

Maurice Cody School Council
Meeting Minutes, June 12th, 6:30pm

Sarah Claydon welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to our final meeting of the school year!

Approval of May Minutes - Sarah Claydon

Laura Witkowski made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Jen Ankenmann seconded the motion.

Recognition - Sarah Claydon

Sarah thanked everyone who volunteered this year at any of our events, and committees. Especially to those who volunteered on a weekly basis, be it for Kiss & Ride, or in the classrooms! Without you, Cody isn't Cody!

A special thanks to everyone who took on a larger role this year at Cody. Those who organized the Winter and Spring Fair, Howl, Movie Night, Outreach, Freezie Fridays, Pizza lunches, Lice Check, Skating Party, Walking Wednesday, Finance Committee, Teacher Appreciation, Dance-A-Thon, Library events, Music events, Tech Committee, Kiss & Ride, Safety Committee, Enrichment and our Class Reps. Volunteering takes time, and we are so grateful to all of you, for giving your time to Cody. The Cody Community thanks you!!

Huge kudos go to:

Julianne Bryant and Julie Brown (Winter Fair Chairs), Pnina Alon-Shenker, Sarah Farrugia and Sarah Underhill (Spring Fair Chairs), Leanne Elliott (Cody Howl), Al Melkonian, Leanne Elliott, Krista Semotiuk and Laura Witkowski (Movie Night), Clare Nash (Outreach), Kate Dickson (Freezie Fridays), Nathalie Rethazy, Laura Witkowski (Pizza lunch), Nathalie Rethazy (Lice Check), Sandra Rayner and Michelle Wagland (Skating Party), Michelle Wagland (Walking Wednesday), Nick Foster, Ryan Hurley and Andrea Ross (Finance Committee), Laura Witkowski and Michelle Wagland (Teacher Appreciation), Christine Rigby (Dance-A-Thon), Ashleigh McElhinney (Library), Daniela Klein (Music), Krista Semotiuk and Craig Anderson (Tech Committee), Sue Porritt and Tracy Hall (Kiss & Ride), Rachel McCann and Kristi Murl (Safety Committee), Sue Porritt (Enrichment), and to all our Class Reps: Nicole Cressman, Farah Dobani-Budhani, Rachel McCann, Alysha Kropf, Kristi Murl, Julie Seymour, Joanna Caners, Allison Cooperman, Charlotte Hibbs, Wendy Bordman, Surekha Kandiah, Tania Rosemarin, Daniela Klein, Hilla Gutman, Lisa Lefebvre, Rory Marchant-Kelly, Nisha Kassam, Kate Cribb, Karen Wiseman, Lisa Dubois, Anne Wellnhofer, Tracy Hall, Laura Witkowski, Jen Ankenmann, Farnaz Kiervin, Nathalie Rethazy, Helen Emanoilidis, Carmen Hanna, Sarah Underhill, and Jeff Lerner.

Thank you to Mr Nigro and Ms Vala for being such a great team to work with. We have such a close relationship with our staff and teachers and we aren't a successful FSA without them.

Finally, a very special thank you to our Executive: Michelle Wagland, Sue Porritt, Gaya Sathiyamoorthy, Katrina Hopkins, and Laura Witkowski. You have truly made a difference to our school, and we are so grateful to you for your dedication, support, and energy. THANK YOU, on behalf of the parents and kids from Maurice Cody.

Spring Fair Update - Sarah Claydon

Spring fair was a rousing success lead by three rookies who completely pulled it off! Sarah Underhill, Sarah Farrugia and Pnina Alon-Shenker, with some excellent guidance from former organizers Laura Witkowski and Raj Sharma, helped to take our goal from \$21k to a net of \$26k. Special thanks to our organizers, the committee members, and all those who helped!

PRO Grant - Sarah Claydon

We have submitted an application for the Parents Reaching Out grant along with Davisville Public School with hopes we can combine our grants for a joint speaker on how to talk to kids about some of the tragic events that we've seen recently on the news. Humboldt and Yonge Street for example. We will find out in the Fall if we were given the grant.

Outreach Update - Robert Nigro

Typically we give 5% of our overall FSA budget to a partnering school and in recent years it has been Thorncliffe. Keeping with tradition, we spoke with the principal at Thorncliffe and he has requested we put the money towards technology for them. The FSA has ordered a chromebook cart with chromebooks for \$4800 and it should arrive before the end of June. Clare Nash, our Outreach Coordinator, will work to deliver the Chromebooks by the end of the year. They are very excited to receive them!

Principal and Vice-Principal's Reports – Mr. Nigro and Ms Vala

The following provides a synopsis of some key events and updates since our May FSA meeting. For the latest and up to date information, check out the parent website at www.mauricecody.ca.

1. Grade 5's performance of *Into the Woods*: to say it was a success is an understatement. The effort each of the students put into it was quite amazing and it opened up a lot of opportunities for the kids and parents. (Laura commented: Big thank you to Ms Salama as well who was sewing costumes and helping with all the little things right up to (and during!) the performance)
2. The grade 4 / 5 boys and girls Slo Pitch teams made it to the City Finals, grade 4 and 5 Ultimate Frisbee Teams made it to the conference finals. Big thank you to Tracy Hall, Mr Grundy, Mr Van Onlangs, Mr Baker, Ms DaSilva and all the drivers who made the season possible!
3. Lego League participated in a competition in early May under the guidance of Mr Baker and Ms DaSilva. This was really amazing to see and really impressive. It's incredible what they made!
4. Folkfest - big thank you to Ms Hatzis and Ms Cohnstaedt who took the students to this.
5. Assessments: Evaluations are being done by the teachers for report cards. EQAO was completed this past month. Grade 1 Diagnostic Reading Assessment was completed. (In October 36% of our grade ones were not reading at the desired Grade 1 level (DRA Level 4-6). As of May, there were only 19% not reading at that level which is a huge improvement. Overall 64% are reading at a grade one reading level and 81% are reading above the grade one reading level.
6. We had an internet safety presentation from the Toronto Police for our grade 4 and 5's.
7. June 7th we had our JK/SK Open House with a classroom/teacher visit. Everything is pending until September but we will have a seventh kindergarten class. We are hoping to hire a new teacher and any staffing changes will be announced end of June.
8. Big thank you to Sarah, Michelle, Gaya, Sue, Kat and Laura for making the FSA what it is today and being such a pleasure to work with.

Budget - Sarah Claydon and Kat Hopkins

Sarah: There are a couple of things we'd like to change:

1. How the budget is presented to you at the FSA meetings. We'd like to make it slightly more flexible and easier to understand. Have a Reader-friendly handout, with clear markers on buckets and spends and how much is left in the budget.
2. We'd like to make sure that the money we raise this year, is spent that year.
3. We'd like to put things under bigger umbrellas to make it easier to move the money around within the buckets. It's often hard to predict what is needed in June, for next year's needs. (e.g. Levelled Readers: we allocated \$6k this year for this. Mr. Nigro ended up paying for new readers out of his school budget, and so when Ms Hatzis did an overhaul of the library books, we covered that from our budget. Both line items are still technically "supplementing the classroom" so they would share a bucket. This allows for more flexibility over the school year, and as different needs pop up, we can still support the small changes without having to overhaul our budget.

Kat: Traditionally we've raised money for the Spring Fair and carried it forward to the next year's budget. We came into this year with \$38k (Carry-over plus Spring Fair earnings). We have this year's Spring Fair money as well so total revenue of what we had before and what was raised this year (\$102) is \$140k. We've spent just over \$65k so we have about \$75k remaining. This number seems large, but there are a bunch of outstanding items that need to be submitted such as the tax on the Chromebook cart and Aussie X. That takes us just under \$66k.

Sarah: If we subtract the second Chromebook cart and some teacher spends (total of about \$20k), this puts us at \$46k in the bank. If we started this year with \$38k and we have \$46 now that's an excess of \$8k. Now, if we go with money raised during the year is money we spend during the year then we need to spend just over \$8k to get us back to what we started with at \$38k.

Here are a few suggestions to spend on:

1. Athletic tents - \$950 each, 10x20' with MC branded on them.
2. Lawn Signs - \$1k - they can be reused for the Spring and Winter Fairs ("*Maurice Cody Fair this Weekend!*")
3. Grad Budget - currently is \$1500 and that covers anything that happens at Cody so bagpiper, food, decor, then parents are asked to pay the difference and pay for a yearbook. If the budget was \$3000, the cost per family would go down. Number of grads is increasing per year from 66 last year to 82 this year can justify this spend. Also - cost of Grad has not been changed for a number of years, so we might look to updating this, this year.
4. Ms Slyfield is our grade 1 / 2 media teacher and she is dealing with outdated Ipads, and minimal resources. An iPad cart with a class set of ipads is \$10,200. This would give our Media Literacy class a dedicated set of iPads.

Question: our sports pinnies are looking tired and some don't fit the kids, could we get new one's?
Mr Nigro will talk to Ms Appel about what we have and what we could use. This will likely be a school budget spend, and not FSA.

Sarah - The question is do we want to spend some of the \$38k (from last year's carry-over) or carry it all forward into the 2018/19 year?

Keeping this in mind, we raise about \$100k/year and next year's budget has us at about \$114k for additional school needs.

Line by Line of the 2018/2019 budget as we'd like to simplify everything:

1. Outreach \$5700 based on 5% of budget - TDSB-mandated for School Councils, and Cody-approved!
2. Supplementing classrooms \$20/student seems to work for about \$13k
3. Class care packages - would like to up this to \$4k - invest in materials they can use for a couple of years - or gift cards so that would be \$29k. Teachers have mentioned that their classroom budgets do not allow for them to invest in quality materials that they could reuse (e.g. construction paper for display purposes). Instead, they often waste budgets on low-quality materials, because they are cheap and fit in the budget. By the FSA providing them with additional beginning-of-year packages, we can select higher-quality items for classroom use.
4. Enriching Classrooms: Last year we lowered it but going forward we'd like to continue with our Lego Robotics programs, interesting and relevant authors, and school-wide programming such as Aussie X, Health and Wellness programs, or Financial awareness etc, We therefore feel this area should go back up. We spent \$27k this year would like to increase it another \$5k to \$32k. We would like to have teachers decide what programs they want so we are requesting their feedback in June so they can let us know in Sept if they want to continue with existing programs or try new ones. Admin will handle this.
5. Tech Budget this year \$17,000 - committee is working with Mr Nigro and the teachers to determine where we want Cody to be in a year, two years etc and what we need to achieve this. They have a great strategy so will put together a proposal. We are thinking of raising it to \$25K.
6. Specialty Classes line items - this has gone down because we removed fans from the budget. Traditionally we've given teachers a number and said "here is your budget". This year we'd like to do things differently. We will be requesting a wish list from teachers so in September we can allocate funds based on what they'd like and share the money across the different areas instead of designating certain amounts now for music, library etc. This will help us to hone in on what teachers want to spend on, and perhaps redirecting unused funds their way. We should move the Library budget line up to the Supplementing the Classroom bucket.

Question: Are you asking for timing on the wishlist so if something maybe doesn't happen until February we could prioritize accordingly?

Mr Nigro will have the teachers write a wish list individually and as a department. Language and Math Heads will also create a Wish List. Will be presented at final staff meeting, and required back to the office by the first day of school. Mr. Nigro will review and FSA Exec will review and identify what is feasible this year, and who can pay for what.

Mr Nigro added we had a designer from the TDSB give a review on our kindie playground (south east side of the school) so they will come back with a proposed design, estimated price and we can look at fundraising for a new playground. There are also some funds we can apply for through the city to help with the cost.

7. General Expenses: \$10 700. This covers the website, FSA Operating Costs, Recognition from \$4k up another \$2k - the FSA would like to be able to thank people properly for all the extra hours they put in at that school. Recognition also helps to retain these incredible volunteers. Without our volunteers, we can't host major events, run Kiss & Ride safely, or exciting days like Freezie Fridays and Pizza Lunch. We should be thanking those who run these events for our Cody kids. Last year we had 59 people step into large roles for the school!
8. Lice checks stays the same.

9. Grade 5 grad would be raised another \$1500 to \$3000.

Overall this budget works out to about \$114k. If we were to support this coming year's budget with some of our carried-over funds, we'd need to carry forward \$23k from the \$38k, plus a buffer of \$5k (so \$28k) leaving us with a total of \$18k to spend now.

Let's vote on the proposed budget first, keeping in mind that we will likely revisit and vote on the finalized budget once we have the Wish Lists back from the teachers in September:

Tracy Hall made a motion to approve the new budget model for next year. Laura Witkowski seconded the motion. All were in favour.

A proposal was brought forth to spend the \$18k on the following:

1. iPad cart and a class set of iPads for our grade 1 / 2 Media program - \$10,200
2. 3 tents with signage for our sporting events - \$3,000
3. Lawn Signs for the fairs - \$1,000
4. Extra \$1500 to grad committee

Julianne Bryant made a motion to approve the additional spend and Jen Ankerman seconded the motion. All were in favour. We will decide what to do with the extra \$2,300 over the summer for approval in the Fall.

This brings a carry-over of \$28k into the 2018/2019 school year, to help support initial FSA spends.

Laura thanked Sarah for standing up to take on the Chair role this year.

Adjournment – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn Laura Witkowski and Geraldine Mc Fadyen seconded the motion.