



News Release

200 Wellington Street, Sarnia, N7T 7L2 (519) 336-1500

www.lkdsb.net

French Immersion Recommendations Not to Be Presented to Trustees at the November 23, 2010 Board Meeting

The Lambton Kent District School Board conducted a French Immersion Program Review during this past year and into the fall 2010. An interim report was presented to Trustees for information at the November 9, 2010 Board Meeting. Senior Administration was planning to bring a number of recommendations to our Board of Trustees on November 23, 2010 based on the recommended next steps contained in this report.

The source of concern for Senior Administration was data which indicated a significant French Immersion funding shortfall for the 2009/2010 school year. This data was based on French Immersion class vacancy rates and resulting costs of staffing. Analysis of the recently validated 2010/2011 student enrolment data has revealed that the Board's French Immersion vacancy rate has declined this fall and is in fact changing significantly year to year. Attrition rates within grades 4 to 8 classes remain a concern.

Accordingly, Senior Administration will not be making any recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding French Immersion at the November 23, Board Meeting.

Instead, the following steps will be implemented:

- Senior Administration will make recommendations to the Board to establish a new Board policy and regulations regarding program viability criteria which will include a process for involving and informing parents of both the process and outcome(s).
- Board staff will continue to examine French Immersion vacancy rates, attrition rates and associated staffing costs over the next several years in order to determine long term enrolment trends at each of the Board's dual-track French Immersion schools.
- Board Human Resources Staff have been directed to monitor these rates and combine French Immersion classes as necessary in order to achieve more equitable class sizes across the system.
- Board Program staff will continue to study the viability of introducing a middle and/or late French Immersion delivery model to address the attrition rate in many of our grade 4 to 8 French Immersion classes.

Trustees appreciate the fine work done by the French Immersion Program Review Committee and the support expressed by the parent/guardians of the French Immersion students.

- 30-

For additional information contact:

Carmen McGregor Chair 519-627-1933

Jim Costello, Director of Education, 519-336-1500, Ext. 31297

For reference information contact:

Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer 519-336-1530, Ext. 31230

November 17, 2010

2010/2011:9