

**Maurice Cody School Council**  
**Meeting Minutes, September 11th, 6:30pm**

Sarah Claydon welcomed everyone and introduced herself as the current Chair of the FSA Executive Committee. This is her second year of a two-year term, she has two kids at Cody and she's looking forward to her role again. She then thanked everyone for coming.

**Approval of May Minutes** - Sarah Claydon

Farnaz Kiervan made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting and Kat Hopkins seconded the motion.

**Election of the FSA Execs** - Sarah Claydon

Tonight we'd like to start with creating our Family and School Association (FSA) for the school year. We've had a number of people step up and say they are interested so a big thank you to all of them. We are really big on committees so if you want to be on one or more than one, we welcome you!

We have two FSA Vice Chairs stepping down this year - Gaya Sivam Sathiyamoorthy and Sue Porritt. Many thanks to both of them for their commitment and guidance over the last few years!

We've had four parents come forward that would like to volunteer as Vice Chairs - Jen Ankenmann, Kristi Murl, Meghan Lockington-Minns and Natasha Golding.

Kat our Treasurer will be stepping down and joining our Winter Fair Committee and Cecilia Kwan would like to step in as Treasurer.

Tracy Hall made the motion to elect the four Vice Chairs, our new Treasurer and Michelle Wagland as our secretary. Mo Tantawi seconded the motion. Sarah asked for all in favour and the vote was passed.

**Committees** - Sarah Claydon

Our major events:

**Cody Howl** - Peter Claydon is taking over for Leanne this year and has a committee all ready to go. They are always looking for more people though. This is an adult-only event in the school gym with food, a silent auction and dancing. Tickets will go on-sale mid October so watch for that!

**Winter Fair** - this was taken over last year by Julianne Bryant and Julie Brown. Kat Hopkins will be joining them this year. There are rooms with different activities, inflatables, Santa, raffles, Aunt Edna's where your child can purchase a present and food. We need volunteers to join this committee and help fill the gaps!

**Spring Fair** – Sarah Farrugia and Pnina Alon-Shenker would always love to have someone help them organize such a large event, and to volunteer to run one of our attractions. There are bouncy castles, silent auction, dunk tank, hair salon and so much more. This event takes place in May.

**Movie Night** - Leanne Elliott, Al Melkonian, and Krista Semotiuk put on this fabulous FUN-raiser. This event is actually this Friday on the turf. The movie starts around 7:15pm (or when it gets dark!) so get here early. Bring loonies/toonies for the snack table, blankets for the turf and food donation for the food drive!

**Dance-a-thon** – Christine Rigby has offered to organize this again. (Hooray Christine!) This event takes place in February in the gym for all our students.

Getting into our other Committees we have:

**Enrichment** – Sue Porritt – this committee works with the Vice-Principal, Principal and teachers to bring experts to the school for different experiences, and that enhance the curriculum. Some examples are Aussie X (which teaches the kids teamwork via Australian sports), Drama, Lego Robotics, Authors, Speakers and more.

**Music** - Daniela Klein - she works as the liaison between Ms Snow and the FSA. She will provide Michelle the band practice and choir schedules for the parent website.

**Outreach** – Clare Nash – The TDSB mandates 5% of our fundraising efforts go to help another school. For the past few years we have helped to support Thorncliffe Park School with a dual-language library, and most recently with their tech initiative. Clare commented: Mr Nigro spoke with Thorncliffe Principal Jeffrey Crane and decided they would like a contribution to their Digital Literacy Program. So on Friday, Aug 31st we delivered 12 new Chromebooks to Thorncliffe. This will allow each child from grades 1-5, 90 minutes per week of digital literacy education. No plans yet for this year but would love to expand the Outreach Committee to include an initiative between students as well. Thank you, Katie Blais for stepping into this role, alongside Clare!

Mr Nigro commented: They have allocated time now with electronics for each student which is amazing. We are going to see about some sort of liaison with them on education.

**Ward Rep** – Mike Healy has volunteered to represent Cody at the Ward Meetings. Will be great to have Mike there who can then report back to us. We'd love to have a pulse on all the changes going on so we look forward to hearing back. Mo Tantawi volunteered to accompany Mike to the meetings.

**Library Rep** – Ashleigh McElhinney has volunteered to help the wonderful Ms Hatzis with organizing book fairs, sorting and stocking shelves. If you have time to come in during the day and help out, let us know.

**Kiss N Ride** – Sue Porritt - this committee is important to our community. There have been so many near misses that we need to work together to keep our kids safe. Whether it's educating parents on the direction to drive on Cheston, where not to park in the mornings to respect our neighbors etc.

Sue commented: We can't start until 8:30am when the staff is on duty to supervise and 8:40am is the final bell so it's literally ten minutes. You can volunteer for one day a week or a month, whichever works for you! The job: open the car door, watch the child get out, close the door and move on to the next car.

Also just a side note: Kiss N Ride is for kids in grades 1-5. We can't take JK and SK. They must be delivered by their parents to their respective playgrounds.

**Skating Party** - Sandra Rayner and Michelle Wagland. This is another Fun-raiser. We reserve the ice at Hodgson for an evening and provide hot chocolate and music to Cody Families. Date TBD.

**Finance Committee** – Sue Porritt and Jen Ankenmann - this group meets every couple of months to discuss the budget, what the school is asking for etc. so if you're a numbers-person, they could use your help!

**Lice Checks** - Kate Cribb has graciously taken on this role. There are three lice checks a year, which Kate has organized. They are funded by the FSA and volunteers direct the students to the proper rooms they do not actually perform the lice checks, we have a company that comes in to do this.

**Pizza lunches** – These have been organized in the past by Laura Witkowski and Nathalie Rethazy. This year they have passed the torch onto Danka Sobot, Susan Thouin, with some input from our new Eco-contact, Meghan Lockington-Minns. This team has come up with some great ideas to make things more functional and

eco-friendly so we look forward to that. The deadline for pizza lunches is Sept 21st and you can order on our parent website ([www.mauricecody.ca](http://www.mauricecody.ca))

Susan added: A big thank you to Nathalie and Laura for educating us. A couple of changes this year:

- we will offer a staggered lunch in the atrium so no longer eating on the floor in the gym. Both will get hot pizza because we will place two orders. The kindies will eat in their classrooms.
- One thing we are going to try is to eliminate garbage so we will no longer offer juice boxes. The kids can bring their water bottles down like they do each day. They will get a treat like pringles in a recyclable container and we'll look at providing veggies as well.
- Price has increased by \$1 total. Pizza Nova has actually increased their prices which is why ours have gone up.

Meghan added: we are asking people to bring in a plate on Pizza Day. That could be something simple like a plastic lid from a takeout container, or a container that fits in their lunch bag that they can bring home at the end of the day. The children will be served the pizza so they will not be walking around with it.

Mr Nigro: we want to thank Susan and Danka for taking this on! Meghan and I have been working on taking the containers around to the classrooms to give the students a visual example of what they could use as a plate.

**Freezie Fridays** - Kate Dickson has offered to continue organizing this fun event. Each Friday in June for \$1 your child can buy a freezie in the playground after school. Some students even declare "It's the best day ever". Kate buys the freezies from Costco, stores them in the freezer we have in the basement here and then sells them at a table. Stay tuned!

**Teacher Appreciation** – Michelle Wagland has been heading this initiative. Everyone brings in special (nut-free) breakfast items, we get coffee and the staff enjoy treats for most of the day. Michelle decorates the staff lounge as well so it's a really nice thing.

Michelle commented: We would love volunteers to help organize this. We always need help cutting four trays of bagels. Please let me know if you can help!

**Safety Committee** – Amal Rajwani and Farnaz Kiervin volunteered to take on this committee. We had an amazing plan last year but unfortunately ran out of time so hoping to pick that back up. Jillian Walsh, the mother who lost her daughter Georgia

a few years back, is on board to work with us about safety. Excited to see where this goes.

**Tech Committee** - Krista Semotiuk will be continuing to work on this committee. We'd love someone else to work with her. Last year Craig Anderson and Krista worked on a plan to get two more chromebook carts and ipads into the school. Tech is always in flux, so we need to work to develop a very intentional plan with our Admin and teachers, to get Cody what they need to support our kids at school.

**Walking Wednesday** – we need someone who is really dedicated to encourage kids to walk to school. The kids take so much pride in counting their steps. It's a community piece, a safety piece. One year Jill Furnival did a map of Canada and added the steps each week as the kids "walked across Canada". This happens on Wednesday mornings for about 15-20 minutes. You can have music, you need bristol board and just an encouraging attitude.

Jenni Dobson happily accepted this challenge (thank you!!)

**Sports** - will remain with Michelle Wagland because the teachers running sporting events email her the schedule and she posts it online for us all. There really isn't a need for another volunteer at this time.

**Eco Committee** – Meghan Lockington-Minns is always looking for ways to make our school eco friendly. Would love someone to work with here.

Lindsay Walker volunteered to work with Meghan.

Sarah: That ends the list of committees. If there is something you'd like to bring to Cody, feel free to speak to the FSA.

**Finance** - Kat Hopkins

Last June, we were in a fortunate position with quite a bit of access funds. Voted to allocate those funds to another Chromebook Cart, an Ipad cart, fair lawn signs, two tents for Cross Country (and other sporting events).

We are fundraising to spend so if you're a grade five parent your child will benefit from the funds raised that year.

Our planned revenue for each area of the budget is based on the average from each year. For example Supplementing Classrooms is \$20/student.

If you look, our planned revenue is based roughly on the average each year. Some examples are:

- Helping Other Schools 5%
- Supplementing Classrooms - \$20/student
- School Wide - teacher requests are still coming in this year (via their "Wish Lists") so we look forward to seeing what they'd like to see to enrich the classrooms.

Mr Nigro commented: It's so good to hear the energy you come with from all the fundraising and the teachers feel the support and are so incredibly thankful. We are then able to spend our budget on making teachers into even better teachers through PD opportunities. Thank you!

- General Expenses - we've increased the grade 5 grad budget to \$3k to help make the end of year less stressful for families, and to bridge the increased costs of Grad,

If you have any expenses related to the committees, there is a cubby in the office that you can fill out a form and attach your receipts to get reimbursed.

Sarah mentioned: Kat has done a great job at reporting back to TDSB so rest assured its very well monitored.

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

The following provides a synopsis of some key events and updates since our June FSA meeting. For the latest and up to date information, check out the parent website at [www.mauricecody.ca](http://www.mauricecody.ca).

Big thank you to Kat, Gaya and Sue, our outgoing members for all your work. You really focused on helping to ensure the best for the kids.

Can't say enough about Adelia. We are a great team and I am happy to be working with her again.

We have 55+ people here tonight, which is amazing. We'd love to have this number each meeting. This is what your child deserves... to keep an open communication with the school.

Mr Nigro then commented he's been at many schools in the TDSB and has never felt the support that we have at Cody.

1. We are at 664 students. Received quite a few new enrolments over the last couple of months from jk to grade 5
2. We hired Ms DaSilva as our new kindergarten teacher.
3. We have a new Office Administrator, Mr. George Poursanidis. He came from a school of over 900 students, and is excited to be at Cody. Already he is touched by the outpouring of enthusiasm from our school.
4. We've welcomed Ms Hollister for our kindergarten prep programs
5. Monsieur Laundry, we welcomed back for core French
6. Biggest hotspot we have right now is kindergarten classes have 30 kids each. It is up to the board as to what will happen next, if anything. (Ideally they would like an average of 26 per grade)

Question: Grade four classes are at 30, grade fives are 28. Will you request another teacher for a grade 4 or a straight 4 or 5?

Mr Nigro: The board will determine if we get another teacher and we will know early next week.

Question: Do we have any empty classrooms?

Mr Nigro: We have one room (room 104) that is currently used for French, but that could be a la carte style (travels from classroom to classroom)

Questions: How many students in grade three?

Mr Nigro: One class is 22 but the rest are 20

Sarah: If there is a reorganization, my son went through that last year and it was worth the wait. So please just be patient and if you need someone to walk you through it, I'd be happy to talk with you. The staff at Cody knows what they're doing and we just need to trust them.

7. First Staff Meeting is Thursday. We will discuss Enrichment ideas.
8. A big thank you to Krista and Craig and the Tech Committee. From a staffing perspective Ms Slyfield now has a dedicated ipad cart and we are very thankful for that!
9. Some key dates:
  - o Sept 27th 6:30pm - 8pm Curriculum Night, there are two sessions so you can make it to two kids rooms
  - o Sept 28th Terry Fox Run.
  - o Cross Country is starting Friday and will be every Tues and Fri morning at 8am.
  - o Choir starts Thursday for the Juniors at 8am and will be Wednesdays at 8am for the Primary kids.

Ms Vala:

This is her 6th year at Cody and she has two safety issues to highlight.

1. Medical Forms. We need those completed and returned to the office. We need to know if your child has any allergies or an epipen. We need your cell phone numbers and where we can reach you in an emergency. Time is wasted trying to find the correct number to call a parent in an emergency. Those forms also contain who is allowed to leave the school with your child. If their name is not on the form, you need to talk to the office and they will need to provide id.

2. Label your items. We have 664 students so you can imagine at the end of lunch if a lunch bag is left behind there are about ten kids who have the same lunch bag. Michelle commented: On the Cody parent site, we have a link to Mabel's Labels. If you order through that link, 20% of your order is sent back to the school.

## **Other Business** - Sarah Claydon

### *Class Care Packages*

Thank you to Michelle Wagland who organized Welcome Back packages from the FSA, for all our Staff and Faculty. Everyone is enormously appreciative of our gift (basket with sharpies/markers/kleenex/Staples Gift card/etc.), and is very touched by our kindness. Thank you also to Jen Ankenmann for helping to deliver the packages!

### *FSA Contact Page / Class Reps*

Usually in our first week back of school our Parent Council adds a document requesting your contact info so we can pass it along to the class reps. It's not just for fundraising but for critical info you need to know. (Class trips, requests for volunteers for the class etc). There will be a package going home on Friday so if you could treat it as important information and get it back to the school, we would really appreciate it.

Question: What is a Class Rep?

Sarah: Class reps are a parent in the classroom that acts as a point-person between the teacher and the parents. Could be for volunteer requests, special event reminders and class- or school-related info.

### *Other Business*

Sue Porritt: presented Sarah Claydon with a thank you gift from the 2017/18 Executive for all she did for the school over the year. A small token of appreciation.

## **Adjournment** – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn Jen Ankenmann and Geraldine McFadyen seconded the motion.

Our next meeting is on the morning of October 16th at 9am in the Staff Room. Please join us!