

Maurice Cody Family & School Association

Tuesday February 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions – Julianne Bryant

Julianne Bryant welcomed everyone to the meeting. Natasha sends her apologies for not being able to attend. Julianne thanked those who were able to attend the trivia night, it was a fun night for all that took part.

Approval of January Minutes – Julianne Bryant

Farnaz Kiervin made a motion to approve the January minutes and Michael Healy seconded the motion.

Finance Update – Tracy Allardyce

- There is not much to report given the lockdown
- We are in good financial standing
- When in-class learning resumes we expect more teachers will ask for reimbursements

Safety Update – Michael Healy

- Thanks to John Paul DiGiulio who has been helping fix the flags at busy intersections
- Roehampton Shelter and Community safety meeting mostly addressed issues at Eglinton public school, but all other schools are still being monitored.

Community Update – Michael Healy

- Attended the School Trustee meeting hosted by Rachel Chernos-Lin
- People were interested about switching between in-person and online. She did not have answers yet as to when that will be announced.
- We do know that the switch from in-person to online will be limited due to space constraints. Students/families will be accepted to the online school based on criteria such as the level of COVID in their area, health concerns etc.

- Mr. Nigro noted that at this time there is only one family from Maurice Cody that has asked to switch from in-person to virtually at this time. So long as we have space we can accept families back to Cody from the virtual school. At the moment we have four families coming back for Feb. 16th as space is available.

Questions for Mr. Nigro

Has there been talk from the Board about where additional money will be spent in terms of HVAC etc?- At the moment they specific information is not available. There is only one classroom at Cody that requires and has a Hepa filter (Room B1). This classroom is not occupied by students during the school day and it is used as an office space and by the MCCC. Cody's ventilation system is deemed appropriate and does not require enhanced ventilation. Jane, our chief custodian is replacing the air filters every 1-2 months. As well, we will encourage teachers to open the windows to enhance air flow during lunchtime while the students are unmasked.

Will there be any additional health precautions in place for the return to school? No information has been provided by the Board at this point in time in regards to asymptomatic testing. We don't know which schools will qualify for that yet, who will administer the tests etc. but we will ask those questions. Further information to be shared by TDSB in conjunction with TPH.

PRO Grant – Sarah Claydon

- The PRO Grant is an annual government funded grant that school councils can apply for to a maximum of \$1,000. There is an extensive application to fill out which gets approved in September, so it will be used for the 2021/2022 school year. As a group we need to decide what we want to apply for. In the past we've done a rainbow plate presentation (how to get the kids eat healthy), we had a family psychologist present about how to talk about tragic events with your kids. Other schools have hosted interactive info nights.
- Traditionally it's been a parent driven event, but it can also be about a wider community event.
- In the past we've always been awarded the maximum amount when applying for the grant. The FSA has been able to cover the difference if required. Additional funds can also come from the school budget if it's geared towards the school/students.
- Mr. Nigro noted that as a school, staff are looking at what can be done in terms of work on equity and anti-racism.
- Please let Mr. Nigro, Ms. Helpert or any of the FSA exec membership know if you have any ideas to share.

- Suggestions from the meeting included: Mental health, diversity, inclusion & equity, internet safety.

Questions

Is the grant for one event only? Generally it is for one event. When we hosted Allyson Schaffer, we collaborated with Davisville school due to the cost.

Who is our audience, parents or students? The grant is generally awarded to provide support and improve engagement with the parent community, but we could look at bringing in a speaker that could engage the community as a whole.

Principal and VP Update

- Students are back Feb. 16 and we hope we will not have to return to online learning. We are aware that this could be a possibility.
- Thank you to the parents for your patience, support and resilience. This is a team effort.
- As a community we all have done a fantastic job pivoting to online learning.
- There is always room to improve. We will share with staff what went well and what didn't work well.
- A message will go out from parent reps to gather any feedback from parents and families (what they liked, what they would like to see changed). We want to be ready if this happens again. We will also ask the staff for their feedback.

Questions?

Would a survey be helpful for feedback? This is a great idea, I don't see an issue with that.

TDSB has sent out a lot of surveys, will parents fill it out? The purpose of feedback in the form of a survey is to not "name" or "evaluate" teachers but to provide constructive feedback on what went well and what we (as a school) can improve upon. *Parents/guardians are always welcome to email or call the school Administration to provide any feedback regarding the online learning experience.*

Once you receive the feedback, how do you improve things if families have not had a positive experience? If there's ever a concern, parents are encouraged to go to your child's teacher first, but if an issue is not resolved please go to the administration. The same goes for teachers.

- It's been fun going into all the classes during virtual learning. Students have been very adaptable and resilient and overall have been happy. It shows they are engaged in learning.
- Bell Let's Talk Day was held last week and teachers addressed mental health in different ways.
- Report cards should be in your inbox by Thursday at the latest. Anyone who hasn't received it can email us.
- Please request an interview with your child's teacher even if your teacher hasn't asked for a meeting.
- Health Pass from TDSB
 - o What will stay the same:
 - Hand sanitizing will continue
 - Teachers will continue to use their PPE
 - Families will be asked to send extra masks
 - Lunch and recess zones will continue
 - Enhanced air flow with windows open periodically throughout the day will continue
 - o What will change
 - Lunchtime will be a quiet lunch while masks are off
 - Outside- masks will be required to stay on. Public Health indicates that if students are 6 feet apart it is not necessary, but in reality, that isn't always happening given the age of our students. Students should expect to have masks on for the day.
 - Mask break – We will ask teachers to find a creative way to get a 10 min mask break after recess. This could take away from instructional time.
 - The biggest change is regarding close contacts – if someone is a close contact to someone exhibiting symptoms, all close contacts need to stay home, so this would include siblings. If someone has a symptom, everyone

in the household needs to stay home. We will ask for clarification. If that is the case we need to figure out how work will get assigned. This will likely come through your child's google classroom

Questions/Comments

This might be confusing for some families as there are isolation exemptions for certain people, how will that be managed? We will work with families where they have exemptions.

Can this be simplified for people to understand easily? We agree this needs to be simplified and we will be asking the appropriate questions to Public Health. The screening tool flow should be easy to follow but we are always happy to answer any questions.

How will instruction be managed for kids missing school? This is still being worked out. Once teachers are back in class, it becomes more difficult for teachers to be posting to google classroom in a timely manner. We will give our direction to teachers so they are prepared in advance.

It would be good if the office is on top of reminding parents that siblings need to stay home now if one child has symptoms. We will be working with the office staff and they will be on top of communicating this to parents if they call/email to report a child absent.

- We feel optimistic about the return to school
- Facilities update
 - o Kindergarten playground update (Cheston/Belsize playground)– We have been working with a committee including teachers, caretaking staff, daycare management, and Sarah Claydon & Natasha Golding. We've had great feedback but we'll meet socially distanced on the playground to look at our options. In terms of cost, it will be between \$50,000 - \$100,000 (likely to be closer to \$50,000). We are also asking for a viability review for our large playground. This could allow us to work on fundraising from the community. When we have something tangible to share, we will look for feedback from the greater community.

Questions

Will the playground be a Cody fundraising event or whole community event like when we installed the turf? If we can make it accessible to the larger community, then we can apply for a subsidy.

- Yearbooks for Grade 5 – Mr. Baker reached out to the parent committee and the ideas his class came up with are in line with what the committee is thinking of which would include photos from Kindergarten to Grade 5.

Questions

Will there be grade 5 photos? We spoke to Edge Imaging. The Board has put a stop to photos for now. We will get creative so stay tuned.

Other schools were able to get photos outside, is that something we can do in the Spring? It's something to look at.

- Enrichment workshops – teachers will be looking at enrichment opportunities
 - o There are plans for them to work on Financial literacy (Grade 1 – 5) and Anti-racism, anti-oppression.

Questions

Do you have any insight about March Break? We're not sure what will come out of the discussions about cancelling March Break. The Minster says they have the authority to do that so long as the teaching days are left intact (i.e. make up for lost days with long weekends). At this point we don't know.

Parent Rep Update and Messenger- Farnaz Kiervin

- We found out from the TDSB that we can go ahead with school messenger for school council related emails.
- We are getting School Messenger set up but there have been some technical issues. We hope to get it rolling soon and then messages will come from us rather than from parent reps.

Adjournment

Sarah Claydon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tracy Allardyce seconded the motion.