

**Maurice Cody School Council
Meeting Minutes, February 8th 2018, 9am**

Sarah Claydon thanked everyone for coming and being a part of our meeting.

Approval of the January minutes – Sarah Claydon

Sarah requested someone approve the January minutes from the last council meeting.

Laura Witkowski made the motion and Gaya Sivam Sathiyamoorthy seconded the motion.

Skating Party Recap - Sandra Rayner and Michelle Wagland

Sarah: Thank you to both of you for putting together this amazing evening!

Sandra: We had really great weather this year and great turnout! If anyone has any ideas on how to make it better next year, we are always open for suggestions! The city has changed some of the rules for their property so it made the event a little more complex but we've managed to create a really great relationship with them now.

Sarah: Just so people know it costs about \$250 for the permit, \$500 for the hot chocolate (we looked at making our own but it was more expensive) and then toppings and whatever else is needed so this event is quite a bit more than it may seem. Thank you all for coming and thank you again to Jethro Seymour for sponsoring!

Tech update - Krista Semotiuk and Becky Raboy

Sarah: Krista and Becky along with Mr Nigro and Ms Vala have been meeting with teachers and students and discussing technology at the school and a lot of leg work has gone into the results.

Krista explained that hands down the priority for our Cody teachers is Chromebooks and Chromebook carts. We have enough in our assigned budget to order another cart now and 33 more Chromebooks. This new cart would allow grade threes to have more exposure.

Sarah explained our current budget would cover one cart but ideally we'd like to eventually get to a 2:1 ratio for our juniors with Chromebooks. We have also recently refurbished the ipads, and our primary grades will have more access to these, as their learning strategies have different needs.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Lindstol gave a brief presentation urging parents to put money towards a new cart and Chromebooks.

Mr Baker made a point that all the grade 4's and 5's use them on a regular basis now. They use Google Classroom which allows them to continue work both at home and school and can interact with other schools and even parents. We'd like to have a 1:1 ratio for the grade fives. Currently we have 83 grade fours sharing one cart (33 Chromebooks).

Mr. Lindstol explained not every student produces the same amount on paper as they may with a Chromebook. The output is higher, when students are using a Chromebook, and teachers can test for more with them.

Mr. Baker spoke about a global outreach program his class worked on connecting with other classrooms around the world and they are currently working on a math project and getting feedback from U of T students online. All of this is because we have Chromebooks.

Mr. Lindstol gave an example that just logging in and opening a document is a process that each student needs to learn. This takes a lot of time so if we could get students learning this in Grade Three then when they reach Grade Four they are ready to get to work.

Both Mr. Baker and Mr. Lindstol spoke highly of the TDSB safeguards in place for students when surfing the net at school. They explained that they are also teaching the students what to look for and how to handle the situation should something not so safe come up at home. It's a great opportunity to promote safety online, and they use in-class examples to teach these important lessons.

The students also are using Google Classroom a lot. Mr. Baker explained everything saves automatically at google classroom for students to access at home. This allows multiple students to work on the same document at the same time.

Krista commented there is an incredible flexibility at home with Google Classroom, and improves opportunities for collaboration.

Becky asked the question, for people who may not know: "What is the benefit of Chromebooks over Ipads?"

Mr. Lindstol and Mr. Baker spoke of Google Classroom not be available on ipads. Hodgson uses Google Classroom. Here at Cody, some students have even started using Google Calendar and reminders.

Question: Are all the teachers onboard with what you're asking for?

Answer: Yes most definitely.

Comment from parent: My daughter is at Hodgson and has had such a smooth transition with the knowledge she learned on the Chromebooks here at Cody.

Question from parent: Can younger students also get a login to start using it in advance to grade three or four?

Answer: Each student who is enrolled with the TDSB has a login and that login stays with them during their academic career. Its actually their student id and then a password is auto generated.

Comment from parent: There are not currently any applications setup for kindies though. They need to be setup by the teachers. The primary teachers are more focused on Raz Kids and math online then Google Classroom. Students aren't ready for it at the lower levels.

Comment from parent: All the latest research in education still backs both reading and paper and pencil writing as a best practice for primary grades in terms of brain development.

Ms Vala: Currently we have 87 working Chromebooks but 262 students from grades 3-5 using them. So there is a lot of sharing and a lot of juggling to facilitate.

Mr Lindstol: Our focus in grade three is to get students logging in. Once they figure that out, they never turn back! We are also generating a space to use social media safely and having conversations about how quickly something can steam roll online.

Question from parent: Can parents get a deal on Chromebooks as well? Could we post on the Cody parent site a link with the discount code maybe?

Sarah reminded everyone the Chromebooks *for the school* need to be ordered through the TDSB-approved vendors.

Ms Vala then explained they are mandated by the board to order through the TDSB. This covers installations, extended warranties and upgrades.

Mr. Lindstol also commented the safeguards the TDSB puts on the Chromebooks is amazing. They will shut down an account if it is being used inappropriately. Teachers can then get a list of what the student has been doing and go through it with the student.

Sarah: to break it down we are looking at \$285 per Chromebook and one cart is approximately \$2100. So in total for 33 Chromebooks and one cart we are looking at \$13k. Currently we have \$17k in the tech budget so would be left with \$4k. Ideally the teachers would like two carts and 66 chromebooks. We can look into seeing if we can get a deal for parents to purchase in bulk through somewhere.

Comment: The Class Reps could direct parents to the parent website (mauricecody.ca) to check out a tech opportunity which is where they could purchase Chromebooks for home use.

Becky steered the conversation back to school Chromebooks for students asking do we use the \$17k we have now to purchase one cart and 33 Chromebooks?

Question from parent: Could we use the upcoming Dance-a-thon money towards technology?

Christine: For our dance-a-thon we are hoping to raise \$12k, we have the Magen Boys this year who cost \$850 and the rest of the money goes to the school.

Sarah suggested the dance-a-thon goal be for a Cart and 33 Chromebooks.

Parent question: Is there something specific we could push for the younger kids? We want people with students of all ages to donate and parents of the younger kids may not see the value in a Chromebook cart.

Answer: by bringing in additional technology to the older classrooms it trickles down to the younger grades. They will now have opportunities to use other forms of tech, that the older grades had been using.

Parent question: Kindergarten parents want to donate to things for their age. Can we make it more relevant to the younger kids?

Sarah noted the amount of technology used in each classroom depends on the teacher. The FSA covers the cost of providing Raz Kids Reading program for JK-Grade 3, and we're looking into IXL for next year (a math program).

A parent noted that the Chromebooks we buy today would ensure kindy kids would have one in grade three.

Christine/Michelle announced Mr Nigro has also pledged if we reach our goal of \$12k he will have a dance-off with a student from each grade at the Spring Assembly.

Becky (Tech Committee) explained the importance of using the technology and teachers getting used to it. I'm a professor, I use a lot of technology and we develop a website and it really took my third year of doing it to make it run smoothly. Young kids won't use these chromebooks now but the teachers are gaining experience that benefit them when they are older.

Gaya suggested we earmark part of our budget for refurbishing going forward.

Question from parent: Any idea how much to update our Chromebooks or ipads every 4-5 years?

Ms Vala: it all depends, I can't answer that. The school pays for fixing them if something happens to them.

Parent comment: As a parent we've made a lot of tangible changes for the school that parents can see and now that I'm here and can understand you are trying to teach a safe social media for our kids. If someone tells me the school is willing to teach my kid how to be safe on social media, then I'm all for it. We need to put this in layman's terms for parents. The turf for example, we raised money for and you can see how great the field looks now so make it simple with technology; would you like a safe or unsafe environment for kids.

Krista Semotiuk put forward a motion to approve spending on 1 cart and 33 Chromebooks. Sandra Reynor seconded the motion. All in favour, approved.

Laura Witkowski made a motion for money raised at the Dance-a-thon be earmarked for Technology. Tracy Hall seconded the motion.

Sarah reminded people the \$20k raised in the Spring Fair budget goes towards next years budget. She will discuss further with Laura Witkowski and Ryan Hurley, to clarify again why that is.

Help Wanted Update - Sarah Claydon

Sarah: We've had two lovely people step up to run this years Spring Fair!!

Sarah Underhill and Sarah Farrugia have graciously reached out. They will be running the fair under the guidance of Raj and Laura. We would really like one other person to shadow as its Sarah Underhill's last year so she will not be helping out next year.

- We also need a Lice Check Coordinator and Pizza Lunch Coordinators
- Roles have been posted on Cody website if you'd like more information

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

Unfortunately Mr Nigro was unable to attend today's meeting, as he had TDSB Board meetings. He sends his regards.

Ms Vala:

- Report Cards go home on Valentine's Day
- Interviews will be held Thursday evening and Friday morning. They are not required for this report unless a teacher feels they would like to meet with you. If you don't get an invite from your teacher but would like to meet with them, please reach out to them directly.
- Intramurals are currently taking place at lunchtime for our grade four and fives. These are on Tuesday and Thursdays. (basketball and volleyball)
- February 14th is our Cody hockey team first game in the playoffs, congrats to them.
- Regular season of basketball has kicked off now so watch for the schedule on mauricecody.ca
- Ms Snow is continuing the choir practices on Wed and Thurs mornings. Kiwanis is later this month and strings is currently on hold as the instructor is on leave. Winter concert is March 6th, time TBD.
- Aussie X came in week of Jan 25th and we had a lot of positive feedback. They did a mindfulness program using martial arts.
- Ms Hatzis has organized a number of authors to come in through Enrichment.
- Lisa Rivers (Drama program) has been joining the kindergarten classes also through Enrichment.
- Feb 27th is the speech competition
- Also need to mention with our lice checks this time we only had three cases which is amazing!
- On a sad note, as most of you know, Mona Piper (the former crossing guard at Millwood and Cleveland) passed away last week. Mr Nigro and Ms Vala will be going to the service Friday on behalf of our staff and students.

Sarah: if anyone has a note or something they'd like her to pass along to the family, you can leave it in the office.

Grade 5 Grad Plans - Laura Witkowski

- Committee still being formed
- Usually grade four parents help with setup so we'll need someone to help head that up (Christine Rigby volunteered)

Motion to adjourn Laura Witkowski and Geraldine McFadyen seconded the motion.