This year, our committee continued work through the 2018 summer months and 2018-19 school year. Our committee consists of: Maureen Gerber, chair, Kerry Parker, Alexis Bloom and Denise Broda. We have two Spanish teachers and two French teachers. Kathy Shelton of the ODE is copied on all committee emails and has been invited to all virtual meetings.

During the summer we had a meeting where committee members met with Kathy in Worthington, OH and virtually, to finish work on the rubric for administrators needing support when evaluating world language teachers. We discussed this again in October and January. It was finally presented to the OFLA Board in February, and it is expected that this document will be approved and made available to Ohio teachers and administrators by May of 2019.

In the interest of improving visibility regarding the merits of choosing a career in world language education and also preparing students to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, committee members are working on materials for two videos, each quick and informative, that teachers can show in class, at Open House for parents, or within departments to explain the opportunities available to students via world language. This is a project we are just beginning.

Finally, our committee is working to curate a resource for teachers as they delve into day to day planning that is easy to use and efficient. We are thinking of a tool-box, of sorts. We would like to group quick activities by mode: presentational, interpretive and interpersonal, and have them available for teachers on Google Drive. Examples include: ways to use an interpretive text in class, games that are interpersonal, quick presentational ideas, etc. Our hope is that teachers all over the state will contribute to the living document, which if we get enough activities, may need to be broken down in the future into three presentations, by mode.

While there are other activities available to teachers online, our goal is to have material at the teacher’s fingertips, in a sort of shared “net of instant support” for educators as they delve into the day to day planning of their proficiency-based courses.

Our committee will meet again in April to plan our strategy for 2019-2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Gerber
Secondary Language Learning Committee Chair