



French Advisory Committee (FAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 5, 2024

Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Venue: DESC - Shuswap Lake Room

Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgment (Megan Weir)	Members present: Marianne VanBuskirk (Board Trustee), Michelle Guillou (Assistant Superintendent, HR), Emily Johnson (Recording Secretary), <u>Bastion Representation:</u> Megan Weir (Vice-Principal), Candy Martel (Teacher), Megan Hanson (parent rep), Julie Delcid (parent rep), <u>Shuswap Middle Representation:</u> Lara Matthews (Vice-Principal), Amanda Tait (Teacher), Emma Nieman (student rep), <u>J.L. Jackson Representation:</u> Gord Ritchie (Principal), Megan Glasser (teacher rep), Avery Mullins (student rep), <u>Salmon Arm Secondary Representation:</u> Rhys Waters (Vice-Principal), Martine Dollack (Teacher), Susan Lorenz (parent rep), Ben Bonthuys (student rep). Guests: Donna Krieger (Superintendent of Schools) Member regrets: Rebecca Scott (Shuswap Middle parent rep), Melinda Smyrle (J.L. Jackson parent rep)
2. Meeting Norms (Megan Weir)	First People's Principles of Learning as meeting norms for the committee to follow: -Respectful Communication (value discussions) -Be Present & Engaged -Assume Positive Intent of Others -Start and End Times Adhered To
3. Reconfiguration (Donna Krieger)	Megan Weir introduced Superintendent Kriger, who was invited to share information about reconfiguration as it relates to the role of the French Advisory Committee. Superintendent Kriger provided background about reconfiguration and the process that has gone into where SD83 is at with reconfiguration to date. Superintendent Kriger introduced the documents guiding the conversations about reconfiguration in the District: School District No. 83's Strategic Plan, which was developed in consultation with a variety of different stakeholder groups, including representation from Quelmúcw Education Council, students, parents, principals and vice principals, teachers, the North Okanagan-Shuswap Teacher's Association (union), CUPE, etc. Superintendent Kriger shared the importance of the mission, vision, and set of values that were developed with the strategic plan. Superintendent Kriger shared that there were 9 different messages/ themes in the strategic plan and shared a few key highlights from

3. Reconfiguration (Donna Kriger) (CONTINUED)	the plan that are absolutely critical for the ‘why’ around the proposals for reconfiguration: student focus, Indigenous focus, student growth, and Diversity, equity and inclusion. Superintendent Kriger shared that the Board made a decision at the June Board meeting to reconfigure the schools in Salmon Arm to a K-7, 8-12 model, which is widely considered to be educationally and developmentally sound and is more consistent with school districts in the rest of the province. Superintendent Kriger shared the feedback School District No. 83 had received relating to the French Immersion (FI) schools. Superintendent Kriger noted that the Board needs to make another important decision about reconfiguration at the November Board meeting, and that is whether to have two secondary (grade 8-12) schools in Salmon Arm, or three. Which option the Board of Trustees goes with will impact what happens with the FI programs and schools in Salmon Arm. Superintendent Kriger proceeded to share information about the proposals that go along with these two options, and the related impacts on the FI program, along with some background considerations. Currently, there are four dual-track (English and FI) schools in Bastion, Shuswap Middle School, J.L. Jackson, and Salmon Arm Secondary. Bastion has a capacity of 340 students and needs to be available to serve the surrounding English-speaking community (Bastion is the only elementary school north of the Trans-Canada Highway and enrolls approximately 200 English-speaking students). If the Board decides to go to a two secondary school model, it is very likely that SD83 will have one K-7 single-track FI school. Late FI would, in all likelihood, stay at Bastion. Early FI would likely be moved to South Broadview as it works best in terms of building size and location, however, it would need to be single-track (FI) because if it were dual-track, English enrolment could lead to three-grade split classes for English classes. At the Bastion PAC meeting, SD83 heard from parents that having a single-track FI school would be beneficial. Superintendent Kriger was clear that there is no perfect answer, but there is a correct one that will be good for kids and satisfy the rationale around reconfiguration. Amanda Tait agreed that if it has to be split, this is the best way. Superintendent Kriger noted that there will be changes to the catchment boundaries citywide. Hillcrest has had significant growth and has projections of future growth. The current students at South Broadview would likely move to the current Shuswap Middle School location or Bastion.
--	--

3. Reconfiguration (Donna Kriger) (CONTINUED)	Superintendent Kriger then shared information about what the reconfiguration will look like with a three secondary school model. In this case, there is more confined elementary school space. In that model, SD83 would very likely go to two dual-track schools, one to house late FI and one to house early FI as SD83 currently does not have the space to take on English and FI. Furthermore, some expansion projects may be needed at one of the elementary schools. There have not yet been decisions made about what secondary school would take on FI. However, SD83 is looking at a feeder school system, for example, students at Salmon Arm West will always transition into Salmon Arm Secondary – high school will be based on the elementary school the student attended. Superintendent Kriger reassured that reconfiguration has nothing to do with schools or school staff not doing a great job, they are doing a fantastic job! This is based on quantitative and qualitative data. Martine Dollack asked if resources purchased with federal grant funding for FI would move when reconfiguration goes forward – furniture or technology. Would they move with the teachers or stay in the current schools? Megan Weir noted that books and learning resources would move. Michelle Guillou agreed that technology, resources, music, books, that kind of thing, that would move with the program. Furniture is unlikely to move, although some will, as the size of furniture needed for secondary schools may be unsuitable for young elementary students. Candy Martel pointed out that FI likes working as a group and the schools like to interact for French activities. Candy's concern was that the FI schools would be more spread out and would be too far to walk to/from. Superintendent Kriger reiterated that there isn't going to be a model that's perfect and that there might be some of those conveniences that may just have to change. Superintendent Kriger explained that some change will start in 2025 and that there are two transition plans before the Board: one shows a gradual transition moving over FI as well as English Students, the other is an abrupt transition. The Board is also looking at whether the transition would be enacted at both Elementary and Secondary levels at the same time. However it moves forward, the Board will endeavour to not split up the graduating class, as the last year of high school is already difficult. Trustee VanBuskirk thanked Superintendent Kriger and the committee for the feedback. Trustee VanBuskirk was thankful that the due process was being
--	--

3. Reconfiguration (Donna Kriger) (<i>CONTINUED</i>)	taken, as the consultation and development of the strategic plan had been very informative for understanding what the community wants and needs and helped open the lines of communication about why and how this should move forward. The transitions, where kids have gone to 4 different schools through their time in the system, has been unhelpful and SD83 is losing students at each transition. SD83 is the only school district in the BC with this many transitions. Now that the consultation and communication has happened with the community, the Board is hearing that stakeholders just want the change to go forward quickly. The Board will ensure there is a mindful transition base on the strategic plan. Superintendent Kriger agreed that the strategic plan will be the guiding document to help enhance student experience in a developmentally sound way.
4. Terms of Reference (Megan)	Megan Weir shared the Terms of Reference with the committee for review and consideration.
5. District Mission & Vision (Megan)	Our Mission: Empowering students to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who thrive in their learning, relationships, and community. Our Vision: Preparing students to become educated citizens who contribute to a dynamic, sustainable, and diverse world. Mission and Vision as key pieces to keep in the background as the FAC moves forward.
6. Staffing Updates	Megan Weir shared information about new hires to SD83 in the FI program: French Monitor: Federal Odyssey Program • Leyla Ramic ○ From Sherbrook, QC, teaching Kindergarten to Grade 9 at Bastion, Salmon Arm Secondary, Shuswap Middle School and J.L. Jackson. There as cultural support. Leading songs, games, small group things. Support in a few different ways. Growth Grant: Priority FI Teacher Teaching On-Call & 0.4 Helping Teacher at Shuswap Middle School • Johie Burns & Madison Dickie ○ SD83 received this government grant last year and at that time was told that it would need to give back any unspent money. In July 2024, SD83 received notice that it could keep any outstanding funds if it could use them for a similar purpose. This is helping in a few ways: Johie is a priority teacher teaching on-call and is providing additional FI support when not on-call. Madison is a 0.4 FTE helping teacher at Shuswap Middle, as Shuswap Middle was listed as a priority for those

6. Staffing Updates (CONTINUED)	funds and fit with the spirit and intent of the funding. Bastion: • (welcome back) Katharine Bartsch grade. 1 • Melissa LaRiviere teaching grade 1/2 split SMS: • Teacher Candidate on practicum Hailey Lees grade 6/7 EFI Jackson: • Megan Glasser – new teacher teaching grade 9/10 split at J.L. Jackson
7. Exciting Events and New News (School teams)	District (Megan Weir) • Je lis, je lis, littérature K-7 levelled readers on-line platform – FREE. K-7 teachers, 7-8 teachers, able to register students. Able to access from home school. Funded for 5 years. • Manie Musicale & Le Flo Franco concert (grades 6-12): March 7 ○ Amanda Tait : it's a song competition that's appropriate for school students. Teachers create tons of resources/activities that go with it for pre-learning songs. Kids can vote in a live vote. 650 students participating in 37 countries. It's a lot of fun for teachers and students. French songs are great to connect students to what they're learning. ○ A grant has been applied for and been accepted to have Le Flo come to put on a concert in Salmon Arm at Shuswap Middle in the gym on March 7th. Need to finalize details but very exciting. • The Maple Man for Bastion students & SMS Red Team: Nov. 19 • Canadian Parents for French (CPF) ○ Julie Delcid is the current president for the Shuswap Chapter, which had been dormant for a couple of years before she started. ○ CPF Shuswap Chapter is starting to host events for members, including games nights and other events, in order to help provide community events where members can practice their French, rather than just in the school setting. ○ Other benefits for members include free tutoring and scholarships. ○ Membership is free. CPF is seeking new members. • BC's Southern Interior French Network: online networking groups K-8 ○ Lots of networking sessions have been happening online. • https://www.bcsifrenched.ca/ ○ BC Southern Interior French Education Network. ○ Resources for educators and families. • Education Info/Job Fairs at Universities ○ As always, going to job fairs, picking up the recruitment piece, starting in January or so. • Mentorship and Collaboration ○ Teachers are part of mentorship. Formally taking part, many informal collaborations.

7. Exciting Events and New News (School teams) (CONTINUED)	Bastion • Reading Programs: Literacy Alliance for South Shuswap (LASS) & Salmon Arm Secondary student readers ○ Physical proximity, helpful for FI community. Being able to lean on student leadership. • One to one reading: temporarily paused; Megan supporting Reading Interventions ○ Budget set aside, not quite enough to start yet. Post about it in the new year and run for the rest of the year. In the meantime, Megan Weir is supporting with some reading interventions. • French Tutors List – contact Megan Weir ○ Megan Weir is starting a list of students who might be interested in doing paid tutor work. Parent permission is required, but once that is obtained, this is a list that Megan can provide for anyone looking for a tutor. ○ The tutoring relationship is set between the tutor and the family, but this list can help facilitate those connections. • Malicounda Drumming at Bastion (with CPF support): March 12 ○ Some of our French funds to help top up. Mostly paid for through French funds of CPF. ○ Often, there is a French Film Festival in March, but that may not happen this year as there is already a lot set for March this year. Shuswap Middle • Quebec Trip ○ There is a parent meeting on Thursday, November 14th. ○ On agenda for Board approval, go to Quebec. Ottawa has been included in the past, but it would cost \$1400 more per student (\$4,000 per family). Without Ottawa: \$2800. J.L. Jackson • Working to bring French outside of the classroom to make it more visible within the school. Salmon Arm Secondary • Martine Dollack won a contest to go to a conference in Regina, hosted by Association Canadienne des Professionnels de l’immersion this coming weekend. Martine is looking forward to this, especially to look at the teaching resources. • DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) ○ DELF is a test that is offered by the French Ministry of Education and is recognized internationally by 175 countries. ○ The first DELF was offered here last year, and this year the DELF will be presented to 50 students in two weeks. ○ High success rate, 50% to pass. ○ Martine explained the different levels.
---	--

7. Exciting Events and New News (School teams) (CONTINUED)	Salmon Arm Secondary (CONTINUED) ○ Students who can pass Level B2 will get the same tuition fee as any French citizen. ○ Only \$35 for students to challenge the exam (\$300 for adults). ● France Trip ○ Smaller group. Tour is going to change in come capacity. ● Library resources ○ Expanding FI resources in the library.																																			
8. Enrolment (for information)	Current student numbers are from end of September. <table><tr><td></td><td>2021-2022</td><td>2022-2023</td><td>2023-2024</td><td>2024-2025</td></tr><tr><td>Bastion</td><td></td><td>232</td><td>219</td><td>224</td></tr><tr><td>SMS</td><td></td><td>237</td><td>222</td><td>229</td></tr><tr><td>Jackson</td><td></td><td>126</td><td>121</td><td>124</td></tr><tr><td>Sullivan (SAS)</td><td></td><td>123</td><td>123</td><td>112</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>District total</td><td>734</td><td>718</td><td>685</td><td>689</td></tr></table> Exit interviews are done (with PVP/Counselling) and tracked in a form. This is new to last year; will monitor to look for trends.		2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Bastion		232	219	224	SMS		237	222	229	Jackson		126	121	124	Sullivan (SAS)		123	123	112						District total	734	718	685	689
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025																																
Bastion		232	219	224																																
SMS		237	222	229																																
Jackson		126	121	124																																
Sullivan (SAS)		123	123	112																																
District total	734	718	685	689																																
9. Budget (Megan Weir)	Megan Weir shared the FI budget with the FAC and highlighted notable changes. Total Revenue – In the past: approximately \$186,000 – This year: approximately \$143,000 Approximately \$43,000 less to work with. The change is largely due to rollovers that no longer happen. An added challenge is that there are expenditures that have come up and some have gone up. The formula we’re accustomed to, as practice for the past 4-5 years, funding of \$55 per student that goes to the school to allocate in different ways at school level. That’s remained the same, so schools won’t see significant change. Where there was additional money for the library, now those pieces have to come out of school budget (\$55/student). No money for trips. No massive projects. The budget continues to allocate \$4000 to scholarships for students in FI. Found a way to make sure all the pressing needs taken care of.																																			
9. Round table thoughts on improving French programming (open)	The meeting was running overtime, so there were limited comments in the round table. The meeting concluded at 2:09 p.m.																																			