

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	Comment	Written/Public Comment	French/Spanish
1	I want to relate my strong desire to keep French as the second language at Morris Brandon. The entire reason I did not apply for Dual Language Immersion for my Kindergartener was because I wanted my children to learn French as their second language. I think Brandon's rich history of teaching French distinguishes Brandon students from others and is very unique. I would very disappointed to lose the French program.	Written	French
2	Daughter is in 4th grade. From Texas, came in 1st. Troubled to find out that French was the language. Latina population is growing. Feels that opportunities post-graduation are more present for students who speak Spanish. Thinks it will be more beneficial for students to learn Spanish in the long run.	Public comment	Spanish
3	Requesting that the World Language instruction at Morris Brandon change from French to Spanish for the following reasons: Most spoken non-English language in the US, at 37m, up 233% since 1980. More than 2x global Spanish speakers than French; 480m vs. 220m More cultural relevance in the US and Atlanta Better aligns language skills of non-DLI students with DLI peers; increases opportunities for collaboration across classrooms in early years Strong demand for Spanish DLI program without the capacity to support it; offers alternative	Written	Spanish
4	Letter from French Department	Written and Public Comment	French
5	Children attended Morris Brandon. He used to complain about Brandon teaching French. Now his children are Juniors at North Atlanta. Both of his students' excelled in French at NA. He thinks it would be silly to change languages mid-way through. He hires people who spoke languages from day 1. That's what he looks for while hiring. If you look all the way through high school, he is really happy that his students took French.	Public Comment	French
6	Senior at Pace Academy. Attended MB k-5. French is one of the most useful languages to know. Spanish is appealing because of geographic location, but we want to raise students who can travel across continents.	Public Comment	French

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	Intrigued by French language and culture. Would hate to see our French teachers lose their jobs. Remembers classmates being engaged in French unlike in other subjects-it empowers unmotivated students. Sister scored 5 on AP French exams. Program is crafted to make it easier to learn other languages. He has chosen to continue his French education.		
7.	Former Bandon teacher and parent. Started Brandon's program in 1991. GA model of elementary language instruction began here. Balance of offerings is vital. The question to change from French to Spanish has been asked before. The state was given 2 Spanish programs and 1 French. Smith and Brandon shared a French teacher. Brandon was a model for all of the private schools 2nd language programs. We need students who are competent in a variety of languages. Sutton has 3 schools that come from Spanish programs and 3 that have French programs, we need to keep French to maintain the balance. Students have the option to add a 3rd language at North Atlanta.	Public comment	French
8.	Helps our children be more marketable and skilled in our world. Teach Spanish instead of French. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world followed only by Chinese. French is not even in the top 10. Spanish is also the second most spoken language in the U.S. followed by English (of course).	Written	Spanish
9.	I would like to see Spanish being offered at the elementary school, it is very useful for travel as well as many work environments in the United States, therefore a language that will have relevance in their future and many native speakers in the US with whom they can practice.	Written	Spanish
10.	Please consider adding Spanish as it is more widely used language compared to French in Atlanta. Many children within our school district at elementary and middle school levels speak Spanish at home and our children could better communicate with them with this opportunity to learn Spanish.	Written	Spanish
11.	If the community overwhelming supports changing our school language to Spanish, I am fine with that decision. I would ask, however, that students currently in 2nd grade and up stay with the French language	Written	Spanish?

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	<p>curriculum until they finish 5th grade. It seems that to switch in the middle of their elementary years would be to waste all that they have learned in French up to that year. They would be essentially starting over when they enter Middle school (in either language) and would not have the foundation of five years of elementary French. It would be more beneficial to phase in Spanish starting with Kindergarten and First grade than to switch all grades at once and lose what they have learned in French. Please consider carefully how to transition if that is the decision. Thank you.</p>		
12.	<p>Has a 5th grader and two other sons who attended. Always appreciated the fact that French was offered. The students' transition to Westminster was seamless because of their preparation here. Westminster commented that Brandon students are always the strongest and would hate to see the program go. Please do not get rid of a well-established program. It is one of the crown jewels of Brandon and would hate to see the program or the teachers go.</p>	Public comment	French
13.	<p>Would prefer Spanish be taught to non-DLI students instead of French.</p>	Written Comment	Spanish
14.	<p>Has a 1st and 4th grader at Brandon. Wants to keep French. She is fluent in French. Has been in situations where French is the only common language spoken. She has had personal experiences where French was the easiest language to use for communication. It would be a shame to dismantle a well-run program. It would take a while to establish a new Spanish program that equals our French program. She thinks that Brandon should focus on other things- Science lab, Makerspace, Gifted model. She thinks we should focus on how to get French in kdg or offer it 5 days a week.</p>	Public Comment	French
15.	<p>Teacher at North Atlanta- Arabic. Storytelling has been proven as a sound methodology. If you want to translate for the UN for Arabic, you have to know French. Teaches proficiency through storytelling does the same instructional practices as Westminster and Drew Charter and now Elyse and Julia. Every month he hosts trainings on the story telling method. Elyse and Julia attend every month. They attend summer conferences that they pay out of their own pocket.</p>	Public Comment	French

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

16.	<p>Loves languages. When her hears 60/40 he thinks about people who vote who don't always get it right. 7 year of Latin, 10 years of French, German, and Spanish. It would be a crime to let French go. Spanish is the easiest language to learn followed by Chinese. French is a very sophisticated language. It trains the ear in a way that is more rigorous than Spanish. French is a better foundational language to learn. It's most important that students at this level get the best foundation for adding other languages.</p> <p>(2nd comment) Thinks letting this program go is making Brandon a "vanilla milkshake" dumbing down our instruction, and doing the easiest thing to do. It would be a shame to change what differentiates us.</p>	Public comment	French
17.	<p>It will not allow me to choose the grades of more than one child, but I do have a first and a third grader at Morris Brandon. I feel that learning Spanish will be much more useful for the children in the future. We have a lot of Spanish-speaking persons living in the US that speak little to no English. I would venture to say that most French-speaking people living in the US also speak English. I believe the children will benefit more and be able to communicate better with people living in the US by learning Spanish.</p>	Written comment	Spanish
18.	<p>I am very much for changing the language offering to Spanish for all MB students. Not only will it be useful in speaking with peers, furthering practice and increase fluency and understanding, especially with friends in the DI program, but also on a more global scale it is a more widely used language in professional settings. School is all about setting children up for future success and a more globally used language will be beneficial.</p>	Written Comment	Spanish
19.	<p>We live in a world of increasing globalism, so we cannot skimp on measures such as world languages that encourage & foster good global citizenship. I believe Brandon does a great job in ensuring students are aware of & are exposed to cultures other than our own... Brandon also sets a benchmark for other schools, so we should actively push those benchmarks ever higher for max benefit all around.</p> <p>Many of our Brandon students are very fortunate to already be well-traveled, so I</p>	Written comment	Neutral?

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	<p>feel it's even more important to make sure they are well-equipped & prepared with other language abilities to become great global citizens, as well as welcome ambassadors in another country. Let's keep promoting the importance of foreign language skills in education. Thanks!</p>		
20.	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to share our feedback regarding this very important decision for our children's World Language offering at Morris Brandon. Lydia Ann Wade is currently in 1st grade, with two younger sisters (Mary Glenn 4 - PRUMC PreK) and Virginia (6months) and we take education very seriously. Lydia has thrived at Morris Brandon!, is an active student and was recently placed on the Gifted track. We strongly believe Spanish will give our girls a better tool-set for the world we live in today and will help all of MB's kids pursue careers that support the diverse communities of the next-generation.</p> <p>Please reach out if I can provide any further details.</p> <p>Regards, Andrew</p>	written	Spanish
21.	<p>Children attended morris Brandon. He used to complain about Brandon teaching French. Juniors at North Atlanta. Both of his students excel in french at MB. He thinks it would be silly to change languages mid way through. He hires people who spoke the language from day 1. That's what he looks for while hiring. If you look all the way through high school, he is really happy that his students took French.</p>	Public Comment	French
22.	<p>I speak French and Spanish and value all world languages, of course. The North Cluster French program is recognized as one of the most successfully articulated 2-12 language programs in APS. The Middle School program is strong as is the program at North Atlanta High School therefore the Brandon program is a critical link to the continuum of success of French in this APS cluster.</p> <p>French is projected be the 2nd dominant language, next to English, by 2050. Because it's the 2nd most common second language and is spreading in developing</p>	Written	French

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	<p>Africa, it will be a sought after skill for our global learners.</p> <p>There is considerable cost to changing to Spanish. Non certified IB Teachers must go through IB trainings. There is a shortage of qualified language teachers in Metro Atlanta and nationwide. This staffing deficit is especially acute for pedagogically certified Spanish teachers. The Brandon Foundation has recently paid for the French teachers to attend a conference in "C.I." or Comprehensible Input methods which is embraced by the current APS world language coordinator.</p> <p>A parent of one of my students at Inman Middle School, who traveled a lot with her work, put it this way, "If one is on a boat somewhere in the world and cannot find an English speaker, their next best bet is to find a French teacher."</p> <p>Our current program is solid. It is successful. It is a critical foundation to Brandon's IB curriculum. Our Brandon students are in French class working these values daily as they become the citizens that we are committed to developing in the world locally and globally.</p> <p>read the comments listed. French teacher at Morris Brandon. French is projected to be the most dominate language by 2050. It's the 2nd most commonly spoken language to English. There is considerable cost to changes to the French program. There are shortages of qualified Spanish teachers who are stong in pedgogy. Shout out to the Brandon kids who work hard in class everyday.</p>		
23.	<p>No-in person, but can provide in writing if a time slot is not available. Thanks!</p> <p>2nd grader and 4th grader and a 6th grader at Woodward. They all loved French. Kids come home singing French songs. Parent of a child with learning differences. Oldest child has language based learning disability. He is thriving in Spanish and they attribute it to the foundation that they had in French here. Proof that French is the best language to use as a bridge to other languages. One way to differentiate our students is to let them continue to learn French. She is glad that she decided to be different and take</p>	Public Comment	French

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	Germany. She wants her children to have something unique.		
24.	I would like to keep french as 2nd language. Not only it's a beautiful language but it's also spoken in many countries including Canada, the Caribbean and large parts of Europe and Africa. Thx.	Public Comment	French
25.	I'll be out of town on 11/30 and unable to attend the meeting so I'm providing my feedback in writing. My current 2nd grader at Morris Brandon is my youngest of three daughters. My older two daughters went to Brandon from K through 5th and are now in 10th grade and 7th grade. All my girls have taken/are taking French while at Brandon. My two older daughters switched to Spanish as soon as they went to middle school and were given a choice. I would love to see Spanish offered at Brandon. I believe that Spanish is a much more valuable and functional second language than French, and that value will continue to grow. Currently approximately 18% of the United States population is a Spanish-speaking Hispanic population, representing 58 million people. These numbers will continue to grow. The ability to speak the same language as 58 million other people living in the same country would be a benefit to all.	Written	Spanish
26.	Current student. HE loves French. MB isn't MB without French and French is one of the key reasons of Why he loves MB. He remembers learning a weather song and is learning a French song about apps and he loves it.	Public Comment	French
27.	Mom spoke for Sutton student- The only teacher she does not complain about is her French teacher. Her other daughter had Spanish, but she is glad that her daughter was able to switch to French. She came home and did things that she didn't do in Spanish. Her roommate from college has exceled because of French. Thinks would be unfortunate if we made the switch	Public Comment	French
28.	Parent of 1st grader. Came today thinking that MB should Spanish. Her mind has been changed now that she has heard these arguments. Is there a Hive availability for a second language? Can we add Spanish to the hive? How many students are in DLI	Public Comment	French

Brandon Go Team Meeting 11/30/17-Summary Of Public Comment

	program? Can we keep French and add another DLI class? How many kids keep taking French going forward after elementary school?		
29	Works at Alliance Francaise. Mother insisted that she learn French taught her the language. She continued her French education and now works promoting French language and culture. French allowed her to earn her current position.	Public comment	French