

**Second Language Advisory Committee (FSL and International Language)
Meeting Summary
September 2008**

Thanks to everyone that could attend this meeting:

Distinct sharing highlighted the programs currently offered and services available to support teachers with their practice. EPS shared an overview of some of the work of the Institute for innovation in second language instruction. There will be multiple opportunities to support second language students and teachers with the website including details

<http://languages.epsb.ca/en/about-the-institute>

Common issues around language competency and fluency for teachers. Discussion about using the regions grant dollars, facilitated by ERLC, in areas that would not overlap existing opportunities.

Meeting highlights include: ***(with potential distributed learning projects in bold and italics)***

- Sessions on programs of studies, repeating these sessions as there are always new teachers. Consider hosting this fall and every August.
- Explore accessing Alberta Education language advisors, making the best use of their expertise.
- ***Develop a community of practice with second language teachers that teach via VC.***
- ***Explore tools such as skype that can support language learning as well as teachers language competency.***
- ***Smart board sessions to support second language classrooms.***
- Sessions specific to second language classrooms that highlight assessment for and of learning, differentiated instruction and literacy
- ***Explore developing a generic online tutorial about the second language framework that would support teachers as another choice for learning, that would be available anywhere and any time.***
- Explore sessions that address internationalism and intercultural education.

Second Language Advisory Committee January 14, 2009 Meeting Summary

Participants: Marie Wood – Elk Island Public, (ATA SLIC President), Esther Kupsch, ADLC, Janice Aubry, EPS, Terry Barmby, Sturgeon, Olenka Bilash, U of A, Faculty of Ed, Leah Andrews, Parkland, Marusia Petryshyn, U of A Ukrainian Lang Ed Centre, Valeria Palladino, International Heritage Language Assn, Joe McIsaac, Aspen View, by teleconference, Val Olekshy, & Earl Choldin– **ERLC 5 districts and 4 partner organizations**

Overview of ERLC Learning Opportunities

- Limited programs based on district requests and potentially what is being offered by others
- Grant support for implementation available until August 2009

Updates:

- **Marusia Petryshyn**, Director of the Ukrainian Language Education Centre presented information about a project to support teacher leaders understanding about intercultural skills. Background: (adapted from notes) “New second language curricula for many languages have included, for the first time, intercultural skills. This addition to the curriculum will enhance students’ ability to communicate in intercultural settings in Canada and internationally. Need for educational leaders in Alberta to have a good understanding of what these skills entail and what the most effective instructional strategies and assessment approaches are. Proposal for a three year professional development project in intercultural education. The first step is to hold a one day (May 21) workshop preceding the CASALT/IISLE by Dr. Milton Bennett. Focus of session” What are intercultural skills? Intercultural competence? Where are they found in Alberta’s second languages’ programs of study? What is their scope and sequence? Principles for integrating intercultural competence learning in the second language classroom. How might that look like in the classroom?
- Group in attendance supported grant dollars being used to support this programs as identified and in support of teachers (and teacher leaders) implementation of second language program. ERLC will work with organizers and provide support (in kind and/or grant support) for the May 21st session as program aligns with district needs as well as grant deliverables.
- **Valeria Palladino** Coordinator International and Heritage Languages Association [edmontonihla@gmail.com] www.ihla@telus.ca shared information about programs the association provides for their teachers. Information about an upcoming program related to promising practices was shared - Feb 21st and Valeria will use the “reply all” email function to share more with us all.
- **Esther Kupsch** shared information about second language programs provided via ADLC – Esther will send a link to website for all to receive further information.
- **Janice Aubry** shared information about programs offered at the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education, Edmonton Public Schools. Visit <http://languages.epsb.ca/en/about-iisle> for information about the institute. For information about the pd programs offered, and available for all to attend, call 780-452-4996 to receive a calendar of events.

Request for programs – districts shared:

- Using technology for internationalizing the language classroom, using EPal effectively, making the most of class twinning arrangements.
- Sponsoring speakers at conferences, such as Marusia's proposal
- Developing assessment tools for the second language classroom
- Technology for the second language classroom
- Provide website that will be the one-stop shop for second language instruction information
- Review with IISLE about potential collaborative projects

Review with Alberta Education about sharing expertise of advisors across the region