Staff discussion about the viability of implementing a French Immersion program at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S. given that application to TCDSB secondary schools occurred in November 2016, and offers of admission were scheduled for distribution on February 6, 2017.
5. **February 8, 2017** – Central and school staff provided rationale and past examples of successful implementation of French Immersion programs at elementary schools during the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) meeting. Parents at the meeting expressed concern about the implementation of a French Immersion program at the school for September 2017 until more consultation occurred.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

i. Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S.

6. Grade 8 student applications to TCDSB secondary schools occurred in November 2016. At that time, no Regional French Immersion program was listed for Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S., hence no applications were received for this program.
7. The Admissions department sorted all applications and created Nominal Rolls for all secondary schools. Student offers of admission were distributed on February 6, 2017. Given the annual secondary school application process, there are no students prepared to enter a French Immersion program for 2017-2018.
8. At the secondary level, sufficient time is required to advertise the program to surrounding elementary schools with French Immersion and Extended French programs.

ii. St. Vincent de Paul C.S.

9. St. Vincent de Paul currently hosts an Extended French program.
10. On February 8, 2017, staff presented about the French Immersion program to the Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) and other parents at a meeting. There was significant discussion about the suitability of the program and the

readiness of the school to implement this program in Kindergarten for September 2017. By the end of the meeting, the prevailing view was that more consultation spread over a longer period of time was required.

11. Given that the elementary school registration process had begun on January 18, 2017, and that the new French Immersion programs were approved on February 2, 2017, staff had developed a communication plan and implementation action plan for a re-registration process specific to the new French Immersion programs.
12. The development of elementary school models **must be completed no later than March 10, 2017** in order to meet staffing timelines contained in the Elementary Teachers' (TECT) Collective agreement. Failure to meet the staffing timelines will result in labour grievances.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Staff will work with the Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S. community to prepare for the implementation of a French Immersion program in September 2018 and engage in an extensive marketing strategy for the October 2017 Open House and Grade 8 Outreach campaign.
2. Staff will work with the St. Vincent de Paul C.S. community for further consultation about the French Immersion program over the next few months.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board of Trustees delay the implementation of the French Immersion program at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton C.S.S., pending further consultation, until September 2018.
2. That the Board of Trustees delay the implementation of a French Immersion program at St. Vincent de Paul C.S., pending further consultation, until September 2018.