

Maurice Cody School Council
Meeting Minutes, November 8th, 6:30pm

Sarah Claydon welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to our evening meeting.

Approval of October Minutes - Sarah Claydon

Mike Healy made a motion to approve the October minutes and Tracy Hall seconded the motion.

Finance Update - Cecilia Kwan

Sarah: Thank you to Cecilia and Kat for managing the funds during the Howl. We had a really successful night and we are so happy to have you on our team.

Cecilia: The Howl was really a great success. We managed to get the numbers in and we are looking at a net of \$24k. We had budgeted for \$16k.

Some changes since last month's update:

- Supplementing Classrooms: purchased Raz Kids / Levelled Readers (jk-3) , Math IXL (gr 1-2) and Math Makes Sense Workbooks (gr 3-5)
- School-Wide: paid for buses for the Cross Country teams

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

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

Mr Nigro welcomed everyone and thanked all those who were able to attend the Cody Howl. Was such a great night. Special thanks to Peter on behalf of Adelia and myself. It was really a great event!

- School Budget - Principal gets \$98k to spend (based on per pupil). Has already spent 20-30% of that. Supply teachers for example are \$260/day and we hired extra help for Cross Country.
- Lunchtime Programs - Ms Vala has done a great job organizing the ExploreIT and Science & Magic. We have a waitlist for some of the programs so we are looking at a way to address this to allow for all students to be part.
- The Lunch Lady - Really excited we had over 380 students participate! Had a few hiccups but nothing we can't work through.
- School Enrichment - Lisa Rivers is working with kindies on drama
- Health and Safety - we put the request in two years ago but finally this Monday our own defibrillator will be delivered to the school. It will be installed outside the office on the main floor. Was about \$1400 for the unit.
- Co-curricular -

- Boys and Girls Gr 4/5 soccer teams both won the Conference Finals going on to the City Finals. The boys came second which was a great achievement! Congratulations to both teams.
- Cross Country we had a dozen kids in the City Finals and the grade four boys brought home the City Finalist banner which is the first time in Cody history.
- Grade 1's Fun Run, we had a blast and it was great to see the kids enjoying being active.
- Upcoming we have Gr 4/5 boys volleyball, Gr 4/5 Girls Basketball and co-ed hockey tryouts
- Choir - Primary and Junior Choirs are still going every Wed and Thurs mornings Boys Choir will begin the end of November
- Programing - Report Cards go home on Wednesday. Interviews are on Thursday night and Friday morning. Please contact your teachers to setup a time if you haven't already.
- Eco School Startup - we have a number of parents, teachers and daycare staff who have formed a committee to get our school back on track to Platinum certification
- Cody Spirit Wear - this is available online from Nov 6th-19th.
- Toy Drive - Monday our toy drive begins. The Grade fours will take the lead this year and will be going class to class requesting a new unwrapped toy to donate to the Toronto Police Annual Toy Drive. This will run from Nov 12-23rd
- Assembly - Olympian Sarah Wells is coming end of November to speak with students about goal setting and character development. Would like to get a musician in if anyone knows anyone.
- Remembrance Day Assembly 10-11am for gr 1-5's with performances from both choirs.

Hot Lunch Update - Sarah Claydon

The Lunch Lady and staff arrived early to set everything up and was all ready to go for our 11:30am lunch. The bags are all assembled and divided by class. The big miss was the lunch programs. We didn't take into consideration if you were a gr 3-5 in a lunch program because you don't normally eat until 12pm, your lunch was not assembled. We were able to deliver them to their lunch programs but next week we will have a separate table set up and there will be an option online to select you are in a lunch program instead of class room number. There was also a note from one parent that the lunch programs did not encourage the boomerang lunch so we will talk with the ExploreIT and Science & Magic program coordinators before next week.

Any questions or concerns please send to Sarah Claydon or Principal Nigro

Q: This is a pilot project so when will we know if we'll continue moving forward with it into January?

A: We were close to 400 orders and a lot of great feedback on the taste of the food. We will monitor parent feedback but right now everything is great and they are committed to working with us.

Community Update - Michael Healy / Mo Tantawi

Trustee Coffee (Michael) - We have a new Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin but she is not sworn in until Dec 3rd so cannot officially do anything until then. She is looking to hold a meeting in January to meet everyone. She is intending to send out a newsletter every couple of weeks with any updates. In advance to the January meeting she will be at the Coffee Meeting for Trustee Gerri Gershon who is retiring if anyone would like to meet Rachel. All the details are posted on our Cody Parent website.

Mr Nigro commented we will extend an invite to her to one of our Council Meetings in the new year.

Midtown Facebook Group (Mo) - A Facebook group has been created to keep people informed about the Hodgson situation. Whether it be a renovation, construction, demolition, addition, subtraction etc. the group will keep Cody parents and parents from the three other feeder schools, (Eglinton, Oriole Park, and Hodgson Middle School) aware and informed. This group was formed to discuss options and work closely with Rachel Chernos Lin and the TDSB. The biggest demand from the group is to find a solution that keeps the kids in the neighbourhood during construction. Having a formalized group to keep this all in one place, allows for that. If you'd like to join, look for Midtown Toronto Schools Parents Group on FB or if you'd like to join the email group send an email to midtowntorontospg@gmail.com

Q: Do we know what the latest is on Hodgson?

A: Davisville kids are scheduled to be back for 2020. Nothing can happen with our kids with regards to bussing the kids to Vaughan Academy (like what is happened with Davisville PS) until the Davisville kids are back at their school.

There was also some discussion over where the money for Hodgson would come from as the province has said no to funding and the TDSB wouldn't have enough for such a big project. A long-term solution is needed as the population at Hodgson is growing. Hopefully having this group will help.

Winter Fair Update – Sarah Claydon for Julie Brown & Julianne Bryant

We are less than a month away! The fair is Saturday, December 1st from 10-3pm

- Poster Contest is underway. All students are encouraged to participate but all entries must be in the office by end of day November 15th. There will be two winners, a primary and a junior and they will win a passport to the Winter Fair and their poster around the neighbourhood.
- Aunt Edna's boxes have been filling up with gently used items (thank you for not including broken, or VERY used items). The boxes are outside the library and the office.
- KidsKans contributions are still welcome. We are looking for leftover loot bag items. Donations can be dropped off at Karen Wiseman's house. Please email us for her address. (admin@mauricecody.ca)
- Volunteer signup is going to be posted online this week on the Maurice Cody parent website. We need as many people as possible to sign up for an hour of their time.
- Lastly we have a **HUGE FAVOUR TO ASK**. We need to send out a Santa SOS. Our usual Santa is unable to participate this year so if you know of anyone able to help please let us know. We would need this person from 10-2:30pm and would supply them with free pizza!

Safety Committee - Farnaz Kiervin

One of the biggest things we have identified at Cody with the LRT and the Condo development is we are jam-packed with traffic. People are using our streets to bypass the main streets and a lot of them are rolling through stop signs on a regular basis. Our school is only allowed so many crossing guards so we need to something as a community.

Last year Northlea Public School created the Crosswalk Company which is a program that uses brightly colored flags to cross the street. Canisters will be fastened to the poles on the four corners of the intersection where a number of flags will be placed. As you cross the street you carry a flag and place it in the canister on the other side. We would like to adopt this program at two intersections to start - Cleveland and Soudan and Cleveland and Hillsdale. If this is approved by everyone here we would like this up and running by the first week in December. If this is successful we would then like to roll this out to other intersections where there are no assigned crossing guards: Cleveland and Balliol, Cleveland and Merton and Cheston and Belize, in early January. There will be instructions posted on each post and between the safety committee, Mr Nigro and the class reps we would like to get some instructions out to everyone to use these properly. Michelle will post instructions on the parent website as well and announce them when they're ready on Instagram and Twitter.

Q: How much do they cost?

A: total cost is \$700. This includes some extra flags incase they go missing.

Q: Will the flags always be out?

A: Yes! They can be used at night and the weekends as well.

Comment: even if no one is crossing, the flags on the corners get drivers attention that its a corner and they need to stop.

Q: Has Northlea had any problems with theft?

A: They have not but we have in the budget for some extra flags.

Q: How many flags will we have at each intersection?

A: We've allocated 20 per corner but will start with 12-15 and see how that goes.

Sarah: We have a Safety Budget line item of money previously allocated for something like this. If everyone agrees we will release these funds to the Safety Committee to get this program started.

Q: Can we get some new pylons? One walked away and one got run over. We need the big ones!

A: They are \$50/each at Home Depot and Sue has agreed to pick them up for us.

Q: There was talk about having a police officer monitor the area for Kiss N Ride. Is that still something we're considering?

A: (Mr Nigro) I've been trying to be out there and connect with the people parking illegally. The pylons are definitely helping but time to time you see people parking where they aren't supposed to. We just need to keep the momentum going. There has been a positive trend, and most parents are getting the message.

Crossing Guard Update - Sarah Claydon

The Crossing Guard, Elizabeth who works at Manor Rd and Cleveland St was off a few days last week and there was no one to replace her. The corner of Millwood and Cleveland has not had a Crossing Guard since late September. Crossing Guards used to be under the Toronto Police but have been moved back under the City's control. The City has hired a third party company, Neptune Securities to manage them. There have been a number of emails, phone calls etc to the councillors, the Mayor, Councillor Jaye Robinson, Trustee Rachel (Chernos Lin) and the police. Constable Derrick Martin, has responded with two phases currently being rolled out.

- Phase 1 (Took effect Sept 2018) If a guard cannot attend to their crossing, then a replacement guard, contracted out by the City of Toronto through Neptune Securities will try to backfill the spot. Toronto Police Officers will no longer be assisting the children across the street.
- Phase 2 (Take effect in July 2019) City of Toronto takes full ownership of the program (contracted out to a third party). They will be responsible for the entire program.

Mr Nigro commented: it is dangerous out there and we have great crossing guards but if you send me your concerns I can pass them on.

Q: In the class rep update, could we have who best to email about this?

Sarah: I will send an email with the emails addresses to reach out to. We can also post these on our parent website (www.mauricecody.ca)

The contact emails to voice concerns are here. Feel free to copy all email addresses.

Derrick.Martin@torontopolice.on.ca

roger.browne@toronto.ca

Mayor_Tory@toronto.ca

SchoolCrossingGuard@toronto.ca

councillor_matlow@toronto.ca

councillor_robinson@toronto.ca

rchernoslin@gmail.com

shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca

Derrick Martin, Police Constable (1259)

School Crossing Guard Coordinator / RIDE Coordinator / Analyst / Planner

Toronto Police Service

derrick.martin@torontopolice.on.ca

Phone: (416) 808-1933

Roger Browne, Manager of the Traffic Safety Unit, City of Toronto
roger.browne@toronto.ca

Mayor John Tory
Mayor_Tory@toronto.ca

City of Toronto Crossing Guard contact email
SchoolCrossingGuard@toronto.ca

Councillor Josh Matlow (Up to December 3)
councillor_matlow@toronto.ca

Councillor Jaye Robinson
councillor_robinson@toronto.ca

Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin
rchernoslin@gmail.com (before December 3), email TBD after December 3

Trustee Shelley Laskin (up to December 3rd)
shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca

Cody Howl Recap - Peter Claydon (Sarah Claydon)

First of all a big thank you to Mr Nigro and Ms Adelia for all you did to make the Howl happen. This was the most successful Howl to date, with the highest turnout and the band was really well received. Special thanks to the sponsors Leaside Orthodontic Centre, Onondaga Camp and Access Storage. Leaside Ortho and Access Storage have agreed to sponsor each of our signature events so we thank them for that.

Big thank you to Pete Claydon, Lisa Lefebvre, Tanya Rosemarin, Jenn Healey, Jen Keeley and Sandra Idenouye and a big thank you to all of you who were able to join us.

Other Business - Sarah Claydon

- Krista is meeting with our Tech Team to roll out some new technology over the school year.
- Meghan is laying out a plan of what we need to get our school with an Eco status of Platinum again. She is looking at Pizza Lunches, Hot lunches etc.
- Our new tents came in handy at Cross Country a few weeks ago. They are huge and heavy but were very welcomed when it started to rain.
- Skating Party - we have a tentative date of Friday, January 25th. We need someone to shadow Sandra and Michelle to take over this next year. If interested at all, please let us know.

Adjournment – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn, MoTantawi. Kristi Murl seconded the motion.

Our next meeting is in the morning of December 11th at 9am in the Cody Staff Lounge.
Please join us!