



French Language Services Advisory Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 5
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: Marc Beaudry, Mireille Brownhill, Diane Desaulniers,
Katherine Dupuis, Danièle Fillion, Neiges Sénéchal

Absent: Warsama Aden, Fatouma Ali-Ismail, Marc Maisonneuve, Lina
Nada Maach

Present non-voting Member: Councillor Stéphanie Plante

1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
Members of Committee and Council, City staff, media and the general public may join the meeting with this link:
[Zoom no. 833 9791 6164](#)
Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and remote participation details.
Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.
The deadline to register to speak by phone or email, or submit written comments or visual presentations is 4 pm on the day of the meeting.
2. Declarations of Interest
No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 FLSAC Minutes 4 – Thursday, September 12, 2024

Vice-Chair Brownhill and Member Beaudry commented on the level of detail used in relation to questions from members and answers from staff. After brief discussions, the Committee confirmed the Minutes.

Carried

4. Finance Services Department

4.1 2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budget – French Language Services Advisory Committee

Suzanne Schnob, Manager, Finance Services, provided a presentation on the 2025 draft operating and capital budget. Nathalie Lemire, Coordinator, French Language Services, provided an overview of the French Language Services (FLS) portion of the budget.

The Advisory Committee discussed and asked questions regarding the following topics:

- The budget allocated to language training is part of the Human Resources budget.
- Clarification on what “draft budget” means and that the budget can be amended before it is approved by Council in December.
- On the possibility of the draft budget for FLS being frozen or reduced prior to its adoption by Council, staff clarified that the FLS budget has historically been adopted as presented; in this case, the proposed increase is based on existing contracts and cost-of-living increases.
- Staff also clarified that members of Committee will have an opportunity to submit comments on the budget before it is approved by Council.

The Advisory Committee received the presentation for information and carried Motion No. FLSAC 2024-05-01.

Recommendation

That the French Language Services Advisory Committee receive the presentation for information.

Received

Motion No. FLSAC 2024-05-01

Moved by Diane Desaulniers

BE IT RESOLVED that the French Language Services Advisory Committee (FLSAC) authorize the FLSAC Chair and Vice Chair to submit the Committee's consolidated comments on the 2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budget to the Committee Coordinator in advance of December 5 for circulation to Members of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee and Council.

For (6): Marc Beaudry, Mireille Brownhill, Diane Desaulniers, Katherine Dupuis, Danièle Filion, and Neiges Sénéchal

Carried (6 to 0)

5. Community and Social Services Department

5.1 Community and Social Services Department (CSSD) Programs and Services

Items 5.1 and 5.2 were considered concurrently by the Advisory Committee.

Clara Freire, General Manager, Community and Social Services Department (CSSD), and Stéphanie Bordage, Director, Employment and Social Services, provided a presentation on programs and services offered by CSSD. Micki Di Cesare, Program Manager, Children's Services, provided a presentation on Children's Services.

The Advisory Committee discussed and asked questions regarding the following topics:

- A request for more information on the CSSD Strategic Plan, surveys performed, and key performance indicators (KPIs) used to measure the department's progress in achieving its goals. KPIs may also need reevaluating to help the department achieve its stated goals with the French-speaking community.
- Enforcement of linguistic accessibility and visibility when department representatives are engaging with the public.
- Community representatives would ideally reflect the target audiences (students, seniors, new parents, school boards, etc.)
- Concerns around designating centres as francophone resulting in otherwise bilingual centres becoming more English-focused.

- Concerns that French services are viewed through an “equity and inclusion” lens as opposed to being “business as usual.”
- CSSD noted gaps in French service delivery due to lack of adequate financing from the province, as well as in affordable housing and in services related to the toxic drug supply.
- CSSD has received no complaints due to lack of access to French services.
- What the criteria are for accessing French daycares and whether they are available to anyone. Francophone families have access as-of-right, although individual daycares may have their own policies in place.
- The shortage of French-speaking childcare workers; and the collaborations CSSD has with partners, such as colleges, universities, and other institutions to help remedy the shortage.
- The number of bilingual staff in CSSD has increased to 50% in response to community needs. This was achieved by recruiting outside the organization and prioritizing multi-language skills, including French.
- Child care centres participating in the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement prioritizes underserved communities because of limited space. It aims to help achieve the 40% rate established by the province across all Ottawa communities.
- The results of surveys and discussion tables conducted with the francophone community will be available to the public in a status update report to be presented to the Community Services Committee in 2025.
- A gap was identified where non-English speakers have the hardest time finding employment and need more support from CSSD.
- Newcomers that speak neither English nor French may prioritize English language learning.

The Advisory Committee received the presentation for information on items 4.1 and 4.2.

ACTIONS

- CSSD will provide additional information to members of the Committee regarding its services and programs.
- The Clerk’s Office will follow up with CSSD to provide members of Committee with the formal questions for guiding recommendations.

- The Chair will follow-up with members of the Advisory Committee to solicit volunteers to form a working group and draft a report for FLSAC Work Plan Goal 1, Activity 2 and FLSAC Work Plan Goal 1, Activity 3.

Recommendation

That the French Language Services Advisory Committee receive the presentation for information and provide feedback as appropriate.

Received

5.2 Children's Services Programs and Services

Items 4.1 and 4.2 were considered concurrently by the Advisory Committee.

Recommendation

That the French Language Services Advisory Committee receive the presentation for information and provide feedback as appropriate.

Received

6. In Camera Items

There were no *in camera* items.

7. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

8. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Original signed by M. Blais,
Committee Coordinator

Original signed by the Presiding
Officer