

VSB French Immersion Program Review

French Immersion Working Group Meeting #1

January 18, 2018

Objectives

- Confirm context and terms of reference for French Immersion Working Group
- Review and discuss information gathered to-date
- Identify additional issues, concerns and questions for this process
- Discuss broader consultation process (survey, focus groups, etc.)
- Clarify next steps including additional information needs, homework and subsequent meetings

Proposed Agenda

- 3:45 – 4:00 Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Ground rules
- 4:00 – 4:30 Background, context and Terms of Reference
- 4:30 – 5:00 Review and discussion of information gathered to-date
- 5:00 – 5:15 Break
- 5:15 – 6:30 Discussion of issues and concerns
- 6:30 – 7:00 Discussion of additional consultation process
- 7:00 – 7:15 Summary, homework and next steps



- Everyone has wisdom
- We need everyone's wisdom for the wisest results
- Everyone will hear and be heard
- There are no wrong answers

- Confidentiality
 - A safe environment for open and respectful dialogue.
 - The only thing that leaves the room are our agreements at the end.

Background and context for FIWG

- Strong history of French Immersion as a Program of Choice in the Vancouver School District
- Current issues
 - Ongoing demand for French Immersion program
 - Qualified French Immersion Teacher Shortage
 - Supreme Court of Canada ruling and March MOA
- Impacts of the above on class size, number of divisions and space requirements

FIWG Terms of Reference and Process Overview



FI Working Group – Overall Objectives

Overall goal: Maintain/ sustain the French Immersion Program

- Confirm context for this review
- Engage stakeholder groups (staff, students, parents and partners) in meaningful consultation to inform the review process and final recommendations to be submitted to Senior Management, Committee III and the Board of Trustees
- Identify, consider and respond to information collected regarding delivery of French Immersion (FI) as well as issues and concerns identified by stakeholders
 - Delivery models in other jurisdictions
 - Potential program delivery / reconfiguration alternatives for VSD
- Seek consensus recommendations regarding the delivery of French Immersion in VSD.

FI Working Group – Mandate

- Provide input on the future of French Immersion in Vancouver School District (VSD)
- Identify needs, concerns and potential impacts associated with a variety of delivery models/ reconfiguration alternatives to address questions of placement and number of FI programs
- Provide feedback regarding possible delivery model for the 2019-2020 calendar year (or later), including possibilities for phased implementation

FI Working Group – Role

- Consider information collected to date regarding issues (needs and constraints) associated with delivery of French Immersion in VSD
- Identify additional operational considerations, needs and issues associated with delivery of French Immersion in VSD
- Identify measures to address considerations, needs and issues
- Make recommendations to Senior Management and Committee III (Education and Student Services) regarding delivery of French Immersion in the VSD

FI Working Group – Responsibilities

- Attend all Working Group meetings
- Represent the membership of your organization or constituency
- Keep your constituency informed of Working Group discussions
- Gather input from your constituency and bring this input to Working Group meetings.
- Strive to be inclusive of the array of perspectives within your constituency when participating in Working Group discussions.

FI Working Group – Expected Outcomes

- Recommendations regarding possible reconfiguration alternative(s), placement and number of programs for French Immersion in VSD
- A list of needs, issues and concerns associated with potential changes in delivery
- Suggested measures to address needs, issues and concerns associated with the delivery of French Immersion in VSD
- Timeline and budget implications

FI Working Group – Communications

- A meeting summary will be generated after each Working Group meeting. Meeting summaries will be distributed through email contacts.
- A Draft French Immersion Program Review Working Group Report will incorporate findings and recommendations for consideration by Senior Management, Committee III, and the Board, as needed.

FI Working Group – Timeline

- Working Group meetings (5 or 6)
- Focus groups and/or survey of teachers, parents and partners regarding potential delivery models and configuration alternatives
- Draft French Immersion Working Group Report submitted to Senior Management and Committee III, and the Board, as needed.
- Presentation of FIWG findings and recommendation at Committee III Meeting

French Immersion Working Group – Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting
January 18, 3:45 – 7:15 pm	FIWG Meeting #1
February 15, 3:45 – 7:15 pm	FIWG Meeting #2
March 15, 3:45 – 7:15 pm	FIWG Meeting #3
April 3 – 20	Survey and Focus Groups
April 26, 3:45 – 7:15 pm	FIWG Meeting #4 (Optional meeting)
May 17, 3:45 – 7:15 pm	FIWG Meeting #5
September 13 or 20, 3:45 – 7:15 pm	FIWG Meeting #6
October 3	Presentation of FIWG findings to Committee III

Discussion of FIWG Terms of Reference



French Immersion in VSB – Current State



Kindergarten Choice programs in VSB

1. Indigenous Focus School
2. Early French Immersion
3. Early Mandarin Bilingual
4. Fine Arts Focus
5. Montessori

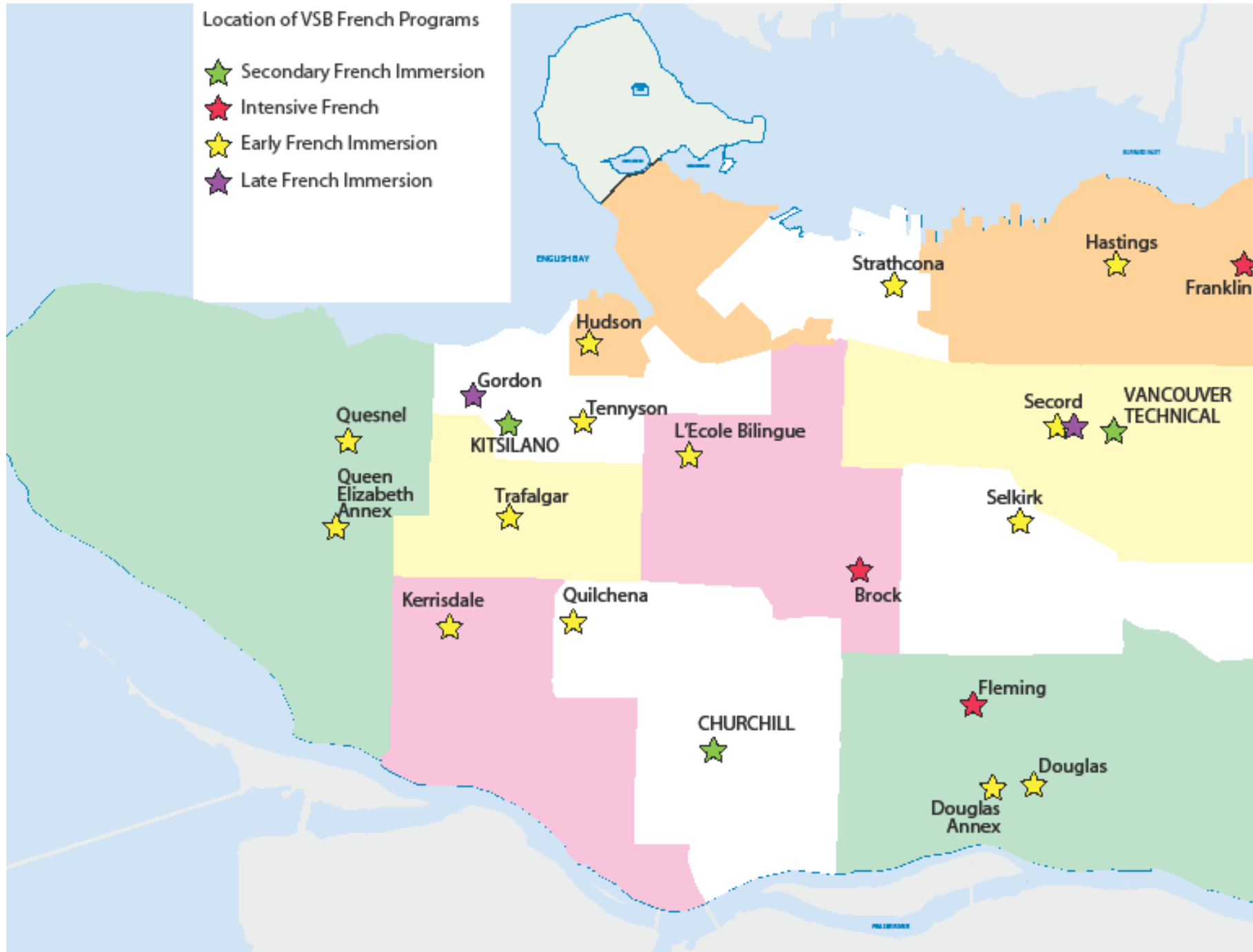
French programs in VSB

Over 20,000 total and about 35 years of successful FI programs

1. Over 5,000 Early French Immersion students in 17 sites (K to 12)
 - a. 10% of our student population
 - b. Comparable to our neighbouring districts
2. Approx. 16,000 core French students in grades 5 to 12
3. Approx. 150 Late French Immersion students in grades 6 and 7 in two schools
4. Approx. 150 Intensive French students in grades 6 and 7 in three schools

Location of VSB French Programs

- ★ Secondary French Immersion
- ★ Intensive French
- ★ Early French Immersion
- ★ Late French Immersion



Recent impacts on FI Programs

1. Restoration of 2001 Collective Agreement – Supreme Court of Canada ruling and March MOA

- Lower class size - good for teaching and learning
- No K and 1 multi-age classes- unique to VSB and one other district
- Lower class size if students with Special Education Designations

Specific to VSB 2017-2018

1. 136 less K spaces including one less K class in five schools
 - a. Hastings
 - b. L'Ecole Bilingue
 - c. Selkirk
 - d. Tennyson
 - e. Trafalgar

Specific to VSB 2017-2018

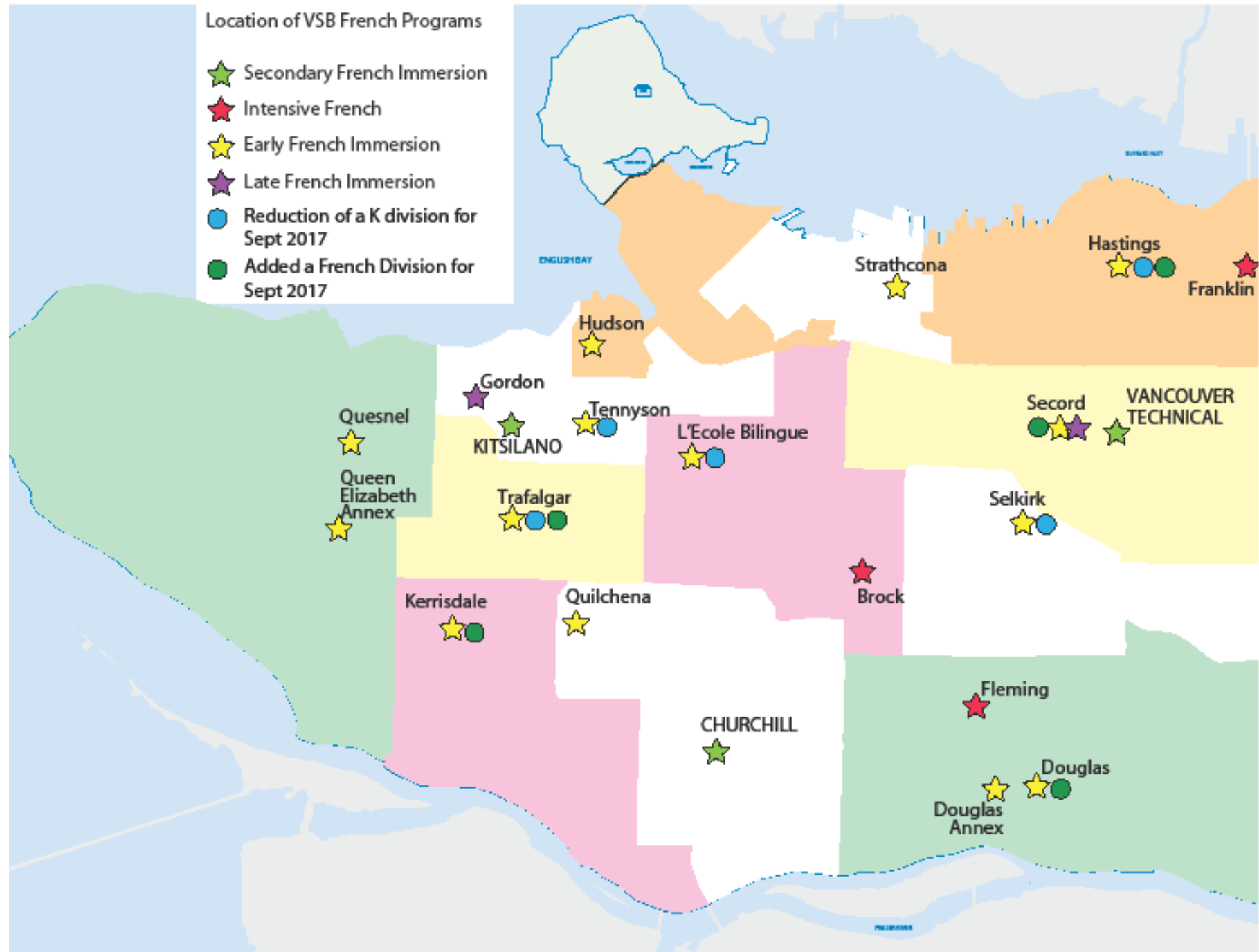
2. More divisions as a result of lower class size
 - a. Last year 165 classes in elementary
 - b. This year 170 classes in elementary

Specific to VSB 2017-2018 (cont'd)

3. 5 schools with new French divisions
 - a. Trafalgar
 - b. Kerrisdale
 - c. Douglas
 - d. Secord
 - e. Hastings

Location of VSB French Programs

- ★ Secondary French Immersion
- ★ Intensive French
- ★ Early French Immersion
- ★ Late French Immersion
- Reduction of a K division for Sept 2017
- Added a French Division for Sept 2017



Waitlist for Early French Immersion K

- Decreased total number of applicants this year from 893 to 841
- Increased waitlist due to fewer divisions from 313 to 437
- 377 accepted placement

Recent Impacts on FI Programs (cont'd)

2. Qualified French Immersion Teacher Shortage

- 15 unfilled teacher positions in FI
 - (as of early fall) and English teachers now delivering elementary prep etc.
- Recruitment strategy
 - Support current core French teachers wanting to teach FI
 - Work closely with universities
 - Career fairs
 - Presentations at local universities

Total K registration in FI in Lower Mainland

District	2016/17	2017/18
Burnaby (SD41)	215	200
Coquitlam (SD43)	359	328
Delta (SD37)	176	174
Langley (SD35)	89	76
New Westminster (SD40)	66	55
North Vancouver (SD44)	217	210
Richmond (SD38)	134	196
Surrey (SD36)	292	246
Vancouver (SD39)	513	375
West Vancouver (SD45)	76	73

Next steps re: French Immersion in VSB

1. Choice program review as per the Strategic Plan
2. School boundaries / catchment review
3. Existing structures with stakeholders within the VSB
4. District staff to continue to be part of the provincial discussions around the ability to offer high quality and appropriately staffed French Immersion programs

Discussion – Current state of French Immersion in VSD

- Anything missing?
- What resonates?
- What occurs to you as you hear/ read this?



Break

Please be back in 10 minutes



Discussion of issues, considerations, needs and concerns

- What comes to mind when we think of a French Immersion program? What are today's expectations of a FI site or school?
- What Guiding Principles should guide our work?
- What are the questions we need to answer? What else do we need to know?



Discussion

Overall Focus: Improving access to French Immersion programs for students we serve.

Key Question: Thinking about the VSB French Immersion program and the issues it faces today, what configuration options could ensure a strong and sustainable French Immersion program?

Question #1 – What considerations are important to support a successful French Immersion program?

Question #2 – What needs or concerns have been raised in relation to these considerations? Are there others?

Question #3 – What delivery models/ configuration alternatives would best address these needs and concerns?

FIWG process and additional consultation

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Next Step – February 15, 2018

FIWG Meeting #2

Meeting Objectives:

- Discuss information, issues and concerns regarding potential delivery models
- Discussion of potential delivery models/ configuration alternatives in relation to identified needs and concerns
- Confirm questions for survey and focus groups
- Confirm next steps

Next Steps



- Prepare meeting summary of January 18 FIWG Meeting #1 and circulate
- Working Group members to communicate progress to constituencies and bring additional information to next meeting
- Next FIWG Meeting – February 15, 2018, 3:45 – 7:15 PM