

Maurice Cody School Council
Meeting Minutes, January 15th, 6:30pm

Sarah Claydon thanked everyone for joining us and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Approval of December Minutes - Sarah Claydon

Julianne Bryant made a motion to approve the December minutes and Michael Healey seconded the motion.

Principal and Vice Principal's Report - Mr Nigro and Ms Vala

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

Mr Nigro began with wishing everyone a Happy New Year and thanking them for joining us.

- Staffing changes: we have a new ECE in Ms Vroom's room. Ms W.and we've hired Mr. Zimmerman we've hired as a part-time teacher for health, physed, media literacy and supporting Ms Hatsiz in the library
- After the Fall elections, we now have Rachel Cheros-Lin as our TDSB Trustee, our new Superintendent Diana Panagiotopoulos and our City Councillor Jaye Robinson
- Enrichment:
 - Upcoming coding workshop for grade 2's
 - Scientist in the School for grade jk to 3 is currently happening
 - Drama and art workshops being planned in the spring
 - TIFF and TUFF class trips for grade 4 and 5's happened in the Fall
- Extra-curricular:
 - Grade 4/5 boys basketball tryouts are currently happening
 - Grade 4/5 coed hockey team has their first game Jan 25th
 - Our Maurice Cody Athletic Association (MCAA) will start Dr Dodgeball Intramurals soon
- We've started refreshing the gym. Check out the new paint colors, gold and maroon, we will have the logo painted on the other half
- Lunch Programs: Winter sessions are being finalized. We've been getting feedback from staff so this will be sent out soon
- Wizard of Oz Performances Wed and Thurs this week. So proud of the grade 2/3 classes that have worked so hard on this production. It's really amazing to see.
- Ms Snow is finalizing a winter concert, kiwanis and choir performances so watch for those
- Lice checks are Jan 22nd and 23rd
- Report cards go home Feb 13th for jk to grade 5. Parent interviews will then take place on Feb 14th and 15th

Family Skate at Hodgson - Michelle Wagland

Our Cody Family Skate night is Friday, January 25th from 6-8pm. Our wonderful sponsor again this year is Jethro Seymour of The Seymour Team <http://SeymourRealEstate.ca/>

who will cover the cost of complimentary hot chocolate and a two hour skating party at Hodgson. Please bring a helmet, refillable cup for hot chocolate and please no hockey sticks. There is a signup sheet online <https://www.volunteersignup.org/LA9Q9> if you can serve hot chocolate or if you're going to be on the ice anyway, throw on a safety vest and help patrol the kids.

Q: Will we have both rinks and is it a place for young kids learning to skate?

Response: YES! We will have both rinks and most of the time more advanced skaters navigate to the farther rink.

Safety and Crossing Guard Update - Jen Ankenmann, Farnaz Kiervin and Sarah Claydon

Sarah - Cody has been assigned six crossing guards up and down Cleveland St from Manor to south of the the school. Unfortunately, we still only have Elizabeth at Manor Rd and Orlando at Belsize showing up. We have been communicating with our TDSB Trustee Rachel Cheros-Lin and our City Councilor Jaye Robinson and with their help they've been putting pressure on the City to fill those corners. Jaye Robinson tabled at the December 5th City Council meeting to advocate for consistent crossing guards, and the City is now claiming 70-80% of the spots are filled. They also claim the crossing guards are being trained and then either quitting or not showing up. We are doing all the right things, and have the right people involved so we'll keep you posted.

Our Safety Committee has been trying to figure out alternative ways to help protect our kids crossing and one thing they came up with is the Flag program. This program was started by Northlea grade five students and basically we install canisters on the posts of each corner and fill them with flags that people can hold while crossing the street for added visibility. We have the materials to install these now on the corners, however, Rachel Chernos-Lin has suggested we hold off temporarily to see if we get the crossing guards assigned to us.

There has also been talk about trying to relocate two of the south side Crossing Guards assignments north to Hillsdale/Cleveland and Soudan/Cleveland, and looking at getting one at Merton/Cleveland. We would like to put flags on all these corners but are really pushing for our Crossing Guards.

- Comment: We've been talking with SERRA (South Eglinton Ratepayers Association) who do a lot of advocating for safety and we've invited Rachel Chernos-Lin to a meeting with them to see if there is anything we can work on together. This is taking place next week.
- We've been working with the City to expand the school safety zone to Manor, possibly Soudan. Thanks to Farnaz for leading this.

Our next FSA meeting is Feb 7th so we'll have an update then

Question: Has there been any talk about the city taking on the flag program itself? Maybe bring it up with Jaye as an option?

A: Probably a money issue, but who knows. Maybe we can be one of the examples of how well it works!

Finance Update - Cecilia Kwan

We have opened up the reordering of pizza lunches so the revenue will go up slightly. We estimated we would collect about \$21k for pizza but we are now showing we will surpass this.

- Expenses in January:
 - Enrichment: \$8800 on Scientists in the School; this covers 43 workshops for grades 1-5
 - Music: \$1500 was spent on new ukeles and the choir pianist
 - Sports: \$900 was spent on new gym equipment such as basketballs.
- Technology: We have \$25k listed to spend but Krista has been working with the technology committee on how we'd like to spend that.

Note: we budgeted what we think we can raise, so the money isn't just sitting in the bank. We still have the Dance-a-thon, Spring Fair and Pizza Money. We also do have a buffer for next year that we carry over.

Pizza Lunch Update - Michelle Wagland

Pizza lunch orders are currently open on our site until end of day Sunday, January 20th. If you ordered lunch in September, you do not need to order again. You are covered until end of June. If you did not get a chance to order or would like to add an additional slice to your order, please do so now. Once the orders are closed, we will not be making any further changes.

Committee Updates: Natasha Golding

- Walking Wednesday has started up again. Count your steps and get a swanky sticker that the grade fives have made for everyone who participates. We have a map now for the wall that shows we are walking into Nova Scotia!
- Lice Checks - happening next week. We have two more sessions to go. We have booked our September appointments for the week right after school starts to with hopes of nipping anything in the bud.
- Library Committee is looking for a new committee lead. Thank you Amal Rajwani for volunteering!

Technology Update: Krista Semotiuk

The Tech Committee met before the holidays and provided some great feedback. The teachers feel generally covered over how well stocked we are with ipads and chromebooks. They would appreciate having a maintenance budget to keep everything up to date and there has been a lot of discussion about extending our tech program to cover STEAM now. The teachers are very interested in Kidder (kidder.ca). Kidder is building and purposeful teaching with technology. There are also some apps the teachers would be interested in and some course training. Next steps is input from the rest of the teachers and administration. We really appreciate the support of the meetings to date.

Mr Nigro added math leads are going to work with their division partners in regards to orders and some of the more tech savvy staff will help the less savvy staff. It would be great to expand to STEM and have parents see it themselves whether its teachers promoting it.

Krista: Just a thought if we could incorporate the teachers into showing the parents how we are using the technology that would be really great!

Mr Nigro: Working with IXL Math and Raz-Kids on putting together tutorials for parents. This will likely be sent out with the report cards in Feb. We need parents to understand how to use these programs in order for them to be beneficial.

Julianne commented: Do parents understand how all this works? Do they realize we can't do these things without FSA money and this money only comes from us setting up fundraising and we need volunteers to run the fundraisers? Maybe we need to start calling it out like No Winter Fair means No Levelled Readers or whatever it may be.

Sarah: we talked last June about making sure each fundraising event supports something in particular but we're open to suggestions on how to get the word out and get more people involved.

Mr Nigro: for example Enrichment is \$30k and that all comes from the FSA fundraising

Community Update: Michael Healy

Rachel Chernos-Lin will be in the upstairs portion of Longos (on Laird) Jan 21st from 9:15-11:30am. She is setting up the morning meetings in the same format as the former TDSB trustee. I'm going to suggest they look at doing one morning, then one evening meeting like we do with the FSA.

Also Rachel will be at our next FSA meeting on Feb 7th at 9am.

Eco Schools: Meghan Lockington-Minns
Green Team Update

- Green team consists of 6, grade 5 leaders, 4 teachers, 1 child care worker, and 2 parents - along with great support from our admin. We would like to open it up to other grades, but we are solidifying our focus first and helping our grade 5 students with their leadership skills
- We are registered in EcoSchools which is a TDSB initiative which guides us through a series of tasks which help us accumulate points. These points decide our EcoSchool status (bronze, silver, gold, platinum)
- We are not concerned about our level: simply that there are improvements in our schools' environmental awareness and that we are making a difference. That being said, we will need to make sure we get younger students involved so this can grow next year and we can help positively influence our school even more.
- We had our first official meeting last week. We are meeting on Wednesday's at 8:10 in Ms. DaSilva's room
- The students have been conducting an energy audit this past week, checking classrooms for lights. This is a diagnostic assessment to see where our school is starting off. Then, the leaders will be guided to make some plans on how to reduce the amount of energy in the form of electricity, being used at school.

- We also will be focusing on waste reduction and educating each classroom to use their recycling and garbage/landfill bins correctly to eliminate contamination.
- Then, we will be doing a waste audit by visually examining the bins to ensure they are being used correctly, and weighing them. Then, the students will make a campaign to reduce our waste! Btw - we are in need of some form of a scale (bathroom, luggage, fish...) to weigh the waste bags. Anyone - Do you have one we can use? Please let me know!
- And as always: bring your own cutlery in your lunch bag whenever you can, pack containers for lunch days. Going for coffee? Bring your own reusable mug or ask for a ceramic mug
- Complete the Lunch Lady Cody FSA survey so that we can figure out where improvements and education are needed

Lunch Lady Update - Mr Nigro

The Lunch Lady program has been consistently having over 430 orders. We are their largest client. We've been having some problems with excess garbage and garbage leaking into kids lunch bags. We've ask Lunch Lady to have a look at how to improve their containers while reducing waste.

We've reached out to a number of other schools but they don't have the volume we do in orders so they do not have the same issue with garbage.

Question: Would it help if we sent a container in our kids lunch bags to bring home any leftover items?

Once the Lunch Lady gets back to us, we'll see what we can do going forward.

Last day for the Lunch Lady survey is Friday, January 18th at 11:59pm

Other business - Sarah Claydon

We've been getting cards and emails thanking us for the Indigo Gift Cards we provided all the staff before the holidays. Thank you to Jen Ankenmann for spearheading that initiative.

Adjournment – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn Amal Rajwani and Mo Tantawi seconded the motion.

Our next meeting is the morning of February 7th at 9am in the Cody Staff Room.