

Maurice Cody Family & School Association
Monday November 10th, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Natasha Golding welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Executive Council members: Farnaz Kiervin, Julianne Bryant, Michael Healy (Vice-Chairs), Tracy Allardyce (Treasurer), and Karen Wiseman (Secretary). She also introduced Michelle Wagland who updates our social media and parent website, and Sarah Claydon, Past FSA Chair.
- Farnaz Kiervin made a motion to approve the minutes and Sarah Claydon seconded the motion.

2. Community Safety Update – Natasha Golding and Mr. Nigro (for Michael Healy)

- Approval received from the city to put “No Idling” signs on Cheston due to the high numbers of vehicles that park there at pick up and drop off. Please be mindful of pedestrians and our neighbours that reside on the street.
- Roehampton Update – Michael Healy, Mr. Nigro and Ms. Helpert have been attending the community meetings (bi-weekly check-ins) which includes police and city staff representing the Roehampton Shelter. Safety sweeps are being done around the Cody playground and turf field several times daily to ensure there is no one trespassing on school grounds and to check for any drug paraphernalia. To date there have been only two incidents which were addressed right away - one in September and one early last week. Anything that is found is reported to principals and city staff. We cannot assume these incidents are linked to the shelter.
- Community Safety patrols have been very visible. They are here to assist and enhance community safety around our school grounds and neighbourhood. If families have any type of safety concerns, please email Mr. Nigro and/or Kelli Helpert directly and they will ensure the appropriate people are notified.
- Crossing flags – Michael Healy will check where we need to attend to repairing/replacing flags. If anyone notices missing flags or canisters, please let us know. John Paul Di Giulio volunteered to help walk around the neighbourhood to assess the flags.

- Thank you to all the parents wearing masks around the school. Reminders have been shared via social media on how to wear masks properly which includes covering both nose and mouth.

Questions

Is there any plan for security to pull back or be less active? Not that we know of. Eglinton PS and Northern SS currently require the most security due to their proximity to the shelter. Maurice Cody is further away, but security support will still be vigilant. In addition to the sweeps by the community safety patrol our caretaking staff also check the school yard and parking lot daily.

What happens if you forget your mask? Is there a way to keep some available for families to borrow? If a family member forgets a mask while coming into the school grounds, please ring door number 1 and an adult mask will be provided. It's important to exercise as much caution as possible.

3. Financial Update – Tracy Allardyce

- Revenue update - Every time parents order from Mabel's Labels, our school receives 20%. To date we're at \$489. www.mableslabels.ca.
- Teachers are spending their money from the FSA and are purchasing items to help create a safe environment for kids (organization bins, foam mats etc.).
- Class care packages – the FSA provided welcome packages for teachers at the beginning of the year which included Cody branded clipboards and gift cards.

4. Principal and VP Updates – Mr. Nigro and Ms. Helpert

- Since our last meeting in October, there was a school re-organization due to the opportunity for families to switch from in-person learning to online. The student population is now at 577 students, moving from 29 homeroom classes to 27 homeroom classes. The good news is that we will no longer be doing any further re-organizations this Fall. There is a possibility this could happen in January/February 2021 when the next opportunity to switch between virtual/in-person learning occurs. The November date originally scheduled for switching was eliminated due to family and school feedback and thankfully we didn't have to go through it again. There are some circumstances where students may still switch due to compassionate grounds and will be assessed on an individual basis.

- Curriculum Night - This will not happen in person as it has in the past. Teachers and staff will be sharing their curriculum plans with families and Grade teams have been developing handouts etc to share education details.
- Progress report cards (communicational learning for Kindergarten) will come out on November 18th. The school is prepared to have these distributed in hard copy if the board allows, but may have to email copies to families instead. Mr. Nigro is still waiting for confirmation on this. Parent/Teacher conferences will happen virtually. Teachers will be connecting with you to set up a virtual meeting or phone call. If you have not heard from your child's teacher by the middle of next week, please email Mr. Nigro. Typically, we do Thursday night or Friday morning meetings, but they can be spread out during the week, it's up to the teacher and families. Friday, November 20th is a PA Day.
- Remembrance Day – Teachers and staff have been doing activities during the week. There will be a ceremony on Remembrance Day. Poppies will be distributed, stickers for Primary grades and pins for Junior. They have been quarantined for a week. Parents can send in a loonie or toonie if they wish.
- Financials – Right now we've been allocated money based on our student population. Our school budget for this year is just under \$84,000. Some money has been carried over from last year and it is our understanding it will be added to our budget at the end of the month.
- Key expenditures:
 - o Furniture - we have spent just under \$4000 on furniture. This includes the purchase of desks and chairs that can be height adjusted, and whiteboards.
 - o Technology (hardware) – We purchased 20 new Chromebooks for a total of \$8000. The I-Pads in our building have not been touched so we have a full allotment for grades 1-3. TDSB gave us 24 chromebooks, so we have 44 altogether. We will be allocating 10 chromebooks for students with special learning needs and have 34 to divide between the Grade 4/5 students. We are looking into a “bring your own device” program, but it needs to be equitable.
 - When schools were closed in March, all chromebooks were taken and redistributed across the TDSB. This was a TDSB decision to provide equitable opportunities for learning across the city.
 - o Tech software – Approx \$13,000 spent on software such as Raz Kids, IXL
 - o Workbooks – We spent \$5000 on workbooks for K-5 classes
 - o Phys-ed & Music – We have spent \$15,000 on resources. Since homeroom teachers are also their own Phys-ed teachers and due to covid restrictions, we have increased spending on these resources.
 - o Other consumables – We have spent \$10,000 on supplies
- In total we have spent almost \$55,000 of our \$84,000 budget.

- What's upcoming - Teachers are coming with requests including:
 - o Print resources - \$20-\$25,000. With the Library being closed, classroom print resources (books and leveled readers) are limited.
 - o Enrichment – up to \$25,000
- PPE – We have enough PPE in stock, and it does not impact our budget

Questions

Can we look to get donations from families for books? For health and safety reasons we are not permitted to accept donations of used books.

Has the TDSB ever pulled resources before? Mr. Nigro reported he has not seen this during his career. Chromebooks are planned to be returned eventually but it is unknown when and what condition they will be in - which is why the decision was made to purchase more now. We understand the frustration to lose the chromebooks after all the efforts made to fundraise for technology.

Do chromebooks need to be quarantined? – They can be cleaned with disinfectant wipes and used again right away. Otherwise they need to be in a closed container for 3 days.

- Bring your own device- This is something being investigated to see if Grade 4-5 families are able to provide and are comfortable with it. No student will lose out if they are not able to bring their own device to school. School chromebooks will be distributed equitably between the classes. If a family does not bring their own device, their child will not be left without a device to work on.
- Food/Toy Drive - Staff and students are inquiring about the annual food drive and toy drive which is done every year at Cody. Bringing in canned food is not permitted at this time for Covid safety reasons. The school will look into alternative ways to support the food bank. We also want to ensure people in our community know there is no obligation to participate.
- Public Health Update - A Public Health Nurse, Julianne has been assigned to Maurice Cody. Mr. Nigro has been able to connect with her very quickly and she has been very responsive. School administrators now have the authority to dismiss a class or a cohort when a positive case is found which allows for a quicker response. With the recent Covid case in Kindergarten, an abundance of caution was taken and the affected class and cohort was quickly dismissed. Siblings were also asked to go home that day until Public Health responded to determine self-isolation requirements.

5. Fundraising Updates – Natasha Golding

- Chess Tournament - Claudia Fernandez has had a great idea for an online chess tournament. The Chess Institute of Canada runs these kinds of tournaments so the platform exists, and it could be a safe, easy and fun way to raise money. To participate, the students would pay a fee for a password. Details are being determined and a trial is taking place with a few kids over the weekend to see how it goes.
- Family Trivia Night - Camp Onondaga has approached our school and offered to host a family trivia night. This would be a FUNraiser. More details to come.
- Cody Toques - Lots of toques left from last year's Winter Fair and will sell them at a table in the playground (socially distanced). Toques will be bagged and quarantined to ensure safety. They will sell for \$15 each, \$25 for 2 or \$30 for 3 (Cash only, exact change please). Keep an eye on social media and the Cody Website for order details. Julianne Bryant, Karen Wiseman, Julie Brown and Farah Dobani volunteered to help out.
- Print Resources Fundraiser – Ideas to raise funds for print resources are being considered. One idea is to ask families to donate to their class with an overall school target in mind. Incentives could be presented such as a pajama party etc. if the school meets the target.
- We still need to figure out how we will accept donations. School Cash online has had some glitches in the past we need to work out.
- We aren't giving up hope for our favourite fundraisers. The Claydon's reserved a band for a Spring Howl if we can make it happen.

Questions

Is it ok to reward classes for raising the most money? Could this be a school-wide goal?

Yes, the fundraiser will have a school-wide goal. For past fundraisers such as the Dance-a-Thon, every child was able to participate. Some friendly competition was inspired amongst the classes and the class that raised the most received some fun accessories for the Dance A Thon. This was divided into Kindergarten, Primary Grades and Junior Grades as classes have different numbers of students. We can definitely look at doing a school-wide incentive program this year.

Is there a plan to do any fundraising to upgrade our playgrounds? This is something we have had conversations about pre-covid and will continue to look at.

For the books, can we accept in-kind donations and go to local businesses for donations? The FSA has more flexibility in terms of where donations can come from. If we can get donations while supporting local businesses, it can be a win-win. We have a team that has worked with and developed great relationships with local businesses to support our school.

6. Parent Rep Update - Farnaz Kiervin

- Families are eager and waiting to hear about parent representatives and information is coming. Teachers have asked the FSA to wait until after progress reports are handed out to finalize things.
- Some teachers have already determined their parent reps. If you are interested, please contact your teacher directly.
- Responsibilities for parent reps will be a little different this year. Reps will not be required to create a class list as consent to share contact information was requested on the school forms. Teachers will now provide their contact list to the class parent. The FSA will also have access to our own School Messenger account so parent messages can be sent out directly. Class parents will only send out class specific emails.
- If you have questions about being a class parent please contact us!
contactFSA@mauricecody.ca

7. Yearbook Update

- The Yearbook Committee will put a proposal together on what kind of support will be requested of the teachers this year as parents are no longer able to go into the school to take photos. Teachers did take photos at Halloween. It will be up to them to see if it's manageable.
- We have three parent volunteers to help with the yearbook.
- Any parents who have photos of their Grade 5's, please save them.

Other news

- Mr. Brighty has been sharing great resources that the FSA can share with families. Please keep an eye on the FSA website and social media for interesting articles around learning and education.

8. Adjournment

Thanks to everyone for attending, we had 41 families in attendance tonight!

Sarah Claydon made a motion to adjourn and Shehrose Rehmani seconded the motion.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 8th at 6:30pm.