

Maurice Cody School Council Meeting Minutes, November 06 at 6:30pm

Principal Nigro welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He then acknowledged Silvia Da Silva who is the new 3D teacher, and will be starting November 20. Silvia stayed on to join us for our parent meeting.

Approval of the October minutes - Sarah Claydon

Sarah requested someone approve the October minutes from the last council meeting. Laura Davis made the motion and Nicole Cressman seconded the motion.

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.

- Congrats to our four, grade three boys who advanced in Cross Country!
- Congrats to the grade 4/5 soccer teams who made it to the conference finals and semi finals!
- Bike racks are now installed near the Community Centre
- Toonies for Terry raised \$3500
- Food Drive - we donated 3036 lbs of food items
- Remembrance Day Assembly on Friday, parents are welcome, starts at 10am sharp
- Progress Reports coming home Nov 15th, Interviews Nov 16/17

Ms Vala:

Wanted to thank Michelle Wagland for all the time and effort she puts into the parent website. From tryouts, fundraisers, music and sports schedules, she has it all on there. So between the individual teacher's blog or communication and the Cody Parent site all the information you could possibly need should be covered. www.Mauricecody.ca

Sarah mentioned Michelle has been working hard to upgrade the Cody site calendar... more kudos for Michelle, and she encouraged everyone to check it out!

Ms Vala then discussed a lot of positive feedback has been coming in on the lunch programs. If you have feedback please let us know.

Maker Spaces, Cody and Beyond - Jen Peters and Kerry Millar

- Peters and Millar shared a presentation on how their grade 1/2 classes are using STEAM (a program that incorporates multiple curricular subjects, into one program)
- STEAM = Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math).
- It started last year when they wanted a creative way to teach the grade 1's Strength and Stability and the grade 2's Simple Machines, at the same time. The project was to create a playground with tools such as pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks and saws. The students created the plans, developed their ideas into playgrounds and presented them to the school.
- This year they've been creating a robot with MakerSpace which allows a student to create items based on their imagination. Mr Nigro has purchased some Makedo products (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwerLncVRTk>) which can be used multiple times with

recycled materials. They've also been using Strawbees (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgK9NTbdijo>) which connect straws together to make different shapes and angles. They have found a LEGO Robotics workshop they are hoping can come to Cody through Enrichment as well.

Question: What is the student response?

Answer: Really positive. They love creating things and doing problem solving on their own.

Question: Is this available for all grade 1 classes?

Answer: Other teachers of all grades are interested in incorporating STEM or STEAM into their learning.

Sarah then explained the Enrichment Committee consists of about 2 parents, 12+ teachers and the Principal and Vice Principal who get together and come up with new ideas, such as workshops/authors/cultural experts etc to bring in for the students.

Mr Nigro then commented encouraging hands-on activity in the classroom can align the subjects in a way maybe not thought of before. The LEGO Robotics for example, staff are eager to learn more about and we'd like you to start thinking about it as it will probably be an ask coming for the Enrichment budget.

Question: A parent would like to see how the STEAM activities directly relate to the curriculum

Answer: When you see finished projects you know they've worked on from the conception, it's easier to see how it relates back to the curriculum. Not just the STEAM subjects, but also for example Language Arts - oral communication (presenting their creation), written language (writing their plans, and explaining their rationale), reading (researching to extend their thinking and brainstorming)

Mr Nigro then mentioned some of the other classrooms like Mr Baker's have been experimenting with other programs as well so it's not just the younger grades. It's all across Cody!

Parent Comment: Thank you to the teachers for trailblazing something new as it's never easy to be first so we appreciate you doing it!

Budget Update - Kat

As our new Treasurer Kat made the following points:

- Last year budget was based on 700 students and this year we have 637.
- Cody Howl we projected \$16000 but we're looking at \$15500 which is great.
- We have a little extra money from Freezie Fridays and Mabels Labels,
- Overall we have just over \$6000+ so everyone should start thinking about where they would like to spend money this year

Sarah then brought forth we've had an ask to purchase a new tent for sporting events. Also upgrades to the school gym such as repaint and new divider curtain. Mr Nigro is working with facilities for a quote.

Kristi Murl then brought forth the proposal to upgrade the kindergarten playgrounds. On behalf of a majority of the kindergarten staff, they would like to add some small equipment, get rid of the cement ridges, maybe plant some shrubs, anything for the hundred students who are in there each day for drop off and pick up.

Another parents suggested perhaps turf or the rubber flooring like in Sydney's.

Mr Nigro will discuss the potential upgrades with facilities and see what they can come up with.

Executive will assemble all asks and will ask for approval at a future meeting.

Winter Fair - Julianne

- The date of the Winter Fair is Dec 9th, due to traveling commitments/PA Days we've had to push it from the usual November timeframe to December.
- The theme this year is Canada 150 so anyone who has any Canada paraphernalia they can donate or lend for decor that would be great.
- They are looking for someone to play "Santa" (we have suit for you!) and photographer if anyone can help.
- Aunt Edna's boxes are around the school for donations.
- Anything that can fit in a tennis ball can is requested for Kids Kars and passports will go on sale next week.
- **New this is year is the Cody Cafe which is a room for parents to sit, have a coffee and a bite to eat.

Sarah then thanked all the class reps for sending out the information on the Howl and on the upcoming Winter Fair.

Cool the School - Sarah

We are done with the fan orders until the spring. All the upstairs classrooms have been provided with fans and there will be deliveries in the spring for the gym, the caretakers and the classes that requested them.

Traffic Safety and Cody - Sarah

- We need to ask everyone to please remember to park respectfully, as there have been multiple complaints from our neighbours. We all live here, and we get the traffic situation, but Cody parents can't be contributing to the problem.
- Please use the Kiss and Ride on Cheston
- Do not three point turn or park on the curb, block people's driveways or suggest your kids run across the street.
- We need to be safer for the kids, and we have had many close calls.
- Mr Nigro added it's a really small number of parents that are doing this but safety has to be our number one concern. He has spoken with Josh Matlow and the police who have suggested changing some of the traffic laws - make Cheston a one way street for example but we are hoping we can all just work together and be good neighbors.

Question: a parent asked if we could do something about the horizontal bars between the road and the sidewalk outside the Cleveland St doors. She sees kids climbing on them a lot and it's just so dangerous as it overhangs the roadway. It was then suggested we hang a sign on it reminding the kids to not climb on it. Mr Nigro will have caretakers take a look and report back.

Other Business - Sarah

Mr Nigro thanked everyone who was able to contribute to the Howl. Whether through attendance, donations or volunteering it was a great night. Big thank you to Leanne Elliott for all her hard work and to Ms Vala for taking care of things while he was at a prior engagement.

Adjournment - Sarah

Motion to adjourn Kristi Murl and Tracy Hall seconded the motion.