

Maurice Cody School Council

Meeting Minutes, June 13th at 7pm

Laura Witkowski welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming

Approval of May Minutes - Laura

Laura W requested someone approve the May minutes from the last council meeting. Laura Davis made the motion to approve and Sandra Rayner seconded the motion.

Spring Fair Update – Laura

Laura thanked everyone who came to the Fair. From an organization standpoint it was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers, especially Laura D who organized everyone and to Raj who's been my partner the last four years on this adventure. From a financial standpoint we're looking at about \$24k which in 6hrs on a Saturday is amazing and just shows how supportive our school community is. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and worked behind the scenes.

Community Outreach with Thorncliffe – Lori/Simone/Clare

Laura on behalf:

- Third consecutive year we've helped Thorncliffe by donating \$5k from our FSA funds
- We've stocked their multi language library
- Supplied dual language leveled readers
- The library has parents borrowing books now as well which gets parents in the school and more community involvement
- June 19, two Cody classes – Ms. Watters' 4th grade class and Mr Gale's 2nd grade class – will visit Thorncliffe to view its Ramadan Museum, visit the library, and interact with the students

Graduation – Sue

- Lots of teamwork happening between grade 5/6 students and parents
- Book sale raised \$1300 to help pay for yearbooks
- We are having a little trouble collecting the \$35/student from the parents

Laura Davis made a motion to release \$500 from next year's budget to reserve the Breakout Lounge for the 2017/18 graduating class. It is understood this money will be reimbursed to the FSA because this is a non sanctioned school event. Sue Porritt seconded the motion. All in favor

Cool the School – Sarah / Tanya

- Only a few classrooms have air conditioning and those without can reach from 35-40 degrees
- TDSB says it is not viable at this time, (additional hydro cost would come out of school budget)
- Proposal for 31 fans in classrooms and 2 fans for the gym. This would total \$6k.
- Discussions over possibly releasing some funds now and some in September
- Fans need to be purchased through the TDSB vendor to avoid any safety violations
- These fans wouldn't just be for a year they would belong to each of the classrooms

Mr Nigro commented: the teachers would welcome these with open arms

Laura D asked if the money was approved, could we have the fans by September

-Yes, this should be doable

Laura W commented: Tanya and Sarah have done a great job surveying the teachers so now let's go back to them and request they make a priority list of who really "needs" them and reminded everyone we need to go through the TDSB vendor.

Laura D commented: it's great to purchase ipads and all the technology we have but it doesn't mean a thing if it's too hot to function.

Mr Nigro commented: from what we've heard it would be early July we could receive them so two phases would be a great way to get them in by September.

Budget Update – Ryan

- Two budgets to discuss – current through to end of May and 2017/18 draft proposal
- We are spending our way through what we had projected for 2016/17, no dramatic overages to be concerned with
- Currently we have \$27,953.02 remaining however, that doesn't include the \$5k for Thorncliffe, Cody Gear that is \$10k, Scientists in the School \$3k and other cheques that need to be reimbursed
- Teachers are all still getting in their expenses.
- Keep in mind next year will have new council and new committees running our three main fundraisers so a learning curve
- X-Movement will be moved into Enrichment.

Mr Nigro commented: X-Movement is booked for next year and they are going to do three programs for the price of two. They'll be adding in a Yoga portion along with the dance and sports components. The staff and students gave really positive feedback. The kids were encouraged to be more active and it's such a great positive experience. We didn't use the online portion of the program as much as we should have so that is something the staff and I will work on for next year with Aussie X.

Sue commented if we have it under Enrichment then maybe we can reduce activities that overlap with X Movement to ensure we're spending the money wisely.

Ryan also commented: we won't have the double cohort Legacy Art Project for two classes next year and that was \$12,500.

- Fundraising for next year is projected at \$102k
- Student Allocation – whether we stay with \$20 or reduce to \$15 the teachers are using it and are clearly using some of their own money as well
- We've given a lot to Enrichment, so we will be cutting back on Scientist in the School from two visits to one next year which is actually reflective on the teacher participation this year.
- Technology needs some Charging Carts

Mr Nigro explained there are backpacks on wheels that contain and charge 5-8 ipads and can be wheeled class to class. We could then keep the carts on each floor but have packs that can be used around the school that doesn't require lifting a cart up and down the stairs. These packs are \$3k each through the TDSB Apple Vendor. Teachers would also like STEM and STEM kits for coding and development if we could take that into consideration.

- Three lice checks will remain
- Hand washing with Appletree would be great to have again under Health

Laura W mentioned if Ann Marie would like to step up again as Chair of the Health Committee that would be awesome.

Ryan commented: due to the state of the budget if we want \$3k for Cool the School for Sept we'd almost need another fundraiser

Laura W commented: we will be starting Sub Lunches in Sept. You will be able to sign up for a once a month delivery, just like Pizza Lunches for your grade 1-5's from Sept to Dec and if it rolls out smoothly we will ask the Kindies if they'd like to join come December. Our goal is to have them on sale at the beginning of the year with Michelle's help on the website.

Jen D asked if we will be doing a donation letter this year

Ryan commented we haven't done one since Dirt to Turf

Laura W - Maybe we wait and see what the community looks like in Sept and see if a donation letter is something we should revisit

Sandra then commented: how great council does at not making each event we do feel like a fundraiser. Freezie Fridays, Dance-a-thon, the fairs etc etc the kids are excited about them and that makes the parents not think twice about donating the money. It's really great what you do.

Laura D commented: perhaps we could do a better job at communicating to parents the budget and what it's spent on and any updates we may need to know about. Aside from the Principal emails, I only go to the website when I have to for things like wristbands and pizza lunch so maybe we could setup some form of notification when there's been a significant update. (Michelle and Laura D are going to work on getting this up and running for Sept)

- Budget for this year looks like we could spend the \$3k on half the fans for now

Carrie O'Neil made a motion to release \$3k in funds from this year budget to Cool the School with fans. Laura Davis seconded the motion. All in favor passed. Motion is carried.

Sandra Rayner made a motion to approve the Draft Budget for the 2017/18 school year. Jen Dobson seconded the motion. All in favor passed. Motion carried.

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

Please visit the Principal's Report at mauricecody.ca for more detailed information and initiatives not presently listed here. The following is just a sample of some of the highlights.

- Grade 5/6 Ultimate Frisbee went to Regionals last week. They didn't win but they were awarded for most Spirit. This was voted on by the coaches, staff and peers at the event. What a great honor!

Ms Vala commented on how great the staff is at Cody. They are really phenomenal and motivated and you can just feel the energy when you walk in the door. We want to thank you for the Staff Breakfast and we enjoyed hosting the Volunteer Tea.

It's such a real community feeling when you walk in these doors, it's hard to explain it.

- Stepping Up for SK kids starts tomorrow and will continue into next week
- We have an Online Safety Parent night coming up – invite everyone you know!
- June 20th is Disco Dance outside – students have been going class to class to teach each other the dance moves

- June 28th report cards are going out, students will also find out next year placements
- June 29th last day of school

Currently there is a two year limit on parents being in certain council positions, perhaps we get creative to make next year work because we have such a great group of parents and new parents coming in with all

- Linda Edwards is retiring so we'd like to do something to honor her. She has always been there for the kids with such passion, we will really miss her.
- Still going through staffing. Usually by the end of June there are no changes but you never know.
- We are in the midst of student placements with teachers

Mr Nigro then thanked the Executive for spending so much time making everything possible from the website to accounting to coordinating everything for our students and volunteers, this is really a special school and I'm proud to be the Principal here. The warmth and community feel we have here rubs off on the kids and the staff and this is really an amazing place to be. Thank you for supporting us.

Other Business: Laura

Reminder we have two Freezie Friday's left. We need volunteers to help with cutting the freezies if anyone is available.

- We will be organizing Movie Night for September again
- A Parent Survey is being will come out for September on how you'd like to see money spent for 2017/18

Finally a big thank you to Mr Nigro and Ms Vala for all your support this past year. It's been a real pleasure working with you.

Adjournment - Laura

Motion to adjourn Ryan Hurley and Geraldine McFadyen seconded the motion.