

Maurice Cody Family & School Association

Thursday October 17, 2019 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Farnaz Kiervin and Natasha Golding welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of September Minutes

Mike Healy made a motion to approve the minutes and Sarah Claydon seconded the motion.

Finance update - Tracey Allardyce

- We're 6-8 weeks into the year and have had good success so far. Pizza lunch is a great revenue source bringing in over \$40,000 in revenue. In addition, Freezie Friday (from last June), hot lunches and the movie night went well and all help with revenue.
- We increased the student allocation from \$20-\$25 per child. That's over \$17k in money to be spent for children. Natasha and Farnaz told the teachers about the student allocation money on the PA day and the teachers were thrilled.
- Enrichment initiatives are being planned and teachers will be sharing their wish list for review later in the meeting under Principal/Vice Principal updates.

Cody Howl - Sarah Claydon

- The Howl team are off to a busy start. Volume of silent auction items is outstanding. Working on exciting live auction items.
- The Howl will be held on November 2 in the gym and is a parents only event. It runs from 7:00-12:00 p.m. For those that haven't been, the gym will be transformed, there will be food, a great band (Wing Night), dancing, it's tons of fun.
- We need volunteers! The Howl is great for volunteers, you can help with selling tickets which allows you to still mingle, or sell tickets at the door or help with the silent auction later in the evening while still having time to party afterwards.

Volunteer time slots are only 1-1.5 hours. Please let Sarah Claydon know if you can help.

- Still accepting donations for silent or live auction items.
- Ticket sales are now online. Tickets are \$30.
- The event is a huge fundraiser for Cody, bringing in over \$25K

Winter Fair Update - Julianne Bryant, Alyssa Bourdeau, Julie Brown

- Winter Fair will be held December 14
- The Cody basement will be transformed into a winter wonderland
- There will be some new attractions this year so stay tuned
- Volunteers will be needed, the committee will be reaching out in the next couple months
- If anyone wants to volunteer, please contact Julianne, Julie or Alyssa

Principal & Vice Principal update - Mr. Nigro & Ms. Vala

- Mr. Nigro thanked all the families and parents for coming to curriculum night.
- Staffing update - Ms. R, the office secretary, has been promoted to office administrator. Ms. Anthony retired but has been helping in the office so there will be a transition period. A new secretary will be hired.
- Co-curricular updates – Choirs have been in full swing. More info will come regarding Kiwanis Festival, winter fair etc.
- Boys soccer team – yellow and maroon team both came in 1st. This is great, but most importantly, it's about getting the kids involved and active. The yellow team will advance.
- Girls soccer will take place Friday.
- Cross country runners – So many parents came out to support our students. 250 students participated, the love of Cross Country is so strong. It doesn't matter what place they come in, it's a great achievement. 20 plus students are competing today.

- Staff have been participating in professional development. We will share the school improvement plan, in terms of what we're doing as a school, in the near future.
- Budget – This year our school budget has gone down. Last year we had over \$100k total and we can anticipate a decrease this year. We will have a finalized number in November and will share that then.
- The fundraising the school does really goes towards the kids right away. We raised over \$150K last year which is an incredible amount and the time and effort is truly appreciated by the administration and staff.
- The wishlist from teachers for FSA funding for enrichment programs (supplemental programming) has been requested totalling \$55,000. From K-5 an average of \$8,500 is requested per grade including Library and Phys Ed. This amount does not include literacy initiatives.

- Some examples of programming requests from the Kindergarten teachers include Codezilla (Stem, coding), drama with Lisa Rivers, Scientist in the School, The Yoga Project.

- Ms. Vala - Each request is made by a grade team. For Grade 1, the amount is around \$6K but the ask is for the entire team so each class will have the same opportunities. It is a large amount but we are a large school.

Parent question – Enrichment in the past has included technology. Is the request incorporating technology as well? Mr. Nigro - A bit of both, requests are different, some teachers feel they have the tech expertise, some teachers want to outsource. K-2 is looking for some apps.

Parent question - Do we need to reserve funding for technology? Mr. Nigro - Yes. There will still be additional technology needs but there is some overage from last year to cover that.

- Teachers are asked to prioritize wants and needs. Will focus on the needs of the teachers first.
- We have tried to balance out resources for the teachers mostly in Grades K-3, i.e. levelled readers. That's been taking care of in September.
- Mr. Nigro will give a listing of what's been purchased to date.

Parent question – has there been an audit on the earlier chromebooks we bought to make sure they are working and getting replaced as needed? Mr. Nigro – teachers go to Adelia, then they need to go to TDSB and get them repaired if under warranty.

What's the process for backfilling? Teachers are now doing an inventory of what needs to be fixed and replaced. We'll know in November what is needed for upgrades.

- With a reduction in the budget we try to be more creative in terms of how we spend money. Anything the FSA supports is truly appreciated.

Parent Comment - Encourage the teachers not to be shy and to ask for what they want so we can address their requests. We're a unique school with the ability to help and we want to support them as much as we can.

- X-movement won't be back this year. We've done it for 3 years and are looking to do something different in terms of wellness. It was \$13,000 (split between the school budget and the FSA). Cody budget can be flexible to support.
- Additional funding requests that may come up during the year can be hardware/software updates, literacy, mathematics, music and phys-ed equipment. Overall that can be an additional \$30-40k. Because we have a \$14K overage from pizza lunch, the \$55k request is about 9K more than last year.
- Vote to approve the extra \$55,000 for enrichment programs – all in favour, Motion carried.
- Natasha & Farnaz – Teachers are so excited about the programming they want to do and are very appreciative of our support.
- Farnaz will include an update to class reps with a listing of the enrichment programs so parents are aware of how our raised funds are used.

Upcoming events

- Halloween on the 31st and there will be a parade. Details will be sent out soon. Anyone who does not want to participate will be accommodated.
- Remembrance Day is November 11 and there will be an assembly.

- Anti-bullying assembly – Amy Temperman will be coming November 18-19 and will hold seven workshops from K-5.
- November 13 – progress reports will come out.
- November 14-15 Parents teacher interviews.
- New Cody swag will be on sale soon. – details to come.

Safety Committee Update - Mike Healy, Kate Young McCord & Farah Merchant

- The safety committee met and are off to a good start thanks to the great work that Farnaz and Jen accomplished last year.
- Flag program is in full swing along main intersections. If anyone would like to purchase a flag kit for an intersection on your street, let Mike know or the email safety@mauricecody.ca. You can buy a kit for \$115. Millwood will be going up at Cleveland. While there is a crossing guard, it is a busy intersection and this will support families who use before and after care.
- Crossing guard update – They have been present so far. Looking at reallocating one crossing guard from Balliol (quieter) to Soudan. Following up with Jaye Robinson.
- Zebra crossings are not along Forman. Will advocate with Jaye to make that happen as well as on Cleveland and Hillsdale.
- Kiss and ride – Needs more volunteers. Anyone can volunteer. Monday and Tuesday are needed and it's only a 10-15 minute commitment. REMINDER -Without volunteer support this program cannot run.
- If anyone wants to meet with the safety committee or add any ideas, please let us know.

Additional points - when you come into the school, visitors need to sign in and wear a badge. There are a lot of new teachers and parents and teachers do not know who everyone is. Reminder that parents should not be in the schoolyard during school hours.

Eco Schools update - Meghan Lockington-Minns

- Met with Ms. Calderone, Ms. Da Torre, Ms. Da Silva, Ms. Solway and Ms. Carrara last week. Changed the name from Green Team to Cody Eco Team.
- We see two sides to the EcoSchools ambitions:
 - 1) FSA events (Pizza day, Howl, Fairs): trying to make those more environmentally responsible. Working towards even less waste with pizza day starting in November (no single serve treats while still being nut-safe).
 - 2) Cody student led initiatives: Ms. Da Silva and Ms. Solway are off to an EcoSchools workshop next Monday, October 21 and Meghan is trying to go as well.

Mr. Nigro added that we were recognized with Silver status last year. Goal to get to Gold or Platinum. Will speak with daycare to see what they can do as well.

Parent question – can we get an “Idle Free” zone designation on Cheston? Mr. Nigro will look into that.

Community update – Trustee Meeting - Farnaz Kiervin

- Important changes to the French programs.
 - Extended French programs will be eliminated (Grade 4 and Grade 7 entry) – the final entry class will be September 2020.
 - For French immersion, entry will change from SK to JK in September 2020 – this is important for any parents that have younger kids who will be considering French immersion. Up to now they would have done JK at Cody but as of 2022, they will be going straight into French Immersion (students born in 2017).
 - Middle Immersion starting in Grade 4 will also begin in 2021 (will be replacing Extended French).
 - They are also looking to strengthen Core French.
 - Reminder that Cody does not offer any of those programs. They happen at other schools.
- Hodgson

- Beginning September 30th, each school board is allowed to submit its ten most pressing capital projects for Provincial funding.
- Back in 2016, the TDSB received funding for an addition, but then realized it wasn't big enough to address the population expansion. As a result, the TDSB re-submitted its business case to the province but has not received an answer.
- Now the TDSB was informed that they had to re-submit this case as part of this current round of applications if we wish to be considered for a larger project. The TDSB considers the Hodson capital project a top priority and is now proceeding with the newly-required re-submission. At this point they are still waiting to hear back from the province.
- The next community meeting will be November 12 at Longos. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Other Committee Updates - Natasha Golding

- Library – Nilay has been working hard with Ms. Hatzis. They still need help with the library committee – Sarah Bissinger Volunteered.
- Lice squad – 663 kids were checked. Next check will be in January and then again in April.
- Movie night was a huge success.
- Walking Wednesday is going well. Jen has lots of help from Grade 5's. A new map of Ontario will be printed to show the steps walked across Ontario.
- Need volunteers to help with Lost and Found and sort through the clothes with name tags - Sarah Bissinger volunteered.
- Mr. Nigro has a carpenter request for cubbies and hooks for the main floor Kindies. Stay tuned.

Parent question – Can we get film students to film our charitable events to show school spirit and bring awareness to new parents? Might help to get more volunteers while

elevating the awareness of the school. Mr. Nigro - Great idea, need to talk about privacy issues but will look into it.

Parent question – Can we get clarity on the media consent forms. Some parents do not give media consent but might be ok with pictures to the class from the teacher. Is there a form specific to the class that parents can give their consent to? Mr. Nigro - Re-direct teachers back to Mr. Nigro and Ms. Vala.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Sarah Claydon and Farrah Marchant seconded the motion.

Next FSA Meeting, November 5, 6:30pm Cody Library (Babysitting Provided!)