

**Maurice Cody School Council**  
**Meeting Minutes: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

Sarah Claydon welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining us. She then welcomed our special guest Trustee Rachel Chernos-Lin.

**Approval of March Minutes** - Sarah Claydon

Natasha Golding made a motion to approve the March minutes and Tracey Hall seconded the motion.

**Safety** – Jen Ankenmann

- Flag Program - we put the flags up in February with one canister on each corner. We just went around a week ago and added a second so each pole now has double canister to hold twice as many flags. A big thanks to Farnaz and Joe for putting together all the kits.
- Crossing Guards - we have all our crossing guards at all our allocated intersections now. Abi and Elizabeth have been so great and with us for so long we'd like to nominate them for an award. We will send out some information but the winner gets \$500 each.

Mr Nigro thanked Jen and Farnaz for all the hard work they've done in getting our community all setup with the flags.

Sarah then mentioned we need to figure out how to pass this program onto the community to help maintain it.

Jen is working on what the best way to move forward is.

Question: One of the parents in the last meeting asked for flags at Belsize and Cleveland for daycare and afterschool programs. Wondered if there was an update.

Sarah: We are hoping to set up another round of corners. We need to figure out what phase 2 will look like.

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

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

- Sports
  - Ms Nickel and Mr Grundy have started tryouts for Ultimate Frisbee. There will also be an Ultimate Frisbee intramural starting soon.
  - Track and Field starts soon. We are having a track day for the grade 4's and 5's to qualify for the meet in May.
  - Softball will begin in May
- Co-curriculars
  - Ms Snow is having two concerts. One April 17th and one April 30th. Check the principal's email or mauricecody.ca calendar for the details. Grade ones will have a separate concert at another time.
- Enrichment

- Mr Baker and Ms DaSilva have three teams now for First Lego League. There is a competition in early May they will be participating in. As part of our Outreach the First Lego League will then go to Thorncliffe Park PS and give a demo for the students. They will also provide them with all the lego. Thorncliffe is very thankful for the ipads we donated previously so this will add to it.
- We had two author visits in April. They will now go to Thorncliffe as part of our arrangement with them.
- Scientists in the School is happening
- Kindergartens will have Mystic Drums in for a workshop
- The Fusion Workshops by X-Movement gave the kids some mindfulness age appropriate activities.
- Upcoming
  - Starting May 6th is Mental Health and Wellness week. We will have different workshops all week.
  - Kindergarten Open House is mid May.
  - Next FSA meeting the teachers will be showing some of the STEAMM items that have been purchased through our Enrichment funding
  - Spring Lunch Programs start next week
- Hot Lunches
  - We have seen a level of garbage reduced. We seem to be moving in the right direction. The Green Team is working on getting the word out.

Adelia commented: the goal is to take the food home so you can see what they've eaten so remind kids everyday to bring their lunch bag.

Sarah then asked if we could have teachers put in the agendas on Monday's reminding everyone to bring a lunch bag to boomerang the Lunch Lady lunches the next day.

Q: Are there any sports the grade 2's and 3's can do? Everything seems geared at grade 4 and 5.

Mr Nigro responded Ms Appel will be doing a track afternoon for them. The tryouts would happen at the school and the grade threes may get to go to a track meet.

### **Finance** - Cecilia Kwan

Some highlights of budget changes since the last FSA meeting:

- Dance-a-thon we raised over \$15k for STEAMM programming. Thank you to Christine for organizing and to Michelle for putting up the charts on social media.
- Spring Fair is our final fundraiser
- We will likely have \$15k more than we budgeted for at the end of this year. We will want to spend that this year so the parents who have donated money, see it spent this year.

Sarah commented the big spend this year is on STEAMM and it straddles both the Enrichment and the Technology budgets. You will see both of those go down.

- Recognition is usually for departing staff members so that will be spent along with Helping other schools through Outreach Programs.

- We've spent \$11k on Enrichment such as Leveled Readers and packages to take home. This was split between kindergarten and grade 1 and 2.
- We spent \$15k on STEAMM
- \$1k was spent on Scientists in the School
- School-Wide Projects such as gym equipment, busses for music programs and special education needs we spent \$2500.

### **TDSB Trustee Rachel Chernos-Lin**

Rachel started with how impressed she was with all the great programming and community events we hold at Cody. Takes a lot of volunteers to get as much done as we do and that really says a lot about our parent community and the relationship with the school.

Rachel then told us a little about herself:

- Leaside parent
- Two kids at Northlea and one at Leaside HS
- Believes in the tradition of Parent Councils and Home and School Associations
- Has a real passion for public education
- One of 22 people elected to represent the entire TDSB
- Represents 24 schools and has a very diverse riding
  - (Interesting fact) The census data shows highschool students in an area where families are better off financially, show an increase in anxiety. So there is a large mental health piece with that.

Rachel explained her day to day:

- Checks in with different schools
- Attends a lot of council meetings
- Attends board meetings and standing committees.
  - Every Trustee must sit on a committee of the whole and one standing committee. Rachel sits on the Program and Schools Services Committee which incorporates the interworking of schools.
  - Attends all the Finance and Budget meetings to stay on top of the issues. . Even though she cannot vote in them, she can vote when they come to the TDSB meetings so she is already aware of the issues brought forth.

Budget update:

- Normally a budget meeting every four weeks. There have been 14 additional meetings because of this years budget. Also 12 of the 22 Trustees are new this year.
- This year there is a mutli-year strategic plan which is a guiding vision for the TDSB going forward. This means the Board is required to support equality, parent voice, inclusiveness, etc. The new budget needs to align with this plan.
- Most surprised with the Secondary School cuts by the provincial government because there was very little consultation on those. TDSB wasn't asked about that.

Main changes on March 15th:

- Junior grade caps will go up by one. They are funded at 24.
- Secondary School we were funding at 28 to 1 instead of 22 to 1.

Hodgson Update

- Still awaiting word from the ministry. They have not given up any information on any Capital Projects. Normally they open up a chance for boards to submit 10 projects and they have not done that yet. They are about six months behind because that has not happened yet.
- TDSB is in regular contact with the Ministry
- Currently we've been approved for 12 additional classrooms.
- Construction was supposed to start after Davisville completed but they don't have to be one after the other in that sense.
- After 12 room addition was approved, (under Shelley Laskin), the Midtown in Focus Group was formed and the TDSB was invited to have a seat at the table of this group.  
<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/midtown-in-focus/meetings-events-midtown-in-focus/>
- The Midtown Focus group has determined there is a lot more growth than the 12 additional rooms Hodgson has been approved for. TDSB went back to the province for a larger addition. That is what we are waiting for an answer on now.
- Something similar happened at Davisville. It was determined they would need an additional five classrooms but that request was denied about three weeks ago. They are going ahead with the original plans but developing with future expansion in mind.
- TDSB asked the ministry if the same would happen with Hodgson as with Davisville and they said its a case by case basis
- Unfortunately Hodgson is not the number one topic as budget is the bigger issue.

Question: In terms of Hodgson's reno, is there a plan for it to be renovated right now? Where are we at right now?

Rachel's response

- They are hopeful we will have a larger build
- They are not tearing it (Hodgson) down.
- It will not be a brand new school.
- There is a commitment from the City and Councilor Jaye Robinson that if we require more portables and need to put them on the ice rink for two years, that would be approved.
- We need 8 more classrooms.
- We've made it clear this community needs options
- A local feasibility team is meeting to deal with the overcrowding at Eglinton PS. It is the second part of the process to have a PART (Program Area Review Team) meeting. Cody is not part of this group. There is great consideration to move french from John Fisher to Northlea. This would relieve some of Hodgson congestion to move those students out of the district. When it comes down to it, we can't bus for English programs when French is considered a speciality program.
- In reality we need another school in the area and the board is aware of that.
- The Hodgson question and answer pages have not been updated in a long time. Have requested they do this by the end of the week. They are waiting for an update on PART that happened this past Tuesday. (We will circulate to you when we receive this)

- We do need to have a talk with Hodgson about what the tipping point is where we just need to do something.
- First changes for PART would be this September. Northlea is being very accommodating and would take the John Fisher french students as early as this coming September.

Comment: At Hodgson there is a lot of green space that we could have portables on the field. The kids all go over to June Rowlands anyway and don't use the field.

In conclusion:

- We have a commitment from the city to explore the changes.

Rachel then suggested we schedule another morning meeting to discuss this further as she had a TDSB meeting to get to.

Sarah thanked Rachel for joining us.

#### **Other Business** - Natasha Golding

- Lice Checks are April 23rd and 24th

Question about the Spring Fair tents on the budget.

Sarah explained we need two more white tents for the Silent Auction of the Spring Fair.

Laura Witkowski made a motion to purchase 2 or 3 more plain white tents for the Spring Fair.

Sue seconded the motion. Motion approved.

#### **Adjournment** – Sarah Claydon

Motion to adjourn Laura Witkowski and Tracey Hall seconded the motion.

Next FSA Meeting is May 7th at 6:30pm