

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 63 (SAANICH)

EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Agenda

Committee Members:	Trustee VanWell, Chair Trustee Silzer Trustee Stelck
Staff Support:	Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction Paul McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent
Partner Representatives:	Helena Takhar (SAA) – elementary Kelly De Klerk (SAA) – secondary James Taylor (COPACS) Don Peterson (STA) Dean Coates (CUPE)
Other Attendees:	Ryan Ellis, Principal Saanichton Learning Centre Leo Holdstock, Vice-Principal ILC

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
3:00pm, MS Teams

A. PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

1. 2020/21 at ILC; – Ryan Ellis and Leo Holdstock
2. Gathering ‘feedforward’ from our student, staff and our parents in secondary; – Paul McKenzie

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(None)

C. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

1. French Immersion review
Staff Recommendation:
That the Board approve conducting a French Immersion Review.

D. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

(None)

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Education Directions Committee

Prepared By: Carly Hunter
Director of Instruction
(Learning & Innovation)

Subject: French Immersion Review

Date: February 22, 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing note is to recommend that the Board approve conducting a French Immersion Review, and to provide relevant background information.

Background

Over the last three years, there have been many significant changes to French Immersion programs in Saanich. Most notably, the addition of a kindergarten lottery and the significant challenge of finding qualified teachers. These events, coupled with the fact that there has not been a review in Saanich for over 10 years, make this a perfect time to conduct a comprehensive review French Immersion Programs in Saanich.

Next Steps

If the review is approved in principle. The following steps will be followed:

1. Put out a call for independent contractors who are interested in leading the review
2. Engage with all partner groups regarding plans and to solicit feedback
3. Engage with all French Immersion school staffs regarding plans and to solicit feedback

Staff Recommendation:

That the Board approve conducting a French Immersion Review consistent with the draft terms of reference.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Hunter
Director of Instruction

Attachment: French Immersion Review: Draft Terms of Reference

French Immersion Review: Draft Terms of Reference

January 2021

Objective

To complete a comprehensive review of the French Immersion program of choice in Saanich Schools by the fall of 2021.

Rationale

- The previous French Immersion review was completed in 2011.
- A comprehensive review assists the district in making informed decisions about future directions of the program
- By utilizing an external consultant, the district will be able to leverage their experience in conducting similar reviews with a focus on both the local and provincial context with French Immersion programs.

Goals

1. To prepare a report with findings and any recommendations for the Board of Education.
2. To connect with stakeholders in the Saanich French Immersion community regarding the following categories:
 - a. **Sustainability of current programs:** There are a number of ideas worth exploring including: a comparison of dual track with single track programs, the possibility of adding additional French Immersion capacity in other district locations, and the possibility of introducing a Late French Immersion program to the district.
 - b. **Review of comparable programs throughout BC:** There are a number of districts of similar size and with similar operational realities. It would be a useful exercise to compare and contrast FI structures and directions between districts.
 - c. **Locations of current programs/possible new program locations:** Because of program capacity issues, Saanich Schools moved to a lottery registration system for Kindergarten entry for the 2019/20 school year. If the district were to expand the immersion program to other schools, there would be a proportional impact to facilities planning. A comprehensive review of the program would provide the necessary examination of this potential impact on the district.
 - d. **Staff support and professional development:** A current reality facing many school districts is ensuring an adequate supply of qualified French Immersion teachers for their programs. Saanich also faces this challenge. This review would explore options for our district to consider to increase teacher availability, including what in-district supports may be possible.
 - e. **Diversity and inclusion:** Student diversity is a reality in our schools. The French Immersion program welcomes this diversity. This review will assist the district in examining how we may continue and enhance support for student success in the program. The review will also examine student retention rates and compare them to provincial numbers with an eye on exploring any operational changes that may support student retention in the future.
3. To review the historical contexts within our district of the French Immersion program.
4. To ensure stakeholders (parents, students, staff) are included in the review process.