

**Maurice Cody Family & School Association**  
**Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Natasha Golding

Natasha welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of February Minutes**

Michelle Wagland made a motion to approve the minutes and Sarah Claydon seconded the motion.

**Finance Report** – Tracy Allardyce

- Revenue
  - o We got a cheque from Mables Labels (we get a percentage when people order online and select Maurice Cody for fundraising)
- Investments
  - o Investments have been made in technology (ixl)
  - o Investments in resources for teachers (science, numeracy and literacy support)
- Overall, we're in good standing

**Community Safety Report** – Mr. Nigro reported on behalf of Michael Healy

- John Paul and Michael have been working to make sure the crossing flags are up. Some of the ties have snapped so they are going around to fix them.
- We still have community safety ambassadors patrolling the school and surrounding neighbourhood.
- No reports of anything inappropriate occurring.
- Eglinton Public School has a lot of focus during the community meetings due to the proximity of the Roehampton Shelter.
- We encourage families if you hear or see any trouble on our neighbouring streets, even if it's not directly at the school, to let Mr. Nigro know as he can pass that on to the Community Safety Ambassador.

**Chess Club launch** - Natasha Golding and Claudia Fernandez

- Thank you to Claudia for working with Mr. Brighty to make this happen.
- Claudia is monitoring the students online and the system is working very well.

- The virtual chess platform is lichess.org. It's a user-friendly system and is encouraging children to play chess at any level.
- The chess club will run every Tuesday, and once a month there will be a tournament.
- Check out the website as students can sign up anytime. They do need to register so we know they are Cody students.
- Information is on the Cody Website with step-by-step instructions.

*Question – Is this only for kids who know how to play chess? Anyone can play, even beginners can play as the system will help students learn proper chess moves. There are also very good videos available to help students learn.*

### **Chair report** – Natasha Golding

- Staff and teachers
  - o The TDSB wrote a letter to the government advocating for teachers to be considered front line workers with respect to vaccine roll-out. They will be prioritized in the next wave and should be provided vaccines between April and July. Rachel Chernos Lin has the information on her newsletter.
- Connecting with other local schools
  - o Natasha met with the chairs from Bessborough, Northlea and Bennington Heights. Everyone is in the same position--we can't do too much in terms of fundraising but are all trying to find ways to fundraise and show support to our teachers. They will continue to meet monthly to share ideas.
- Guest speaker Duane Gibson will be doing virtual sessions with the students in school on Wednesday. He has a 50-minute presentation prepared for both the K-3 and the 4-5 groups. As an FSA we arranged for Duane to speak to parents in the evening. If parents are unable to attend, the session will be available through a Youtube link.

### **Staff and Teacher Appreciation** – Farnaz Kiervin

- Normally around this time we would have a teacher appreciation lunch for the teachers. Since we can't do that, we are organizing a catered lunch for the teachers for March 24th. They will have a choice of options and can pre-order. We thought this would be a nice gesture to show our support. We know that the teachers and staff have been working so hard and trying to give the kids a sense of normality.
- The caterer is Green Box Express. They have given us a great price since it's for a great cause.
- We've thought about what more we can do, but we don't have the budget to do this more often. We are considering doing a fundraiser to do more for our staff. We would collect money and potentially do something again in April, May and June. This would be optional but an opportunity for parents to contribute if they'd like.
- Mr. Nigro noted that any gesture goes a long way. Thank you.

- Fundraiser – Codylicious.
  - o We are speaking to local restaurants to see if we can organize something to support our local restaurants.
  - o Hodgson did something similar in terms of a pizza night where families ordered on a certain night and then 10% was donated to the school.
  - o Sarah Claydon spoke to Avery at McSorley's – They have always been big supporters of Cody, but it's a really tough time for restaurants right now. Maybe now is a time to support our restaurants and look to doing a fundraiser in the Fall.
  - o If anyone is interested in helping organize an event to show support to our local businesses, please let us know.

### **Questions/Comments**

*Since we're not looking for a percentage, could we ask restaurants to add a small incentive to make it more of an event for Cody families (i.e. a free appetizer)? That is probably something they could do.*

*Since restaurants give a cut to delivery services, could we recruit some drivers to deliver on the family night we select so more of the money goes to the restaurants? Great idea, we could organize this.*

*Sarah Farrugia has lots of toys stored from the winter fair, we could look at finding ways to give prizes.*

*The local BIA's have a large network if we want to leverage the larger community.*

### **Principal and VP Report** – Robert Nigro and Kelli Helpert

Ms. Helpert

- Facilities - We got a new toilet in the library!
- Financial literacy presentations are about to start for Grades 1-5.
- We're looking forward to having Duane speak to the students. Kelli has known Duane for many years, in the past he has spoken about believing in yourself and not letting anyone get you down. This time he will be focusing on Black Canadians.

Mr. Nigro

- We are getting HEPA filters by the end of March. They will go in every classroom. This is to further enhance our already safe environment. We are looking forward to

- having these in the building. We currently have one in the Music Room and one in the Wellness Room.
- We are very pleased to be getting a new Chromebook Cart with 20 Chromebooks on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This came through a grant at no cost to the school. Thank you to Ms. Helpert and her team for making this happen.
  - Staffing – we received our projected enrollment – Ministry funding that goes to TDSB has not been decided yet. What we're planning for is to plan as if we're returning back to a normal school year in terms of staff. In meetings with the staffing committee and parents who provide some recommendations, we want the staff model to be as seamless as possible. We want to minimize the movement of students and staff. This is easier said than done. 660 students is our projected enrollment, slightly down from last year, but we anticipate the same staffing allocation that we have had in the past. Our librarian position and 0.5 special Ed allotment were lost but we're hoping we get those allotments back.
  - Explanation of Staff allocation – Teacher allocation is how many we receive at the school based on our enrollment. Special Ed is another allotment, as is caretaking staff etc.
  - With the re-organization we had to do early on in the year, we learned lessons and have gathered information that is important to bring to the table now so we can try to avoid it for next year.
  - We had our Toronto Public Health nurse come to the school last week. He was very impressed with all the health and safety measures we are taking (reminders, announcements, recess zones, sanitizer stations etc.). He was really impressed with how well behaved the kids are with following the procedures and provided some further suggestions.
  - We know it's very tough for community members and classrooms when we hear someone has tested positive.
  - We need to differentiate between a positive case and a presumptive positive case.
  - When I get info on a positive case, I let the public health nurse know and then formally report it. It is then determined if they need to connect with the staff member or parent of the child. The public health investigator then determines if the class gets dismissed or called back. The typical time frame should be quick. Last time there was a case in the school it was very quick so we could communicate to the families right away. If we don't hear from the investigator in a timely matter, I am able to make a decision on whether to dismiss a class.
  - In regard to the presumptive case yesterday, I connected with the superintendent and public health nurse, but had not connected with the investigator. Given the information I had, we took the precaution of dismissing the class and any relevant staff. Hopefully when we hear from the investigator an update will be made whether they self-isolate or get called back.

## Question

*Whoever the impacted families are I wish them well – historically what has happened in the past with a presumptive case?* This is the first presumptive positive case I have received. The Board needs to be clear if it's positive or negative. From my end I will always air on the side of caution. I am disappointed I don't have a public health investigator on the phone, we want answers right away.

*Will cohorts be affected?* Based on what we know, because kids are outside with masks, right now, they are saying no one else needs to be dismissed.

*Are siblings of that class off for the foreseeable future?* I am taking the presumption that the case is positive, so siblings do need to stay home for the same duration as the close contacts. Childcare wouldn't get dismissed as those kids are not considered a close contact.

*Two of my kids are the siblings, are we meant to be calling in to let the school know? Are their teachers advised? Can we get work sent home?*

- We have informed the office staff to work with teachers to get work provided. For siblings the work will need to be asynchronous. If work isn't being put on the online platform, let Mr. Nigro know. For the class that was dismissed, their class will go to online learning.
- There may be a delay of work getting to siblings depending on when the notice has gone out to staff and parents.
- Parents do not need to let the office and teachers know about their kids being absent. They will have been informed.
- We feel for all the families going through this, it's not easy on anyone and we appreciate all the compassion.
- We need to keep doing what we're doing. We're very confident with what we're doing in the school but it's a reminder that we're in a pandemic.

### **Other Questions/Comments**

*Transition to Hodgson – At some point is there anything we need to do for the Grade 5 to transition?*

- Nothing formal has been shared, but we expect we will get some information.
- Teachers are talking about an end of year experience
- There have been preliminary talks about graduation

Funraisers – We did get word that a Dance-a-thon is possible outside, so long as we can follow protocols. If anyone is interested in joining the dance-a-thon committee, please let us know.

### **Adjournment**

Sarah Claydon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Claudia Fernandez seconded the motion.