



**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**

Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

French Immersion Review Public Meeting

March 25, 2021

Teams Live

Agenda

1. Welcome, Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement
2. Introductions
3. Presentation
4. Question & Answer Period
5. Closing Prayer & Adjournment



Feast Day of The Annunciation

Spirit of love, linger long at the door of our hearts. Call to us time and again until we hear your voice and respond to you.

Teach us to listen for you in every corner of our lives and to await your messengers in the most unexpected situations and conditions.

Open our minds and our hearts so that we will respond as your servant Mary did. Help us to give you our “yes” even though our faith groans and wobbles with doubts and concerns.

Encourage us to recognize our fears when they rise up and give us the strength we need. Let us not give in to anxious trepidations when they bombard us with negativity.

Keep nudging us to move toward growth when our resistance holds us back. When we question the impracticality or the seeming impossibility of these nudges, give us wisdom and courage to let go of what restrains us.





Still and quiet our souls. May we hear the whisper of your divine call, asking us each day to accept the treasure of your life within us.

May the gift of Mary's own trustful response sing in our spirits. Gift us with the ability to move forward into the unknown, confident that you will guide and direct us.

Amen

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral People.

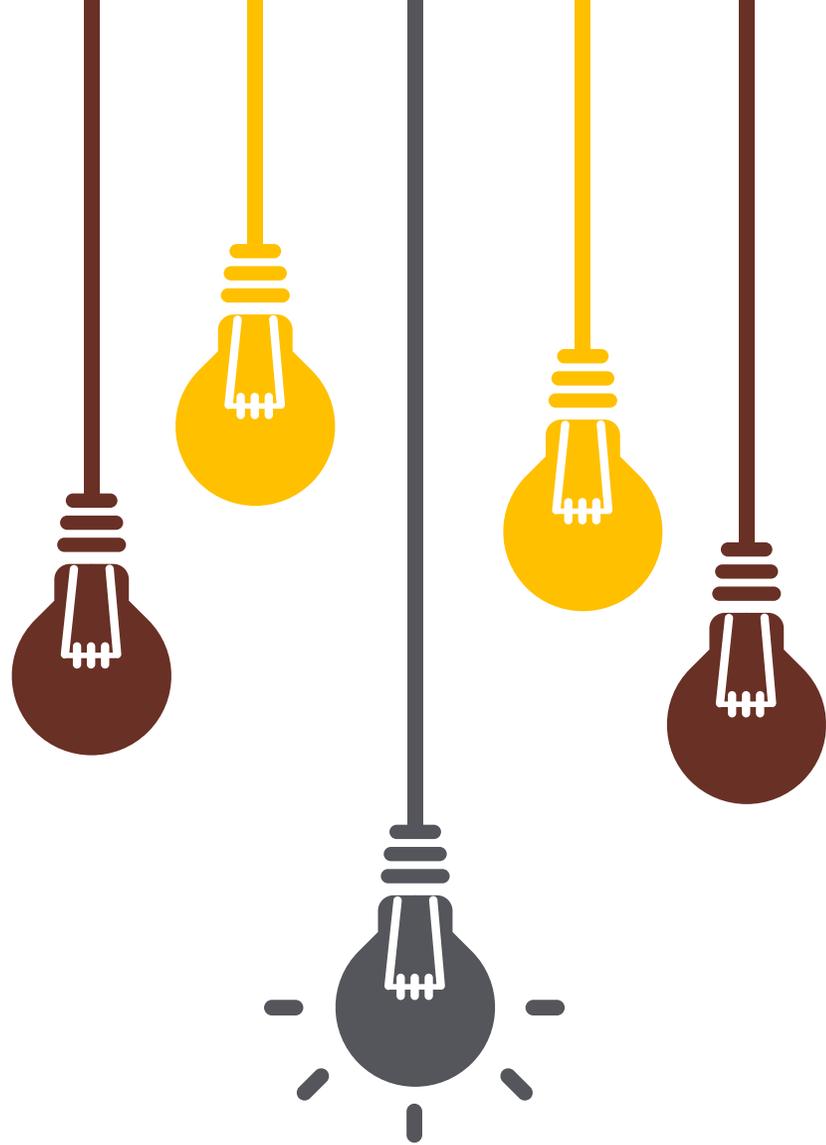
We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.

More Information



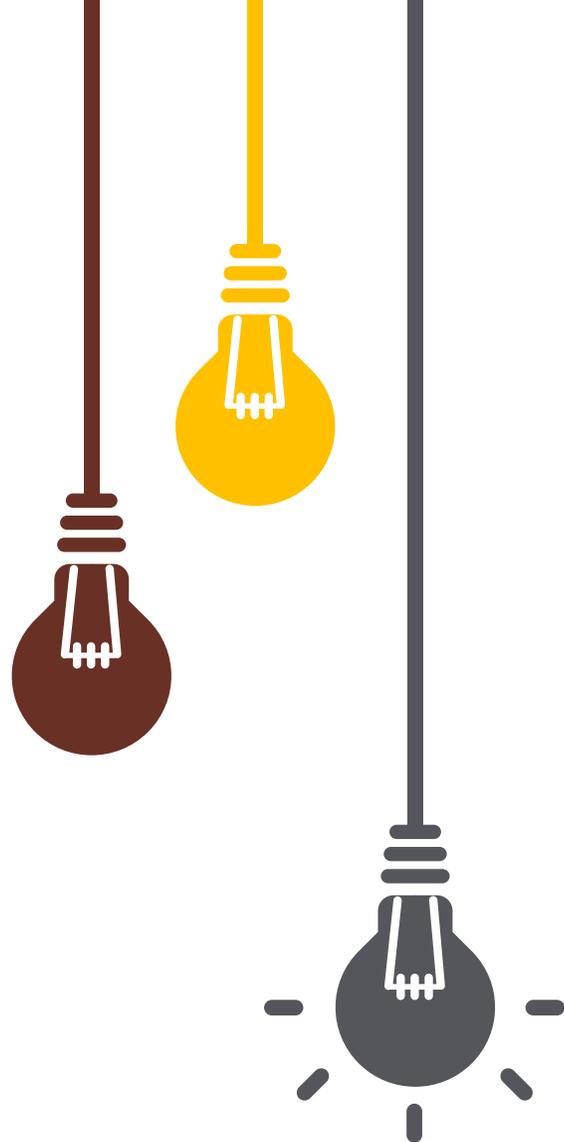
FI Review Website

- Background Information
- Initiation Report
- ThoughtExchange (running until March 31st)



SCOPE – The review is to reconfirm or address:

- Elementary school organization (i.e. grade structure, single track, dual track)
- Grade 1 entry point
- Approach to Grade 1 application for FI
- Attendance of siblings in FI school
- Impact of transportation, as it relates to school organization
- Establish strategy for delivery of FI courses for grades 9 to 12 to meet secondary FI certificate requirements
- Review and confirm criteria for selecting new elementary FI location(s)
- Identify areas of future consideration for new elementary FI location(s)
- Establish criteria for selecting new secondary FI location(s)



GOALS:

- To confirm the Waterloo Catholic District School Board's values and beliefs regarding French Immersion.
- To ensure that students in French Immersion receive equitable access to quality program.
- To update the French Immersion delivery plan which:
 - considers all Waterloo Catholic District School Board students and families,
 - respects fiscal and accommodation realities,
 - provides guidance and structure to future decisions related to program expansion and accommodation
 - is aligned with the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan, and
 - provides a predictable and transparent method of locating programs.

OBJECTIVES:

- French Immersion should enhance a student's educational experience.
- High quality, inclusive learning environment should be maintained for both French Immersion and English track students.

CONSTRAINTS:

- Based on projected enrolment, there may be insufficient space to accommodate students at the six existing French Immersion sites in the future.
- The staffing component related to attracting, developing, and retaining qualified FSL Teachers and support staff will be discussed internally by board staff and will not be discussed by the FI Review Committee.
- The ability to offer a variety of secondary FI courses to support retention of students in FI and achievement of the secondary FI certificate is affected by FI enrolment levels.

FI Review Timeline

October 2020

FI Review Initiated

FI review initiated by Board of Trustees.

Steering Committee struck.

Meetings held November to May.

March 2021

Public Engagement

ThoughtExchange and Public Open House to collect input on draft recommendations.

May 2021

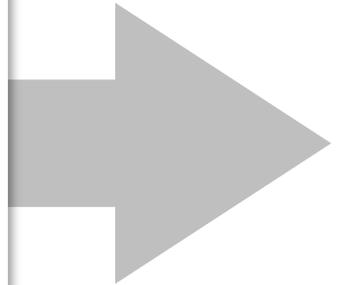
Recommendations to Board

Recommendations to be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

June 2021

Board Decision

Board of Trustees to confirm decisions on recommendations.



Public Consultation

ThoughtExchange
Board-wide
ThoughtExchange to
collect input on FI
programming open until
March 31, 2021.



Public Meeting
WCDSB community
invited to participate in
Public Meeting.



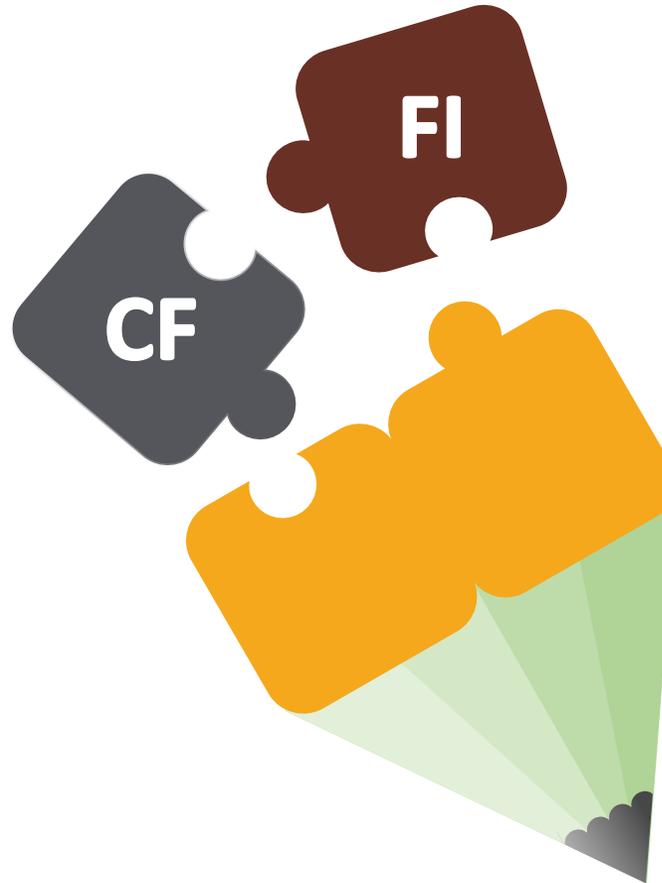
planning@wcdsb.ca



French as a Second Language in WCDSB

Core French

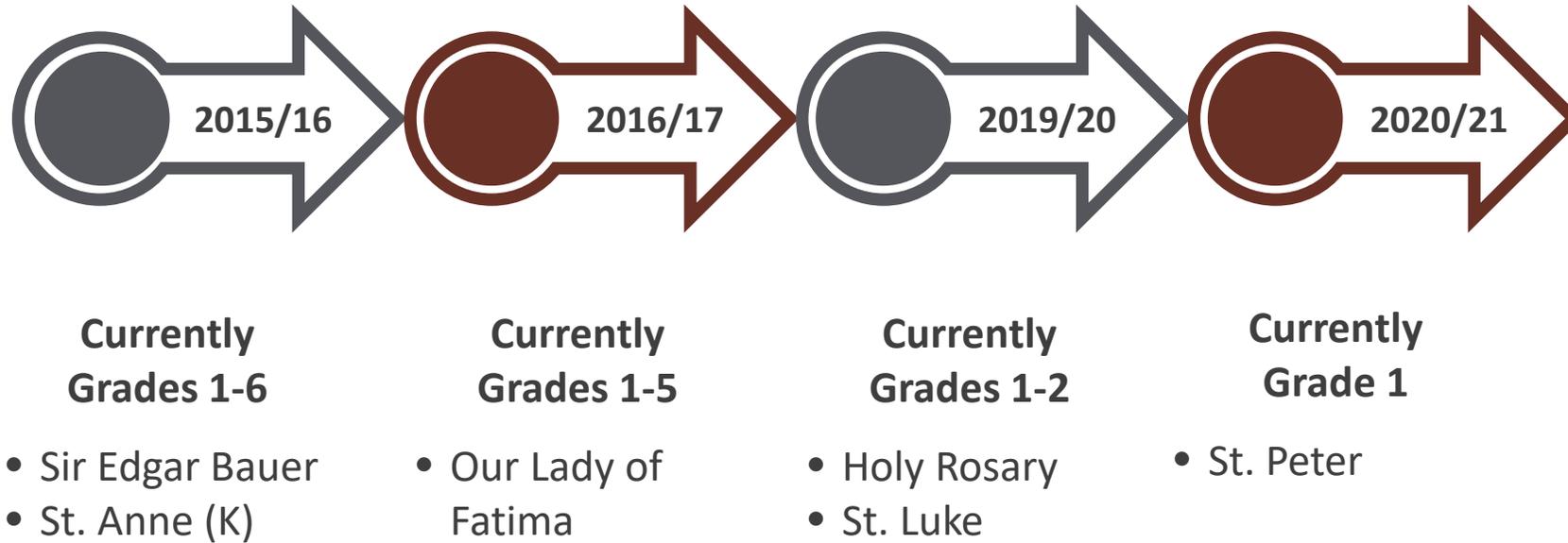
- Students learn French as a subject.
- Elementary students must accumulate a min. 600 hours of French by end of Grade 8.
- In high school, French is mandatory for Grade 9 and offered for Grades 10 – 12.



French Immersion

- Elementary students learn French as a subject, and French is language of instruction in two or more other subjects.
- At the elementary level, at least 50 % of instruction is provided in French.
- At the secondary level, courses are offered for Grades 9 – 12
 - 10 credits in French: 4 FSL 6 are other subjects taught in French

Evolution of FI in WCDSB



Elementary School Organization

Existing

- Dual Track
- Grade 1-8

Proposed

- Dual Track
- Grade 1-8 (where possible)

Draft Recommendation:

That the Waterloo Catholic District School Board continue to offer French Immersion in Dual Track (English and French Immersion) Elementary Schools, and prioritize that French Immersion be offered in a school with Grade 1-8, or school configuration consistent with English programming in the same facility.

Elementary FI Application Process

Existing

- Grade 1 Entry Point
- Enrolment capped based on facility/staffing limitations
- Lottery where interest exceeds available space
- That siblings of existing FI students receive priority access when applying.

Proposed

- Grade 1 Entry Point
- Enrolment capped based on facility/staffing limitations
- Lottery where interest exceeds available space
- That siblings of existing FI students receive priority access when applying.

Draft Recommendation:

That the Waterloo Catholic District School Board continue to provide a Grade 1 entry point for FI, and that available spaces be determined annually based on facility and staffing limitations.

That a lottery be held, by site, where interest in FI exceeds available space and that siblings of existing FI students receive priority access when applying for FI.

Elementary FI Out of Boundary Siblings

Existing

- Siblings of FI students may attend FI school with Out of Boundary permission.

Proposed

- Siblings of FI students may attend FI school with Out of Boundary permission.

Draft Recommendation:

That consistent with the Board's priority to keep siblings together, the Board review APA003 – Admission of Out of Boundary Students to reflect the admittance of siblings of FI students in a capped school.

FI Elementary Transportation

Existing

- Bus transportation not available to students living outside of an FI school's English boundary.

Proposed

- Bus transportation not available to students living outside of an FI school's English boundary.

Draft Recommendation:

That the Waterloo Catholic District School Board continue the practice of not providing bus transportation to elementary FI students who reside outside of a school's English school boundary.

Elementary FI Site Selection Criteria

Location Alleviates Pressure on Existing Sites

Strategically locating future site(s) and adjusting boundaries will address existing and projected pressure on existing facilities.

Application Interest

Identifying location of applicants to assess geographic interest in FI will support assessment of future program viability.

Equity/Range of Neighbourhoods

Ensuring that future sites provide equity of access and opportunity will address physical and other barriers to participation in FI.

Long Term Enrolment Patterns

Prioritizing future sites based on long term enrolment patterns will ensure sufficient space within schools to accommodate enrolment growth.



Note: specific sites are not identified and will not be identified through this process.

Secondary FI Site Selection Criteria

Availability of Empty Space

Prioritizing future secondary school site(s) with surplus space will maximize use of available board resources and support course selection for English students.

Equity/Range of Neighbourhoods

Providing equity of access and opportunity to FI will help address physical and other barriers to participation in FI.



Feeder School Relationship

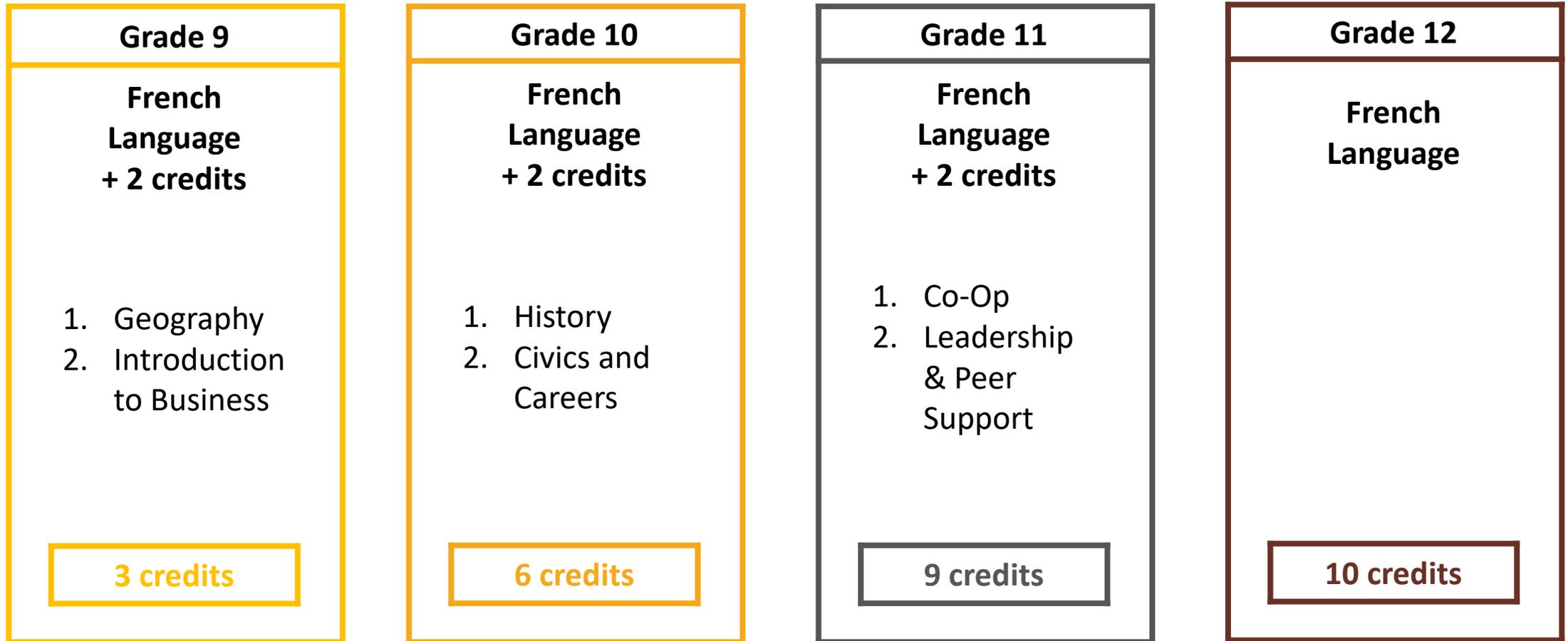
Maximizing Family of Schools relationship between elementary and secondary school locations will ease transitions and maximize retention of secondary students in FI.

Long Term Enrolment Patterns

Selecting future secondary school site(s) for FI should consider long term enrolment projections and avoid adding enrolment pressure to overcapacity school(s).

Note: specific sites are not identified and will not be identified through this process.

Secondary Course Distribution



Accumulation of Credits Over 4 Years

FI Secondary Transportation

Existing

- Bus transportation not available to students living outside of an FI school's English boundary.

Proposed

- Bus transportation for FI students living outside a FI school's English boundary be explored to support student retention and program viability in FI.

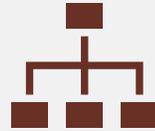
Draft Recommendation:

That the Waterloo Catholic District School Board assess the impacts of offering FI students living outside an FI secondary school's English boundary transportation and that a decision on providing transportation to these students be made prior to November 2021.

Public Consultation and Communication



SCAN ME



Board-wide ThoughtExchange



Public Meeting

2020/21 French Review Workplan



COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE
MEETING



REVIEW INPUT AND FORMULATE
RECOMMENDATIONS



PRESENT FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS TO TRUSTEES



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