

Maurice Cody School Council

Meeting Minutes, March 5th 6:30pm

Sarah Claydon welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming

Approval of February Minutes - Sarah Claydon

Julianne Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Jen Ankenmann seconded the motion.

Dance-A-Thon recap - Christine Rigby (Sarah on behalf)

We all need to celebrate the enormously successful Dance-A-Thon! Big thank you to Christine Rigby who worked really well with everyone heading up the event. Thank you to Cody Families for supporting us and to Rob, Adelia and the teachers for letting us borrow the kids for an hour to dance.

We had the Magen Boys DJ Services this year to try something new. Overall it went really well. We got some good feedback from students and parents, such as the noise level, music requests and the amount of directed dance instruction the students had to follow. The Magen Boys heard our requested changes and have even offered us a discount if we book them next time.

This year was easier to fundraise due to the talented Michelle Wagland who was able to put everything online. Previous year's DJs took a cut of the proceeds, but we have saved about \$1000 going with the Magen Boys.

Our goal was \$12k and we're looking at just about \$16k all in! We've ordered the Chromebook cart and Chromebooks - the Chromebooks are ready, we just need the cart to arrive and we are looking through the budget but we think we'll be able to order a second Chromebook cart and Chromebooks by the end of the school year (June).

Mr Nigro: I need to put on my dancing shoes by the sounds of it! I'm putting together a dance crew for this dance off in the spring.

(The most eager dancer from each grade will have a chance to dance off with Mr Nigro and some staff).

Sarah: There were students in grade 5 who took it upon themselves to come to us and let us know they had a bake sale and wanted to donate all the money from their sale to technology at Cody. They wrote a note for us and left it in the office with over \$100 so we'd like to acknowledge them and just say these are the types of students we have here. Thank you, ladies!

Spring Fair Update - Pnina Alon-Shenker / Sarah Claydon

Sarah Underhill, Sarah Farrugia and Pnina Alon-Shenker are spearheading the Spring Fair this year! It's Sarah Underhill's last year at the school but the other two will stay on for the following year. Looking for the following volunteers to coordinate these three areas:

- Silent Auction
- Kids Kans
- Cake Walk

Please help! The fair is Saturday, May 26th this year.

Pnina: still in the early stages of planning but we are three mom's who are excited and will meet every Monday to get things going.

Potential Expert Speakers - Sarah Claydon

<https://www.anthonymclean.org/>

Anthony McLean spoke to the students back in January on bullying. Great speaker, many kids enjoyed him. We have an opportunity to have him speak with parents in his "Whats Up With Kids These Days?" talk (<https://www.anthonymclean.org/parents>) which includes healthy boundaries for being online, help your child navigate social media, but also talk about bullying - helpful comments vs hurtful ones. If this is something we'd like to pursue we could get him in before the end of the year. Is this something people might be interested in? (unanimous yes)

Mr Nigro: He introduced the JKs-grade 2's to "W.I.T.S" which the kids and teachers refer to quite often regarding conflict resolution. The grade 3-5's was all about positive attitudes. The students loved how engaging he was with them.

Q: How does he compare to the speaker from last year? Paul Davis?

Mr. Nigro: This is more about engaging students above and beyond internet safety. We heard the feedback loud and clear from the students and adults and we appreciate it.

Q: Is this for adults or kids?

Mr. Nigro: He was here in January for the kids so this would be for the adults.

Q: Would he be talking about how much screen time is appropriate? Is there a magic number that we should follow because it affects their brain development or something along those lines?

Nigro: Not sure there is a magic number but he could talk about that with parents and how to navigate that with your child.

Q: When would we need to book him by?

Sarah: soon if we want him by the end of this school year. He costs \$800.

Passing On Some Thank Yous - Sarah Claydon

Our amazing caretaker Jane Coppinger passed on a thank you note to us from her and the Brads (Yates and Sullivan) expressing how much they appreciated our gift! This was from the money class reps collected for teachers gifts in December and a portion went to support staff.

Finance Update - Kat Hopkins

- Dance-A-Thon did really well. You can see we have \$14k or so (after expenses), I believe some more has come in since I updated this. Looking at about an excess of \$7k plus our allocation put aside for technology so we should be able to order a second Chromebook cart and Chromebooks by the end of the school year. (June) To be decided...
- Mr Nigro will follow up with teachers on some of the money still outstanding for student allocation.
- Enrichment – we broke up the line items on the budget to show where the money is being spent (example authors, X Movement etc). Teachers are given a budget per grade and we've offered some guidelines but they are thrilled with this option.

Q: The X Movement feedback from my kids has been incredible. Have you thought about having a Silver Bridge or Blue Spruce program to balance out some of the technology? The school we were at did this and kids read books to be in this group and then share their opinions on them. Its like positive peer pressure to read.

Nigro: We currently do this with the grade 1 and 2's with Blue Spruce but I'd be happy to talk to you further about this for the older grades.

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.

- If you didn't have a chance to meet with your teacher after report cards but you would still like to, please reach out as it is always an option
- Sports teams are doing really well. We have roughly two teams for each sport (except hockey) which is amazing the level of engagement and many of the teams have made the playoff rounds
- We also have many teachers offering to coach, and this has allowed Cody kids to really get involved as much as they want... it's amazing how dedicated our staff are!
- Ms Snow has done an incredible job with the choir. All three groups she took to Kiwanis finished in second place with an above 85%
- We wish Ms Anthony nothing but the best. She was our office Administrator who has retired. We have to go through proper TDSB channels to replace her but in the meantime we are all helping out.
- Staffing perspective: towards end of March we'll look at getting this approved and then share with you for your input

Ms Vala: In Ms Anthony's absence we have different people at the desk so any office info we ask you send to Joanne joanna.matsigaris@tdsb.on.ca and/or Gail gail.everett@tdsb.on.ca

Help Wanted - Sarah Claydon

We really need a Walking Wednesday volunteer. The Safety Committee is working really hard at actively keeping the kids safe and if we had more kids walking to school even just once a week it would make a difference.

Note: Our Walking Wednesday person literally just plays some music and stands at a table with a poster for the students to sign with how many steps they took that morning to get to school. Its once a week for about twenty minutes before school. (If Wednesday doesn't work for you, we can easily change the day to a Walking Tuesday, or whatever!)

Adjournment – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn Tracy Hall and Nicole Cressman seconded the motion.

Meeting followed by Ward Updates with Superintendent Ian Allison, Trustee Shelley Laskin and TDSB Planning Committee member, Nechama Hirschberg.