

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

Laura Witkowski welcomed all the new faces and returning ones to another school year.

Approval of the June Minutes - Laura

Laura requested someone approve the June minutes from the last council meeting. Tanya Rosemarin made the motion to approve and Sandra Rayner seconded the motion.

Election of the FSA Executive - Laura

The main point of this meeting is to put together our FSA for the school year. FSA (Family and School Association), is a collaboration of parents getting involved with various committees with the common interest of the school. We have a proposed budget we'll review and fundraising initiatives.

The amazing Sarah Claydon has volunteered to step up and Chair for the next two years (it is a two-year term). Our returning hard-working Vice Chairs - Sue Porritt and Gaya Sivam Sathiyamoorthy would like to continue, as would our webmaster extraordinaire and Secretary Michelle Wagland. Our Treasurer, Ryan Hurley has been in his role for two years now so we'd like to request an exception to the two year rule that he stay on until we find someone else. Laura Witkowski will be sitting as past chair role.

Motion to amend rule and allow Ryan to sit on until a new Treasurer is found brought on by Gaya Sivam Sathiyamoorthy and seconded by Tracy Hall.

A motion to approve the executives for the upcoming school year was brought on by Rory and seconded by Tracy Hall. A vote was passed, all in favour.

Sign Up of FSA Committee Members: Laura

A list of roles and some volunteers who have stepped up:

Clubs chair - this person would update Michelle on upcoming dates for the website and social media accts

Eco chair - try and regain our schools Eco status again

Education chair - this position was not filled last year

Enrichment chair - works with teachers and admin on extra programs for the school such as authors, x-movement, legacy art project, dance troupes etc

Freezie Friday - need to purchase freezies from Costco and distribute for a fee the last four Fridays in June after school

Health and Safety - hand wash initiative, kiss n ride program, looking for someone to expand and work with admin on other initiatives.

Library - help Ms Hatzis - 45m or less for shelving reorganizing

Music - help Ms Snow with the running of the junior and primary choirs - lots of logistical work

Pizza Lunch - Nathalie R/ Laura W/Isobel

Sports - find out from coaches what's happening and update Michelle for website and social media

Outreach - Clare N - dual language library and other programs we fund

Ward rep - someone to collect notes from the Ward meetings

Spring Fair -

Winter Fair:

Howl - Leanne / Alison

Question: What is the time commitment to volunteer?

Laura: depends on how involved you want to be, the Winter Fair and the Cody Howl - the month leading up to the event is busy then you are done. Probably a six week window for the winter fair for example, pizza lunch is once a month for an hour. Library and music is very flexible depending on what you can do.

Health and Safety - Kiss N Ride - Sue:

Some background on the program: Came from the community wanting to help the traffic flow around the school. A few years ago Sick Kids did a survey on what we need and this was the suggestion.

Car pulls up, we open the door, the kid jumps out, we close the door and the kids go into the playground. Unfortunately we can't do kindergarten because we can't bring them to their playground. The program is five days a week starting at 8:30am because it is required a teacher be on duty. If anyone is interested please let Sue or Michelle know.

Fundraising Initiatives: Laura

For the school year we normally have pizza orders in September and movie night. Movie night is a free family event but we do offer a toonie snack table. Movie is kept a secret until it starts but is suitable for grades jk to 5. Movie night has been changed to Thursday, October 5th.

Cody Howl - is adult only evening is in the gym with a DJ, local restaurants supply a light dinner, and there are door prizes.

Winter Fair - hosted around the holidays, we turn the downstairs into a Winter Wonderland with inflatables, food, crafts, guessing stations and more.

Dance-a-thon - this is usually in February to shake out the February blues. The kids really enjoy it.

Spring Fair - if anyone wants to step up and help out, the field is transformed with inflatables, games, face painting, a dunk tank, food trucks, water stations and occasionally some local celebrities. Older students can be involved with volunteering as well.

Mr Nigro commented on how amazing the fundraising in this community is but it's also very cookie cutter so anyone can transition in and help. The number of co-curricular activities being supported is absolutely incredible and it's all because of the parent council initiatives. Just get involved, we're here to help and you're never alone so be a risk taker and donate any time that you can.

Pizza Lunches - Need volunteers to hand it out pizza, literally an hour of your time and doesn't have to be every month. Reminder, you have until Friday to order your child's pizza.

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.

- New teachers that have been hired are - Mr Baker (from Bessborough), Ms Correia (Grenoble), Ms Jolliffe and Ms Stojanovic has come back. We also welcome back Ms Chong in our learning center.
- Curriculum night is Sept 28th from 6:30-8pm. This is the biggest event from a teacher's standpoint. Please attend to learn more about your child's classroom!
- Sept 29th is our Cross Country meet at Ashbridges for grades 2-5
- Movie Night is October 5th on the turf

Ms Vala: welcome back to those returning and anyone new... both Rob and I have our offices open for your kids if someone wants to come in and chat, isn't feeling well, wants to show us their homework... Ms Anthony and Ms Everett are our office admin staff, and Joanna is coming back as well!

- Re: new divisions (i.e. lunch divisions) We decided to put our grade 1 and 2's together as they are still learning all new routines throughout their day and then put the grade 3-5's together as they are more experienced.
- With over 100 grade one's please label your child's items, especially lunch bags, jackets, water bottles. The grade one hallway is really busy so you can imagine the clutter that can occur.
- We've sent home forms for families, if your child is going home for lunch, please let us know. We do take attendance at lunch and spend a lot of time looking for your child if you've taken them home.
- In grade 1 and 2 Ms Diane and Ms Maureen are lunchroom supervisors
- In grade 3 and 5 Ms Melanie and Gail are the lunchroom supervisors
- Snacks are usually eaten outside during recess

Laura commented please send your child with an extra change of clothes in their backpack.

- Lunchtime programs grade 1-5 - usually start after Thanksgiving, end of Oct...those programs once they've been finalized will be posted online.

Mr Nigro:

- bike racks have been ordered and we are just waiting for the work order to be processed
- Cool the school - we purchased and received fans for the whole top floor for the school - thank you Sarah and Tanya for coordinating this. Once the remaining fans come in we will update you.
- Buzzer system on the Cleveland St doors is for daycare use. Door 7 is open early morning and during recess breaks. Otherwise its locked. Visitors are asked to go to the main door on Belsize. We will be having conversations with safety committee on the best way to keep door 7 locked at all times.
- Gym : going to have painted and waiting on a quote for a new electronic dividing wall
- Also talking about modernizing our playgrounds

- Staffing: our projected enrolment was 611 students, however we ended up with 640. Numbers were sent to TDSB for potential reorganization. School was working on internal movement though the last week before Sept but we are limited with board processes. Primary have a cap of 20 students unless given an exception. Both grade four classes have 34 students which seems like a lot after coming from a cap of 20. We've been communicating with our superintendent and will find out a week today what the plan is. We will either stay how we are, get a new teacher or get a half teacher. Principal and Vice-Principal will then decide where they go. Most parents don't want a transition after third week of school but we will let the grade 3 and 4 parents know as soon as we do.

Budget - Ryan

- Technology and Enrichment tend to be our biggest budget items
- Some things we've used the FSA funds for: fitted the school with WiFi, Chrome Books, technology carts, money to teachers to spend on students, a welcome back to school package for the teachers - the which is greatly appreciated and the list goes on
- Treasurer role is available this year if anyone is interested. Has a lot of flexibility and I'd be happy to talk to anyone more about it more.

Question: How do we decide on expenses?

Ryan: There was a budget approved last June that allows some items to be purchased over the summer. This is a live document though that we open dialogue to the parent community for ideas and work with Mr Nigro and Ms Vala on teacher requests.

Question: Do we have a hot lunch program?

Ms Vala: unfortunately it won't work for our school with split lunches and number of students. We would have 30 minutes to hand out lunches and keep them hot and we aren't built to provide that. Second problem becomes allergies and thirdly you'd be surprised how many kids don't enjoy the hot lunches. When Pizza lunch is handed out we have about 20/30 volunteers to get it out quicking ensuring its still hot when served.

Laura: Nathalie and I are trying to get sub lunches approved for the middle of the year. There is an issue with allergies we need to iron out before we can approve it but it would be much easier to distribute then pizza.

Mr Nigro: before we all adjourn, Laura you welcomed me with open arms, you have your hand in every single area, you do everything with a smile and grace because you are meant for a role like this. On our behalf thank you for making our school so great and all the partnerships you've created we just want to thank you on behalf of all the staff here at Cody. We are thrilled to start a new chapter now with Sarah and we thank her for joining us.

Adjournment - Laura

Motion to adjourn Sue Porritt and Gaya Sivam Sathiyamoorthy seconded the motion.