

Maurice Cody Family & School Association

Tuesday January 19th, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and introductions – Natasha Golding

Natasha Golding welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of December minutes

Sarah Claydon made a motion to approve the December minutes and Julianne Bryant seconded the motion.

Natasha took a moment to thank Charlotte Clay Hibbs and Lia Macleod for the idea to thank/cheer/bang pots and pans for our Cody teachers and staff before the winter break. Sharing plans for this was communicated only by word of mouth as we wanted to keep it a surprise for the administration and staff. Thank you again to all teachers, staff and the administration for your hard work during the pandemic. Mr. Nigro noted that it brought a lot of joy to the teachers and some indicated that they never felt so much appreciation.

Finance update – Tracy Allardyce

- \$2,300 was raised towards the non-core staff holiday gifts, thank you.
- Cody toque sales raised close to \$300
- Virtual Chess event raised approximately \$700

Community and Safety Update – Michael Healy

- Security guards are still doing sweeps on and around the school grounds. There is more of a presence at Eglinton P.S currently due to their daycare being open and its proximity to the Roehampton shelter. Northern S.S and John Fisher P.S also have more security presence due to their proximity to the shelter.
- Michael Healy reviewed the condition of all the crossing flags in our community and fixed damaged ones after Christmas, however they may need to be reviewed and fixed again. It is unknown how often they are being used during the pandemic shut down but the decision has been made to not take them down at this time.
- Currently city traffic surveys and new crossing guard reviews/assignments are on hold due to school shutdowns.
- Ward Forum – Rachel Chernos Lin is having a Ward 11 Ward Forum next week from 7-9. There is a sign-up on her website. They will be speaking about elementary online learning. Information can also be found on the latest parent newsletter.

FUNraisers Update – Natasha Golding

- The chess night was very well received and another event will be planned for February. Thank you to Claudia Fernandez for volunteering to help organize it again.
- The trivia night was also very well received. Kate Young will reach out to Camp Onondaga about hosting another trivia night.
- We are looking for ways to host our annual Dance-a-Thon safely when we return to school. Mr. Nigro is talking to Public Health to see how changes can be made to ensure Covid safety measures are addressed.

Parent question – Could we look at doing the Dance-a-Thon outside? This is a possibility we are looking into - if it can be hosted outdoors it may be better to hold the Dance-a-Thon in the Spring.

Breakout Studios –Sarah Claydon/Natasha Golding

- The owner of Breakout Studios, David, has been a long-time supporter of Cody. Breakout Studios came on as a Winter Fair sponsor about 6 years ago as the Dance Party room. They paid a \$500 donation at each Winter Fair and would send a paid DJ for the day. David was a wonderful man and a reliable supporter of Cody.

- Breakout Lounge has also been a supporter of the Grade 5 (and previously Grade 6) Graduation after-party.
- This summer we learned that David unfortunately passed away. Recently Sarah Claydon received an email from his wife with information that he had passed, and Breakout Studios will be closed. Donations will be earmarked to SickKids Foundation Family Spaces as David was a volunteer there.
- As part of our FSA budget, we earmark a \$500 deposit for the annual graduation after-party. With the closure of Breakout Studios, we have been informed we can receive a full refund or make this a donation to SickKids in David's memory.
- Attendees of the FSA meeting voted to either proceed with a refund or donate the \$500 deposit to Sick Kids. Vote passed in favour to donate our deposit money to SickKids in David's memory. Motion was approved.

Crossing Guard Update -Sarah Claydon

- Abby is our crossing guard at Belsize and Cleveland. He has been in that position for a long time and takes great pride in his work. Before the holiday break, he collapsed on the job and was taken to hospital. We reached out to the crossing guard unit and Rob reached out to Abby and we were able to obtain an update on his well-being. Abby also appeared a few times before the holidays to say hello to our students and families to let them know he was okay. Sarah has reached out and has been checking in with him. He indicates he is doing okay and that he is being monitored and hoping to have answers in a couple weeks. He sends his love to the community and appreciates the support.
- We are not sure when he is expected to return back to work, but when school does re-open, we will look into making sure someone is at that corner.

Principal and VP update – Robert Nigro

- Ms. Helpert sends her regrets as she could not attend the meeting.
- Staffing update – Cody started with 11 LTO's (Long Term Occasional Teachers) in September 2020. The school was allocated 36 teachers in the fall which went down to 35 teachers after the fall re-organization. Due to changing circumstances amongst our staff, in December we had increased to 15 LTO's and now in January we have increased again to 18 total LTO's.
- 4 new teachers were hired at the end of December. Mr. Endert will replace Ms. Cohnstaedt who took a new role with TDSB (she is still assigned to Maurice Cody). He is very good with technology and has been a great addition. We also have Ms. Hatcher who is in for Ms. Macmillan, Ms. Bondy in for Ms. Ledger and Ms. Cheav in for Ms. Millar working alongside Ms. Peters.
- Teachers and staff were ready and more prepared for the pivot to virtual learning January 4th. Overall, they have been doing an excellent job and we have received good feedback from the parents.
- Kudos to the teachers for all the preparation and legwork they did before January. We know that the parents are still putting in a lot of work, we are aware this weighs on families.
- Teachers should have communicated their schedules to families before virtual learning began. If families have not received this information, please communicate with your teacher.
- Teachers are trying to replicate the school day as best they can.
- Ministry expectations – Teachers are to provide synchronous learning opportunities. This means teachers must be live, online, with their students. Kindergarten receive 180 min live teaching and Grades 1-8 receive 225 min of synchronous learning. The goal is to replicate the school day which is 300 min.
- We are very flexible if families have situations where your child cannot come at the beginning of class. If online learning does go long term, into the 2nd term, absences could impact the grades to some point. A student may receive a letter "I" in their report which means insufficient evidence if the teacher has not been able to properly assess the student. The majority of grading for the first term report has already been done.
- Attendance – because of the safe arrivals program, teachers submit attendance as soon as it's done. It gets processed quickly and robocalls will go out. If any student will not be there for attendance, please let the teachers and Nasim or Daniela know.
- If there will be a long-term issue with your child attending, an exemption could be discussed. Mr. Nigro will look at this on a case-by-case situation.
- Parents/guardians can inquire about exemptions in situations where online learning is not best for their child (or there are circumstances which make it impossible for the family)
- Feedback has been very good, parents feel that the teachers are very organized and prepared.
- If there are any concerns, families are asked to please connect with their teacher first, but do know our doors are always open. Teachers do want to hear from parents if there are any concerns.

- Teachers are always doing workshops, gathering resources for their planning – we want to see if teachers can look at vendors that aren't board approved.
 - There is a resource available to teachers where they pay a fee to gain access to information from their peers. This isn't something that could come out of Board funds but could come out of FSA funds. If the FSA could cover these funds for the teachers, Mr. Nigro will match that amount out of his budget and put the money into enrichment. The FSA does have money in the budget for this.
- Report cards will go home February 10th. February 11 (evening) and 12 (morning) will be parent teacher interviews.
- Grade 4/5 Yearbook – the team will be meeting to see what they can do. We'll be sharing something by mid-February about how a yearbook can be done.
- Facilities – we talked about a re-design of one of the kindergarten playgrounds. We're hoping to have more of an update by the next FSA meeting, along with options for the larger playground.

Parent Comments/Questions

- Teachers have had so much patience with the kids through all of this.
- *How are teachers doing in terms of wellness?* Mr. Nigro checks in with the teachers to see how they are doing. They are tired but they are working hard because they do love what they do.
- *There are some long-time teachers who aren't around and just hope they are ok. Is there a way to let them know we are thinking of them?* Mr. Nigro has reached out to all the teachers who are absent. They are off for different reasons. They miss the school and are looking forward to coming back. Some are teaching virtually such as Ms. Appel.
- *Do you know if there will still be the switch between virtual/in-person?* They are looking to change that date and extending it to March. There have been discussions but nothing is official at this time.
- *Why are we using google vs. zoom since zoom seems to be less glitchy?* Google was the platform teachers were using as Zoom wasn't Board approved last year. Zoom is Board approved now so more staff are using it. Some teachers may use Google Meet because they're more comfortable with it, but many are switching.
- Final Comments from Mr. Nigro
 - Say hello to all the children from Mr. Nigro
 - If families require a Chromebook or laptop, let us know and we can do a curbside drop off.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Claudia Fernandez and Julianne Bryant