

Maurice Cody Family & School Association

Thursday December 12, 2019 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Farnaz Kiervin and Natasha Golding welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of November Minutes

Sarah Claydon made a motion to approve the minutes and Farah Merchant seconded the motion.

Finance Update - Tracy Allardyce

- The Howl did great and raised over \$24K for the school!
- Teachers have continued to spend FSA donated funds for music, literacy, enrichment, and STEM programs. Also spending on experiential type learning activities such as yoga and matinee to support aboriginal studies.
- School Cash Online will now be the primary outlet for online sales. Winter Fair is the first FSA fundraiser that will be using School Cash Online.
 - Due to increased fees charged by PayPal, School Cash Online is a good option as the TDSB covers operational fees. All the money raised goes directly to the FSA and school programs. Note: individuals do not need to be a parent to donate.
- Question - Will Cody be able to access the TDSB pilot project to allow parents to get documents, pay for things online? Answer - Cody is not involved at this time. Cody has a great parent website so we are able to get information and links out to parents quickly.
- Winter Fair has built incredible sponsorship partners. We must continue to encourage families to support the fair and other events so we can meet the needs and requests from teachers for enrichment opportunities.

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

- Ongoing enrichment continues – scientist in the school, drama etc. Teachers are very excited and they are focused on continuing enrichment programs. Morale is steady and happy even during this political climate. Parent support goes a long way.
- Supplemental programming – purchased Raz Kids and IXL. Our past subscription ended in the middle of October. This year, K-3 equally wanted Raz Kids and IXL which comes to just under \$8000. It wasn't in the budget

plan, so the school is asking if the FSA can supplement - perhaps can we do 50/50?

- Co-curricular – hockey teams were announced a couple weeks ago. Cody will be in the same division as Hodgson (they have a grade 6 division). Cody has some higher-level hockey players, so we are in the grade 6 division. Girls basketball are conference champions! They will be attending Humber College for the city championships next week. Girls intramurals are starting. Boys volleyball finished an excellent season.
- Ms. Vala – This is her last parent council meeting before retirement!
 - Last official day with the board is Dec. 31, last day at Cody is Dec. 20. We're all working together to make sure everything is in place for a smooth transition. Ms. Vala has been at Cody for 6.5 yrs. and has built and developed partnerships so there are mixed emotions.
 - In terms of programs moving forward, it wasn't clear with potential job action what the year would look like. We are fortunate with the staff we have that nothing has changed with what they did before. Can't predict the New Year. We're looking again to bring back Explore it in January. Stay tuned. Cody is a sports heavy school so we like to offer a balance with Explore It programs offering more arts based programming.
 - Ms. Snow is taking the Grade 3 to Starbucks to do caroling.
 - Food and Toy Drive has been going well. There have been lots of leadership opportunities for Grade 5.
 - “The last 6.5 years at Cody, I've worked with Mr. Howard and now Mr. Nigro, and have had great learning time with both of them. I've worked with different chairs and executives. Thank you to everyone, to current and past parents, volunteers who I've worked with. We know things will continue and the transition will be ok. I'll miss working with the kids and helping solve problems. Marks are important but emotional well-being is equally important. I'll miss the activity and conversations with the kids. A reminder that we don't want the office to be seen as a place that kids go when they're in trouble but a place for problem solving, to share they're great work and be a place where kids come when they're not feeling well. Reiterate that message that it's a safe place and work against the old philosophy of it being a place where kids go who are in trouble.”
 - Such a great staff here, we are so lucky. There was a big transition in June with retirements and new staff being hired.
 - I'll miss all the different groups of people, teachers, kids, parents etc. I'm going on my own terms, this is the right time for me to spend more time

with my family and try new things. Thank you to everyone, been a great 6.5 years.

- Mr. Nigro – Kids come first for Ms. Vala. She is always working to set kids up for success. Thank you for being a role model and advocating for kids and staff.
- Anti-bullying awareness week
- Officer Manny came and will be back to finish safety awareness

Atrium Lunch Room Update - Farnaz Kiervin

- Pizza lunch online orders will re-open Jan 6 for new students and will give parents an opportunity to change their order. - Parents can make a brand new order for those students that did not order in September, add slices to an existing order or remove slices from an existing order. Please note money can't be returned.
- The order from Sept is for the year. This is for new orders or adding pizza slices.
- In atrium, lunch room crowding and noise has been an issue for some parents.
- We can't do anything about noise. We've consulted with the caretakers, lunch room monitors and Mr. Nigro/Ms. Vala for a solution around space and seating.
- Last pizza lunch we moved the lunchroom bins so the tables go right to the wall. It did help with more room. Lunch supervisors had concerns about safety with tables being too close together. We have a new proposed plan to configure the tables. This would allow for 2 more tables. With new configuration, each student now will get 2" more personal space. Lunchroom supervisors are comfortable with the space. Lunch bins will get moved to the stage/landing area and hallway. Will do a test run with folding tables to make sure it works before investing in more lunchroom tables. Hoping it will help with the space issues we've been having. Will still have a quiet spot for the kids that need it. Will test in January.
- Thank you to Farnaz and Natasha for working hard to find a solution.
- LUNCH LADY - parents have asked when we'll add another day of Lunch Lady. Still more work to do to get kids to boomerang their lunch. Parents need to send their lunch bags **every day**.
 - Question – if we need to be waste free why have garbage bins – We are working towards reducing waste, but garbage bins do invite kids to

throw things away. We still need the bins for messy items such as maple syrup packages or soy sauce. The message for boomeranging needs to be re-inforced to parents and students.

- We can't move onto 2 Lunch Lady days without parents/kids taking more responsibility for taking waste home in their lunchbags.

Eco School Update - Farnaz Kiervin for Meghan Lockington-Minns

- Thursday Nov. 28 was the first eco-student team meeting. 6 staff and 2 parents were there and 2 kids per class were chosen by teachers. Meetings have gone well. Eco-teams are working on presentations to their class about what to do at pizza lunch.
- Winter fair was receptive to reducing waste. Clementines will be offered instead of drink boxes for lunch. Single serve chips. Volunteers will be bringing green bins and taking them home. People are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and plates. Some supplies will be provided. Always looking to make our events greener.
- There's a lot of time and research that goes into making sure we are doing things properly, making sure our plates are recyclable or compostable.

Safety Committee Update - including snow removal - Mike Healy & Natasha Golding

- Applications are in for new crossing guards for Cleveland and Soudan.
- Trying to do something along Forman. Zebra striping won't work, needs to be within 250 metres of school. Looking at ways to make it safer.
- Snow removal – TDSB has cut our funding for snowplow and salting of our tarmac – the cement that stretches from Cheston to Cleveland. We are concerned about safety. Natasha has reached out to Mr. Howard about how as a School Council we can support the school. How can we advocate as parents?
- Question – is there an option to pay for privatized snow removal – No, has to be through TDSB.
- We can discuss salting. Jane can do a path, but that pathway won't be enough for the traffic flow and day to day usage. The tdsb will do salting, but without the snow removal it's not good enough.

Other Committee Updates - Natasha Golding

- Joint ward forum with Rachel and Shelley Laskin...stay tuned for details

Winter Fair Update - Julianne Bryant

- Winter Fair is in great shape.
- Got volunteers covered for the open slots.
- Aunt Edna's has tons of stuff
- Thank you to parent reps for being so great forwarding information.

Other Business

- Lice check coming back after the holidays
- Work in the library continues
- Lost and Found – lots of stuff has been delivered to kids, but tons still to be picked up. Please label everything! All items not picked up by the Winter Fair, will be donated.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Sarah Claydon and Farah Merchant seconded the motion.

UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES

Dec 19th = School Assembly

Dec 23rd-Jan 3rd – Winter Break

Jan 14th - FSA Meeting 6:30 pm (Childcare provided!)

Jan 24th -Skating Party (6-8 pm)