

Maurice Cody Family & School Association
Monday October 5th, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Natasha Golding welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Elections for Executive 2020-2021 School Year

- Chair -Natasha Golding
- 3 Vice Chairs - Farnaz Kiervin, Michael Healy, Julianne Bryant
- Secretary -Karen Wiseman
- Treasurer - Tracy Allardyce

Vote for the Executive - Allison Lewis made the motion to accept the FSA executive and Shehrose Rehmani seconded the motion. All participants are in favour.

3. Financial Update – Tracy Allardyce

- The budget presented is noted to be a fluid document at this time due to Covid 19 restrictions and shows the worst-case scenario budgetary plan with no fundraisers scheduled at this time.
- Budget is considered very conservative due to listing no fundraising efforts. There is a significant amount of carry-over funds due to the shut-down of school in March of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Budget breakdown presented which includes funds set aside for Supplementing the classroom (for example. \$25 per student for each class and \$4 per student for library), Enrichment and Technology. An excess of \$5,000 carry-over for next year is planned.
- Usually 5% of revenue is set aside to donate to our partner school Thorncliffe Park. If there is no revenue and no fundraisers this school year this will not happen. Last school year we donated \$6,000 to the Thorncliffe food bank.
- If anyone is interested in assisting with the Finance Committee or have any questions about the budget please contact us at treasurer@mauricecody.ca.

Vote for approval of the budget - Julianne Bryant made a motion to approve the budget, Allison Lewis seconded the motion.

4. Community Safety Update – Mike Healy

- Crossing guards – Application made for extra crossing guards along Cleveland to be posted on Soudan & Hillsdale. Due to Covid, a traffic study from the city was not able to be completed so it has been pushed off until Spring. Any new crossing guards will likely happen next Fall.
- The shelter on Roehampton at Mt. Pleasant has caused concern in the community. Maurice Cody has sent representatives to be part of a working group that includes the

FSA, Principal, VP, and Superintendent. There is security working around the school and the community to monitor any safety issues.

- Security patrols at night to look for syringes and/or other harmful things and will give reports to the principal.
- Security has been very visible in the morning and after school.
- Only one incident has been reported which occurred early morning before school started. A homeless individual was found sleeping on school grounds and was asked to leave without incident.
- If anyone has any comments/questions pass on to Mike Healy at safety@mauricecody.ca.
- If anyone sees anything unusual you can email Mr. Nigro.
- Many thanks to Mike Healy for attending the meetings and representing Maurice Cody.

5. Committee Updates – Natasha Golding

- Normally at this time council would be looking for volunteers to fill various committee roles.
- Our parent community needs to think outside the box this year for FUNraisers. We will be missing our movie night and will be looking for ideas to keep our Cody community vibrant. Let us know if you have any ideas.
- Fundraising efforts temporarily on hold until November as per TDSB guidelines.
- Looking for individuals to be part of the Finance Committee and potentially take over as Treasurer for next school year.
- This will be Michelle Wagland's last year as a Cody parent and we need someone to take over for her role maintaining the Cody Parent Website and Social Media. Michelle has been amazing at keeping parents in the loop, so please let us know if this is something you are interested in.
- This Executive Committee is completing their 2nd year so if parents want to get involved please consider volunteering as part of the FSA Exec. There will also be a health & safety team being created.
- Please check the parent website for information about the different roles.

6. Parent Representatives – Farnaz Kiervin

- Being a parent rep is a great way to get involved.
- The parent rep role has changed. This individual serves as a liaison between the FSA and parents in your class.
- FSA will soon have access to School Messenger so emails will soon be able to be sent out directly from the FSA.
- Duties of the class parent include: creating a class contact list to share with the class parents, sending out specific class emails, organize class gifts and connect with teachers directly as needed, attend FSA's meetings to keep up-to-date as to what's going on at Cody.

Questions

- *Has Mr. Nigro connected with teachers about parent reps this year?* Not in great detail as he wanted to meet with the FSA first.
- *How do we put our name in the hat?* Teachers approach the class parents for volunteers. There will be a fair process to select class reps if there are more than one volunteer.

7. Principal and VP Updates – Mr. Nigro

- Staffing update – Enrolment was 616 in-person students as of September 2020. We did not lose any homeroom teachers (29 homeroom teachers.) We have lost the teacher allocation for library, and .5 special education. Those teachers have been absorbed with other teaching positions in the school.
- We have 11 Long Term Occasional teachers (LTO).
- We have a lot of returning and many new teachers. Many of the new teachers are in Kindergarten with 7 new staff members.
- With the option to switch from in-person to remote learning our numbers have changed and we now have 588 students registered for in-school. 28 students are moving to remote learning.
- School numbers - There will be a TDSB systemwide reorganization if warranted. The Board will come back with official number and staff allotment for Cody and it will stay the same or be reduced. We will advocate why it should not be reduced.
- We are waiting to get finalized information. If there is any chance we need to make the change even after advocating, we need to look at making sure we don't break up class dynamics as much as possible. Will keep friendship dynamics and will try to keep the recess cohort groups together (this is all done in consultation with public health).
- Any changes requested will happen by Oct. 13, 2020.

Questions

- *Was the reduction across grades?* The students switching to virtual learning are primarily in Grades 1&2 and 4&5. Kindergarten classes have healthy numbers.
- *What happens at the next two opportunities for change?* A possible reorganization can happen again. We do have concerns about the continuity of classroom relationships.
- *Do the splits put us in a better position?* Our model for split classes would allow space for students to come back. More students are leaving so classes could be dissolved. We may not have a choice as teachers assigned to the school are dependent on numbers of students. We will do our best to minimize disruptions as much as possible.
- The FSA would like to know if we can provide support as a parent group, such as speaking to the Trustees or sending letters to the Board. Yes.
- We will try to minimize a re-organization as much as possible.
- There are 13 LTO's as of now and that may be increasing. The teacher for room 106 has been off on leave and the search continues for a replacement.
- Teachers we had tried to secure obtained virtual positions as they are given longer term employment.
- Operational information – the health pass and morning entry has been working very well. Teachers feel it's going smoothly and are developing a rhythm. We are working at getting this to work electronically. We welcome any feedback on morning entry.
- Dismissal – this is going well and it appears that the majority of families are wearing masks as requested on school property.
- Inclement weather entry – in the event of inclement weather there will be two entry times. The health pass will be brought to the classroom and the teacher will verify the health pass in class. We will do the best to communicate between 7:30-8:00 if indoor entry is required and will improve our communication as needed.
- We will re-send this information as a stand-alone piece of information.

- Recess and Phys-ed – each teacher is their own Phys-ed teacher. They are looking at games that require minimal equipment. Any type of balls/equipment used are disinfected. If not disinfected they have to be sealed in a bag for 3 days.
- Outdoor play – we have 7 zones around the playground/turf – teachers have a zone for their class and cohort, and will rotate so students have the ability to play in the different zones. Where students cannot physically distance outside, they are being asked to wear masks.

Questions

- *Why are there no Phys-ed teachers?* – From a Health & Safety perspective we have tried to minimize the number of teachers students are being exposed to. It made more sense for teachers to teach Phys-ed for the moment.
- *What was the construction going on at the playground?* – This was a work order from quite some time ago for repairs near the playscape. One of the stumps was rotting and was being replaced. By Wednesday every repair should be completed.
- *Is the glider being fixed?* – A work order is in place - no date for repair at this time.
- *What will be done about the roots as they are a trip hazard?* – We've ordered new woodchips to cover up the ground and roots.
- There is new signage on the play structure that explains the playground is in use, but children need to practice safety and proper hand hygiene.
- Washrooms – Washroom breaks are scheduled twice a day for grades 1-5 as an entire class. If a child needs to go at another time they are allowed to go on the main floor.
- There are new soap pump bottles in the bathrooms.
- Curriculum night – This is something our teachers are talking about. They should already be connecting with families to introduce themselves. We are asking teachers to think out of the box and be creative. Something will be delivered by the end of the month.
- Resources/enrichment – thanks to Tracy for doing all the accounting. We are waiting for a wish list from the teachers. We've given all the teams \$2,000 per grade team to look at items they need to replenish or enhance. They are not utilizing the library since we don't have a teacher so are looking at spending a lot of money for leveled readers for individual classrooms. Enrichment activities could be done online, but we will evaluate if it's still meaningful.
- IXL and Raz Kids memberships have already purchased through the school budget.
- We received funding from the TDSB for 24 chrome books. This does not replace what has been distributed out in the community during the Spring of 2020 for online learning, but we will get ours back after the pandemic.
- If in school learning needs to be changed to remote learning for all, teachers are already working with their students to prepare them.
- Will send the Executive Committee the wish list from teachers for enrichment opportunities in the next couple of weeks.

Questions

- *Can kids bring their own tech?* – We will look into this. It's more likely for the Junior division but we can look into it for the whole school.
- *Can we take library books home?* – Books are being used only from the classroom. After each use they are returned to a bin for 7 days before they can be re-circulated. At the moment we can't send them home.
- Ms. Helpert noted that the kids have been very resilient to the changes at school, they've been great adapting to wearing masks etc.

- We know it's been a trying time these last couple weeks due to the positive case of covid. We have given feedback to the Superintendent and Public Health in regards to how this situation was handled in terms of sharing communication in a timely manner.
- In terms of what we've done as a school, being in a healthy/safe environment, we feel good about this. We have a good foundation but are always looking for ways to make things better. It was difficult for us not to share anything with families and staff immediately following the news of a positive case of Covid 19 in one of our students. We wanted to share as much as possible, but we have to take direction from Public Health.
- We hope for more explicit communication to parents if this happens again.
- We sent the message about the positive case because we felt it was important, but we were not able to provide more details.
- The FSA thanked Mr. Nigro and Ms. Helpert for doing what they could to inform parents. As an FSA we can advocate for a better system in place to allow the administration to be more transparent with parents.

- Happy World Teachers Day!
- The FSA thanked the caretaking team with cards and treats to let them know how grateful we are for everything they are doing.
- Let's remember to be kind to anyone in our community that has a positive case.

8. Adjournment

Sarah Claydon made a motion to adjourn, Raviv Israel seconded the motion.