



17 June 2008

Report No. 08-076 to Business Services Committee

Re: Middle French Immersion Programs 2009-2011

**ORIGINATORS:** Michael Carson, Superintendent of Facilities  
Diane Jeudy-Hugo, Executive Superintendent  
Jennifer Adams, Superintendent of Curriculum Services  
Karyn Carty Ostafichuk, Manager of Planning and Transportation

**PURPOSE:**

1. To provide recommendations for the next phase of expansion of the Middle French Immersion (MFI) program, and to seek approval of the process for selection of additional MFI sites.

**BACKGROUND:**

2. At the Board meeting of April 22, 2008 the following motions were approved:
  - A. THAT staff proceed to identify sites for Middle French Immersion that would begin operating in September 2009, in the following areas:
    1. Kanata, south of Hazeldean
    2. South Nepean
    3. Beacon Hill, Blackburn Hamlet, Orleans
    4. Riverside South
  - B. THAT staff identify, prior to December 2008, areas where Early French Immersion programs can be added to help alleviate overcrowding at neighbouring schools, repatriate students to their community school, reduce bussing, and provide a French Immersion program where there is clear strong community demand (as measured by the number of students attending FI programs at neighbouring schools) that can be phased into schools for September 2009 without the need of an accommodation study, for example in the Osgoode Village and West Ottawa Urban Core areas;
  - C. THAT further Middle French Immersion sites be identified prior to December 2008, to a total of 20 to 22 district-wide distributed geographically according to total number of students resident and considering community demand for French Immersion as measured by strength of Late French Immersion program, expression of community interest in French Immersion, and other means, to be phased in for September 2009, September 2010 and September 2011; and
  - D. THAT staff be directed to include, but not be limited to, Centretown, Alta Vista, Bells Corners and West Ottawa Urban Core in the report being brought forward in the fall of 2008.

- E. THAT staff prepare a preliminary report prior to the summer recess outlining the proposed list of schools, areas, and the consultation process, to be able to report in the fall.

**STATUS:**

- 3. In order to make recommendations regarding the establishment of new French Immersion (FI) programming, staff has considered the matter from both a planning based and academic standpoint.

- 4. The first step in our consideration of this task was to assess areas that are currently underserved by MFI.

- 4.1 The following neighbourhoods were identified:

- Ottawa West (maybe 2 sites – One more central and one more west)
- Stittsville
- Kanata
- Kanata North
- South Nepean
- Beacon Hill Blackburn
- Riverside South
- Bells Corners
- Merivale South of Baseline
- Centretown
- Elmvale Acres/Hawthorne Meadows/Alta Vista (low concern as current demand met)
- South Keys, Greenboro, Hunt Club Park
- Orleans Gloucester

- 5. Staff then examined schools where pressures existed that we surmise are due to programming choices (strong EFI programming) and overall growth or decline in enrolment. In some cases, pressures are a combination of the two.

- 5.1. The following areas were identified:

- Orleans Wood/Terry Fox
- Woodroffe
- Castor Valley
- Greenbank/Knoxdale
- Katimavik
- Stephen Leacock
- Lakeview
- Rockcliffe
- Elmdale
- Pleasant Park
- Queen Elizabeth
- Osgoode

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

6. In order to make recommendations regarding the establishment of new FI sites, staff first attempted to solve issues with access. If access to MFI could be improved and enrolment pressures alleviated at the same time, staff noted the comment in the specific analysis of each scenario.
7. In some cases, improving access while alleviating pressure could not be achieved. Where this is the case, staff has taken into consideration impacts to existing programming and enrolments and has attempted to ensure that already fragile situations are not compromised.
8. Staff wishes to reiterate that projecting uptake on these programs is difficult. Staff is unsure from whence new MFI programs will draw; whether it will be from English programming or existing EFI streams.
9. While staff recommendations have typically focused on accommodations issues, it is felt that academic considerations will need to be taken in to account to increase the likelihood of student success. Therefore, a section has been added to this report that discusses principles to be established to support the establishment of new FI programs.

## **ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS/SUPPORT REQUIRED**

10. There are academic considerations that should be taken into account in the establishment of new FI programming.
11. Specific to MFI staff would note that the current MFI program has an attrition rate of 37%. Through discussions with many MFI principals, staff concludes that the reasons for this attrition rate is multi-dimensional. Reasons include, but are not limited to:
  - 11.1
    - Declining enrolments
    - Access to MFI programming (proximity to home)
    - Some movement of students from MFI to non-MFI areas
    - Students moving to a middle school that does not offer MFI
    - Students may be moving to a coterminous board.
    - Due to LFI offerings, if students were not immediately successful in MFI, parents might choose to leave the MFI program and attempt FI instruction at the later entry point.
    - There had been a discrepancy in language of instruction for the given subjects in MFI across the District. This concern has been resolved with adoption of the time allocation model.
    - There had been a discrepancy in number of minutes a particular subject area receives in MFI across the District. This concern resolved with adoption of the time allocation model.

12. In order to attempt to address these concerns, staff suggests that the following course of action be developed:
- 12.1
- New MFI school sites develop a plan to visit feeder school communities to communicate program overviews and options.
  - Time be apportioned to consult with teachers at sending schools/programs to assess student learning styles, strengths, areas of growth, and interests for individual students; all of which will facilitate student learning.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW FI SITES**

13. Based on the foregoing, and in keeping with direction of the Board, the following sites are identified for consideration:

#### **POTENTIAL SITES - MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION**

- 13.1 **In South Nepean: Adrienne Clarkson Elementary School feeding to Longfields Davidson Heights (LDH).**

##### **PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. Some capacity pressures at the Greenbank Middle School/Knoxdale Public School campus are also addressed as the MFI program is placed where most cohorts live (Longfields/Davidson/Havenlea).

##### **CONS**

This option does not identify a school that has expressed interest in having MFI. This is because there is insufficient space at Berrigan Elementary School and Farley Mowat Public School to establish a new program. There is a little room at Mary Honeywell Elementary School and Barrhaven Public School; however, their grade structures do not make them ideal candidates since both feed to Cedarview Middle School in grade 6 and John McCrae Secondary School for high school. There is some room at Jockvale Elementary School; however, its grade structure does not make it an ideal candidate since it also feeds to Cedarview Middle School in grade 6 and John McCrae Secondary School for high school. It may be better to let a smaller number of out of boundary MFI students feed to LDH, despite the growth that is projected

- 13.2 **In Bells Corners: Bells Corners Public School to DA Moodie Intermediate School to Bell High School**

##### **PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. There is room at both Bells Corners Public School and D.A. Moodie Intermediate School. It alleviates some EFI pressure at Lakeview Public School and MFI pressure at the Greenbank Middle School/Knoxdale Public School campus. This option also replaces the phasing out LFI program at D.A Moodie Intermediate School.

##### **CONS**

Bells Corners Public School is a bigger site that may be better utilized by bringing in an EFI program at Bells Corners Public School and an MFI at Lakeview Public School.

There is concern that this option may impact further on the Bells Corners Public School English program which is already fragile. An option to prevent this from occurring could include consolidating English at Bells Corners Public School or Lakeview Public School.

13.3. **In Kanata: Bridlewood Community Elementary School to AY Jackson Secondary School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. It alleviates some pressure at Katimavik Elementary School which is over capacity. As Bridlewood Community Elementary School has a K-8 grade structure, students at this site could complete their entire MFI program at one school.

**CONS**

There is concern that this option may impact further on the Bridlewood Community Elementary School English program which is already fragile.

13.4 **In Beacon Hill/Blackburn Hamlet: Robert Hopkins Public School to Henry Munro Middle School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. This option also replaces the phase out LFI program at Henry Munro Middle School.

**CONS**

Queen Elizabeth Public School English and MFI programs are fragile and would lose more students if an MFI program were established at Robert Hopkins Public School /Henry Munro Middle School. It is difficult to gauge interest in this program as there is no history of offering MFI in the area. This option would make Robert Hopkins Public School a triple-track school. An option to resolve this would be to consider consolidating EFI at Le Phare Elementary School.

13.5 **In Centretown: Centennial Public School to Glashan Public School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. This option also replaces the phase out LFI program at Glashan Public School. The area has shown a strong interest in a later FI entry point.

**CONS**

This option may cause Centennial Public School's English program, which is already fragile, to lose more students. Additionally, we cannot predict the strength of the program prior to establishing it. This is more of a concern in the central area as there is a smaller pool of students from which to draw.

13.6 **In South Keys/Greenboro/Hunt Club Park: Blossom Park Public School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. It also alleviates some pressure at Featherston Drive Public School as it would serve the more southerly portion of current Featherstone MFI boundary. As Blossom Park Public

School has a K-8 grade structure, students at this site could complete their entire MFI program at one school.

**CONS**

This option does not help Pleasant Park Public School as it is over capacity.

**13.7 In Riverside South: MFI at Steve McLean Public School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood.

**CONS**

The growth In Riverside South is strong and projections for Steve McLean Public School predict accommodations pressures in the shorter term. MFI will likely have to be started at Steve McLean Public School but moved to a new school in Riverside South whenever the District has the capacity to build in the area. In the meantime, Steve MacLean Public School would be a triple-track school.

**13.8 In Ottawa West: MFI at Broadview Public School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. This option also replaces the phase out LFI program at Broadview Public School. There is demonstrated support in the area for a later FI entry point. As Broadview Public School has a K-8 grade structure, students at this site could complete their entire MFI program at one school. This option will likely alleviate some EFI pressure at Woodroffe Avenue Public School, as some would opt for MFI as an alternative, however, it is difficult to predict how many.

**CONS**

This option does little to alleviate pressure at Elmdale Public School which is over capacity (other than perhaps providing an alternative to EFI). Although some pressure needs to be alleviated at D. Roy Kennedy Public School, the establishment of MFI at Broadview Public School and Bell's Corners Public School may negatively impact program viability at D. Roy Kennedy Public School. Hilson Avenue Public School's enrolment (single-track English) is already fragile. This option would likely result in an even more fragile enrolment. Due to capacity pressures at Broadview Public School, congregated gifted may need to move to a new location.

**POTENTIAL EFI SOLUTIONS**

14. Staff has also examined opportunities by which the establishment of EFI may be appropriate; providing a level of accessible programming that is desirable while alleviating some accommodations pressures in the vicinity. The following scenarios were considered:

**14.1 Establishment of EFI at Osgoode Public School**

**PROS**

This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. It alleviates pressure at Castor Valley Elementary School and Kars Public School which are both over capacity as well as Rideau Valley Middle School which is at capacity. This

option provides a better feeding pattern to high school for students in the Osgoode Public School area. It may also alleviate some pressure on future accommodations/addition size at Kars Public School /Rideau Valley Middle School.

### **CONS**

Osgoode Public School's English program is already fragile and this option would likely mean losing more students. There may not be enough students to sustain a dual-track. This option provides access where there was none in the immediate neighbourhood. This option would mean EFI students have to move again as the EFI program was relocated from Castor Valley Elementary School to Kars Public School September 2002.

## **POTENTIAL MFI and EFI SOLUTIONS**

15. Staff has also examined opportunities by which the establishment of EFI at one site in combination with MFI at another may be appropriate; providing a level of accessible programming that is desirable while alleviating some accommodations pressures in the vicinity. The following scenario was considered and is preferred to locating MFI at Broadview Public School:

### **15.1 EFI at Broadview Public School - MFI at Hilson Avenue Public School feeding to Fisher Park Public School**

**Background:** Ideally make Broadview Public School a K-6 school to prevent overcrowding – feeding to Fisher Park Public School. Broadview Public School cannot be sustained in current form as a K-8 EFI/ENG

Depending on boundary, can significantly alleviate pressure at Elmdale Public School and at Woodroffe Avenue Public School which are both over capacity. Program at Broadview Public School should also be viable, if staff may depend on level of past interest shown in the EFI program.

No possibility (because of program viability concerns and declining enrolment) for another FI site in Ottawa West (e.g., Severn Avenue Public School, Regina Street Public School) as there is simply not the population from which to draw.

### **PROS**

This option alleviates pressure at Elmdale Public School, Woodruff Avenue Public School and D. Roy Kennedy Public School which are all above capacity. There is strong FI support in the area. An MFI program at Hilson Avenue Public School would strengthen a fragile population. This option would address community request for an FI entry point.

### **CONS**

The grade structure at Broadview Public School would need to be amended to K-6. The Gifted program may need to be moved due to capacity issues (Hilson Avenue Public School to Fisher Park Public School). This option may weaken fragile English programs. This option would entrench an Intermediate-Only format school (Fisher Park) which would be offering 4 programs and would cause significant student disruption. No other options to introduce an additional Ottawa West FI program.

### **ACCOMMODATION STUDIES**

16. Areas of the District are subject to current accommodations studies and the establishment of new FI sites is recommended to be part of the accommodations solutions. Other areas of the District should be looked at in a more comprehensive manner prior to the establishment of additional FI programs. The following areas are identified:

**16.1 Merivale South of Baseline**

Location to be determined as a result of the accommodation study

**16.2 York Street/Viscount Alexander/Rockcliffe Park**

There is overcrowding at Rockcliffe Park Public School, and low enrolment (and small physical plant) at Viscount Alexander Public School. Any FI solutions will involve an accommodation study.

**16.3 Blackburn Hamlet/Orleans Gloucester**

There is low enrolment at Emily Carr Middle School. While the need for another FI site in the western part of Orleans is anticipated (as FI is strongly supported) it is suggested that an accommodation study is required to look at potential consolidation and program distribution. It is anticipated that the study would involve Glen Ogilvy Public School, Emily Carr Middle School, Forest Valley Elementary School, Henry Larsen Elementary School and Convent Glen Elementary School. There have also been low enrolment issues identified at Terry Fox Elementary School and Orleans Wood Elementary School – though not related to an MFI establishment. These issues will have to be considered either as part of the South Orleans elementary study or standing alone.

**16.4 Alta Vista/Elmdale Acres/Hawthorne Meadows**

Pleasant Park Public School is over capacity. A change in grade structures would enable students to attend at Featherston Drive Public School. Potential school consolidation is required in the area.

### **AREAS WITH NO FI SOLUTIONS DUE TO ACCOMMODATIONS ISSUES**

17. There are areas of the District which have been identified as requiring improved access to MFI; specifically Kanata North and Stittsville. We have no room within existing schools in the area to accommodate additional programs at this time; and therefore, no recommendations are made for establishment of MFI in Kanata North or Stittsville.

### **PHASING OF IMPLEMENTATION**

18. The District has seven existing MFI programs. Three more programs will be added in the 2008-2009 school year. Eight more programs have been outlined for consideration and, depending upon the outcome of consultation, could be implemented in the 2009-2010 school year, along with two additional EFI sites. Finally, at minimum, four additional programs would be identified through accommodations studies, to be completed for implementation after the 2009-2010 school year.

19. This action would bring the total MFI offerings across the District to 22.
20. It should be noted, that Board directed staff to bring forward a report prior to December 2008 outlining future FI sites. Staff has brought the report forward for June 2008 to allow for adequate time for consultation in the fall of 2008 in order to finalize FI locations for opening September 2009. Decisions in this regard should be made in December 2008.

**CONSULTATION PROCESS:**

21. Parent, teacher, and principal surveys were conducted during the spring of 2007. This led to the FI report which was released in September 2007.
22. Information was provided to communities at a plenary session via principals and school council chairs on March 18, 2008 regarding the expansion of MFI and to allow school communities to express interest or concerns. Additionally, comments were encouraged electronically and were taken into account with the preparation of this report.
23. Additionally, to formulate the recommendations that appear in this report, superintendents, system principals and principals at some existing FI sites have been consulted.

**AREA CONSULTATION**

24. Two consultation sessions will be held. One in the west end and one in the east end. Supplemental consultation sessions will be added to areas that require additional input and discussion.
25. The outline for further consultation is attached hereto as Appendix A

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

26. Special consideration should be considered to financially support the start-up needs of MFI schools. Start-up needs are estimated to be between \$6,000 - \$10,000 depending on whether the school is already a FI centre as well as the size of the school itself. The funding should be allocated in the 2009-2010 Board budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended:

- A. THAT the June 2008 French Immersion Consultation Plan be approved directing staff to assess establishment of MFI programming at the following schools:
  - (i) Adrienne Clarkson Elementary School to Longfields Davidson Heights 7-12
  - (ii) Bells Corners Public School to D.A. Moodie Intermediate School
  - (iii) Bridlewood Community Elementary School
  - (iv) Robert Hopkins Public School to Henry Munro Middle School
  - (v) Centennial Public School to Glashan Public School
  - (vi) Blossom Park Public School
  - (vii) Steve McLean Public School
  - (viii) Hilson Avenue Public School to Fisher Park (in concert with the establishment of Early French Immersion at Broadview Public School); and,

- B. THAT the establishment of Early French Immersion be assessed at the following schools:
- (i) Broadview Public School (in concert with the establishment of MFI at Hilson Avenue Public School)
  - (ii) Osgoode Public School; and,
- C. THAT staff be directed to report to Board regarding the outcome of this consultation and assessment prior to December 2008.

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Dr. Lorne M. Rachlis  
Director of Education/  
Secretary of the Board

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Michael Carson  
Superintendent of Facilities



# CONSULTATION PLAN

**DATE:** June 2008

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**CONSULTING BODY:** ( Board, school, school council, other)

**Board**

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**CONTACT PERSON:** Michael Carson, Superintendent of Facilities / Karyn Carty Ostafichuk Manager of Planning

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE FOR CONSULTATION:**

Recommendations on the next phase of the Middle French Immersion (MFI), and associated French Immersion (FI) programming additions.

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**PLANNED DATE FOR DECISION:** December 2008

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**DEVELOPING THE PLAN:**

It is expected that informal consultation has taken place with representative stakeholders to obtain their suggestions prior to finalizing this plan. Please describe below.  
(If this informal consultation did not take place, explain why it was not feasible.)

-MFI Session with school council chairs, principals, superintendants, and Planning staff, at Confederation High School on March 18, 2008.

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-Subsequent meetings with superintendants of instruction, Curriculum staff, and current MFI principals.

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**WHO WILL BE CONSULTED?**

Parents

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School Council Members

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Teachers

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Principals

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**ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE CONSULTATION\*:**

Within departmental budget

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*\* Note that the consulting body bears responsibility for the costs of the consultation.*

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**EVALUATION:**

How and when will the effectiveness of the consultation be evaluated?

Summary of comments and opportunities for public delegations concurrent with report recommendations for December 2008.

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(Please specify and describe briefly the method(s) you plan to use to assess the success of this consultation process. e.g., school

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# CONSULTATION PLAN

council meeting discussion with date, evaluation sheet collected from participants, etc.)

<b>TIMELINES FOR KEY EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:</b>		
<b><u>DATE(S)</u></b>	<b><u>Communication or Event/Milestone</u></b>	<b><u>Notes**</u></b>
June 2008	MFI Phase 2 Backgrounder from OCDSB to school communities	
June 2008	MFI info in a specific section on the Board website	
October 2008	General info sessions	
October 2008	General Information/Feedback Elicitation meetings in East West and Central areas of the City	
Oct. 2008 - Mid	Meetings with specific communities wherein solutions require more extensive consultation. (To be established largely through feedback during general meetings in October 2008	
November 2008		
Dec. 2008	MFI sites are selected	
After Jan. 2009	Phase 2 decisions made for establishment of MFI/EFI sites. Accommodation reviews required will be scheduled in subsequent work plans. Each review will have detailed consultation as per Board policy.	
Jan. 2009	MFI sites are selected	
Sept. 2009	MFI begins at selected schools	

\*\*In filling out this chart, please note:

- any constraints such as necessary deadlines, availability of stakeholders;
- the timelines for communicating the outcome/related decisions reached to those consulted; and
- the materials, reports or resources that will be distributed to stakeholders.

**FILE COPY:**

- a) *System or district level consultation:* Copy of approved consultation plan to be attached to board minutes
- b) *Other consulting bodies:* Copy of approved plan to be attached to the appropriate minutes or other records

DATE OF PLAN APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_