

Maurice Cody School Council
Meeting Minutes, December 12th, 9am

Sarah Claydon welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining us at our morning meeting.

Approval of October Minutes - Sarah Claydon

Mo Tantawi made a motion to approve the November minutes and Natasha Golding seconded the motion.

Finance Update - Cecilia Kwan (Sarah for Cecilia)

- We've received all the cheques for the Cody Howl and the Winter Fair. We have two outstanding for each but we exceeded our target for the Cody Howl, and we have matched our target for the Winter Fair.
- We've had a lot of class budget expenses coming in which is great!
- Skating Party team is submitting expenses such as the permits, etc.
- We are up about \$8k right now in exceeded revenue from the Howl and we'd like to try and spend the money in the year it was raised so we are open for suggestions

Q: Some of the classrooms don't have levelled readers to take home. Is this something we could look into purchasing?

A: Yes! Mr Nigro will discuss literacy in his update so we'll let him answer that

Winter Fair Update - Julianne Bryant

Great success and a lot of fun to co-chair. It is hectic yet very rewarding. We didn't raise as much money as we did in previous years but we think that has to do with hockey tournaments and the Howl being so close to this event.. So just some things to take into consideration for next year. Also we need some more activities for the grade 4's and 5's to get them more involved.

Volunteers were hard to come by. Out of the 200 hrs we needed to fill, we filled 80. This puts a lot of pressure on those who did volunteer to stay for a longer shift and lands on the committees shoulders to cover.

Sarah commented it's really hard to get new volunteers and people involved. It can't keep falling on the same people. This seems to be an ongoing problem we need to address. She then commented The Howl will shift back to October next year which should also help.

A big thank you to Julianne and all the work you did. We appreciate you stepping up again.

Natasha also commented Aunt Edna's had 20 boxes of items not sold that we were able to donate to Cerebral Palsy and they were very thankful. Each year we will alternate donating to Diabetes or Cerebral Palsy.

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

The following provides a synopsis of some key events and updates since our November FSA meeting. For the latest and up to date information, check out the parent website at www.mauricecody.ca.

Mr Nigro thanked everyone for joining us and accommodating the date change of the meeting. He then expressed a heartfelt thank you to Julianne and Julie on the Winter Fair event. Sometimes the dollar amount doesn't show just how great the event was.

(Julianne commented she needed to officially thank Mr Nigro for attending the fair and for the kids to see him at fun events like this is great! It really does make a big difference for the kids and the families)

- Co-curriculars have been going well. Ms Snow does so much to give everyone an opportunity to perform. We have Winter Concerts, Starbucks Carolling, Grade 3 play, Primary, Junior and Boys Choir and more to come.
- Sports our Junior Girls Basketball and Junior Boys Volleyball both play today. We are starting lunch intramurals soon which the students are quite excited about.
- Hot Lunch: from an operational point its running well. The eco-school perspective needs some work but we are working with them to improve so we'll get there.

Ms Vala commented: We still have a few kids not bringing their own cutlery from home. We also need all kids to bring their lunch bags. ALWAYS BRING YOUR LUNCH BAG EVERYDAY. It's a big education piece to have the food go back home but we'll keep reinforcing it from our side. Also please ask your kids if they enjoyed the food and if they ate it. We are trying to reduce waste so this would be helpful.

- Academically: if you didn't have a chance to meet with your child's teacher and would like to, please reach out.
- Toy Drive: we collected just under 400 toys. Usually we have more but there was a lot going on at that time. We are looking to maybe consolidate with the Food Bank ask next year. The Toronto Police reached out to express their gratitude as that was 400 toys they did not have before the drive.
- Literacy: We are continuing to work to support our primary teachers in their literacy programs. We have seen remarkable increase in student reading levels since we brought in the levelled readers for the classrooms, last year. One thing that came up as a request from these teachers is to have more resources at home. We have Raz-Kids as our technology piece and then we want the hand-held books for everyone. The teachers for grade 1 and 2 have come up with a wish list of all the literacy items they feel would benefit their classrooms. The ask totals \$7k and would benefit 12 classrooms. We also would like to meet with teachers on how effective Raz-Kids and IXL (the online Math program) are. Are they being used? We spend \$6k on renewing these but if they aren't being used then we should spend the money elsewhere.

Q: Could we offer an education piece on Raz-Kids for parents? Maybe instructions, a video how to so they know how to properly use it?

Mr Nigro responded that we have two teachers who will put together an information piece that will go to parents.

Q: Is it possible to set some expectations for parents as well? Maybe what levels mean and what to try and achieve by using this at home?

Mr Nigro: we will look at the statistics and feedback and report back.

Q: Do you have access to how many people use Raz-Kids per class?

Mr Nigro: Great point. We will talk to teachers about this.

Ms Vala pointed out it's hard to ensure uniformity across the grades as to how often to use Raz-Kids, as some teachers use it in class and some teach the kids how to use it. We'll put together a piece for the parents once we get all the data, so there is a common understanding.

Sarah: If we are willing to fund the \$7k Literacy Resources ask of actual books we can use the overage from the Cody Howl.

Sandra Rayner then made a motion to spend the \$7k overage from the Howl on the Literacy Resources and Amal Rajwani seconded the motion. All in favour - approved.

Q: Just wanted to mention when it comes to communication, do most parents follow the Instagram or Twitter account? I ask because it's the first thing I do in the morning and it has all the info I need. (@CodyParents)

Michelle responded: Why thank you! Just so everyone knows I don't intentionally leave out details on some items. The Kindergarten concerts for example, I mentioned the dates and then referred people to Mr Nigro's newsletter. I don't like to call out specifics such as classroom number, teacher name and time in a public forum.

Yearbook Update - Michelle Wagland

We are looking for parents to join our Yearbook Committee. I will soon be posting the roles we have available. We are trying to make sure we cover everything that the Grade fives are doing at the school including Library Club, The Green Club, Sports, Choir etc so if you are at an event and there are Grade fives involved, take a picture or let us know and we'll find someone to take a picture. We'd also love some Grade four parents to get involved so they can perhaps take over next year with some experience under their belt.

Lunch Lady / Hot Lunch Update – Sarah Claydon

Next week is a special holiday menu on the 18th. You will need to find the special dropdown in the menu options to select it. We are also putting together a poll to send out to the parents regarding how the program is going or why you aren't using it. We'd like to get this feedback for January as this was a trial project. We see a lot of positive so it sounds like we will keep it going but we'd like to get the surveys back to confirm.

Note: Just want to point out, the reason for the special holiday menu is to avoid any excess food left for the two weeks the schools are closed for Christmas Vacation.

Eco-School Update - Meghan Lockington-Minns

We have started the process to get our school back on track to be a TDSB Eco-School. It's a school-wide program we report back our initiatives and progress and we get rewarded as a school. A number of staff are involved and we have a team of Grade fives who have started doing morning announcements educating students on pizza containers, cutlery for the Lunch Lady meals and reducing waste. The kids are enthusiastic and have a lot of ideas. We've also reached out to Cedarvale School to mentor us on their program so we look forward to working with them. (*Cedarvale is a smaller school than us, but can provide some valuable information on how to best roll out and capitalize on our existing programs, and how to make us more eco-friendly and eco-aware*)

Pizza Lunch Re-order - Sarah Claydon for Susan Thouin & Danka Sobot

There will be an opportunity to order an extra slice / adjust your child's pizza order in January. This is also an opportunity for anyone who missed signing up for Pizza Lunch in September, to join now.

Walking Wednesday Update - Natasha Golding for Jen Dobson

We are tracking the steps our Cody kids have been walking, and we are proud to say that the kids have walked across Newfoundland! We have a map we will be posting on the wall inside door 7 so everyone can see how far we've walked so far.

Outreach - Natasha Golding for Clare Nash & Katie Blais

We've reached out to Thorncliffe for some form of collaboration between classes and grades instead of just a donation to the school at the end of the year. Clare and Katie are working on a plan. More to come in January.

Lice Update - Natasha Golding for Kate Cribb

We have booked our three Lice Checks for the 2019/20 school year. Happy to report our first check will be during the second week of school in September. Early to catch the critters!

Tech Update - Sarah Claydon for Krista Semotiuk

The teachers are happy and feel well-supported with the amount of Chromebooks and Ipads. They would love more STEAM related tools going forward and perhaps maintenance of the hardware. They are also interested in some education apps. We will meet with them further and present more details in the January meeting.

Community Update - Michael Healy

Attended the Coffee Meeting for Trustee Gerri Gershon who is retiring.

- Rachel Chernos Lin was introduced as our new Ward Trustee.
- Rachel would like to attend our January FSA meeting to introduce herself to our parent community
- There were discussions over Child Advocacy being eliminated
- There will be a parent census this year. Last year it was a staff census so look for that.
- Concerns over the Yonge/Eglinton corridor were brought up as well.

Sarah commented: Rachel is fantastic and reaches out to us on a regular basis. She's working closely with our former Trustee Shelley Laskin and former Councillor Josh Matlow as well as incoming Councillor Jaye Robinson to understand our concerns and what is being done or has been done previously.

Safety - Jen Ankenmann, Farnaz Kiervin & Amal Rajwani

- Last meeting we approved the flags for our busiest corners (a flag holder is installed on each of the four corners of an intersection and flags are then placed in these holders. Anyone crossing the street is asked to hold a flag while they cross as an added visual to cars that they need to stop and wait for the pedestrian to cross safely before proceeding).
- We plan to launch a week of communication educating the students and parents on how to use the flags before we install them. This will take place the first week back to school in January.
- We will look for some Grade fives who would like to step up and perhaps teach the other classes how to use the flags.
- The flags will be installed the weekend of Jan 12th and 13th and we will officially launch on January 16th - Walking Wednesday.

Sarah commented there have been numerous discussions with Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin and Councillor Jaye Robinson regarding the lack of crossing guards in our neighborhood. A motion is being presented on Thursday December 13th by Jaye at City Council regarding the crossing guard issue (many have not shown up since the second week of school!) and that crossing guards are badly needed. Cody and Blythwood are being used as examples. There is some traction with media as well so we're hoping that the company who has taken over the crossing guards for the city will be held accountable for the lack of resources.

Mr Nigro then offered to write a letter to Councillor Jaye Robinson expressing his concern over the lack of crossing guards in our community.

Other Business

The Grade three Wizard of Oz play will be performed Jan 16th and 17th during the day at Cody.

Adjournment – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn, Geraldine McFayden. Amal Rajwani seconded the motion.

Our next meeting is in the evening of January 15th at 6:30pm in the Cody Library. Childcare will be provided.