

**Maurice Cody Family & School Association**  
**Tuesday April 20,2021, 6:30 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and introductions** – Natasha Golding

Natasha reviewed the agenda and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Acceptance of March minutes** - Natasha Golding

Shehrose Rehmani made a motion to approve the minutes and Claudia Fernandez seconded the motion.

**Finance report** - Tracy Allardyce

- Some cheques were cut for enrichment and online programming.
- Natasha noted that the staff appreciation lunch event went over so well. This led us to holding a fundraiser so we could continue with further staff appreciation events.
- The fundraiser for staff appreciation raised around \$2,700. We split the amount raised between April and May and have about \$1,300 for each month.
- We had set up an account at LIT coffee for staff to get themselves a treat but then went into lockdown, so we are trying to come up with other ideas that are accessible to staff. Does anyone have any ideas or feedback? Looking at skip-the-dishes, uber eats, Indigo gift cards.
- Mr. Nigro indicated any appreciation is well received and goes such a long way.
- Natasha will send a google form to Mr. Nigro to share with the staff and give them a choice of gift cards.
- If anyone still wants to contribute to this fund, e-transfers can be sent to [treasurer@mauricecody.ca](mailto:treasurer@mauricecody.ca)

**Community safety report** – Michael Healy

- Thank you to John Paul Di Giulio who has been fixing the flags posts and to Charlotte Hibbs for replacing the faded flags.
- Rob sent an email about the Hodgson School addition. The meeting should be useful for Cody parents. For those new to the community, Hodgson is a Grade 6-8 school. The construction will likely affect students that are currently in Grades 3,4,5 but we don't know for sure when it will start or finish.
- The more parents that attend and become informed the better. There will be a follow-up meeting on May 17th. Mr. Nigro will share the information again.

**Question**

*has a decision been made on what the development will be?* It's been about 1.5 years since we last met so we're not sure at the moment if the plans have changed.

- Ms. Helpert discussed an upcoming safety PSA they are working on which is shifting our focus from talking to the students about safety to talking to the adult caregivers about safety behaviours around the school.

### **Future FUNraisers** - Natasha

- Planning to ask Camp Onondaga about doing another family trivia night. Families in attendance agreed they would enjoy another event.
- Looking into a parent event such as a virtual cocktail evening with a cocktail expert from Langdon Hall. Will try to book sometime in May.

### **Looking forward to next year - Call for volunteers for FSA**

- The current FSA committee is now wrapping up serving for two years. Chairs are only supposed to serve for two years but other committee members can stay on if they wish.
- Natasha will stay on as a committee member (Past Chair) and help with the transition of a new Chair.
- Michelle Wagland has been our media guru and this is her last year as a Cody parent. We have a parent who might take on this role, but have other roles that will need to be filled (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair). If anyone is interested, please let us know. We only have a few months left so are hoping to find some volunteers.
- Mr. Nigro recalled his first year at Cody and at that time the FSA was also worried who was going to fill in their shoes for the upcoming year. As expected, there were parents who stepped up and got involved, so we hope that will happen this time around.
- Mr. Nigro and Ms. Helpert are also involved to provide feedback so feel free to reach out if you have any questions.
- Claudia Fernandez volunteered to get involved.

### **Principal and VP report** - Mr. Nigro and Ms. Helpert

- The Board's expectation for next year is to go back to the normal learning model with rotary classes.
- Teaching assignments - For next year our projected number of students is just over 660. We are looking at 36.5 staff, this includes 28 Homeroom classes, Prep delivery (5.5 teachers), Special Ed (2.5 teachers), and Library (.5 teacher).
- The current model we are considering includes- 3 split classes of Grades 1/2, 2 splits classes for Grade 2/3 and one split for Grade 3/4.
- The rationale for split grades is based on numbers. From Grades 1-3 classes are capped at 20 students. If we have to create split classes, teachers would like to have at least one other split class so they can collaborate. For the 3/4 split class the cap is 23 students. As of right now, we have 5 grade 3's and 18 grade 4's in that split, it's a large imbalance but we can create a split with a min of 4 students. The other splits are more balanced. We had to create the 3/4 class, in the past we were able to break that up and hoping that will be the case this year.

- We do this based on our numbers as the Board tells us we have to meet the max capacity for Grades 1-3. For Grade's 4-5 we were given 5 teachers, based on our numbers we were assigned 5 teaching staff. Instead of creating split grades, the overwhelming majority was to go back to straight grades.
- We are looking at 30-31 students for grade 4 and 28-29 students for Grade 5. The numbers are quite high and it will be up to the Board to see if we get re-organized in September.
- Media literacy won't be taught by a speciality teacher anymore, it will become a homeroom subject that will be taught.
- We have added another arts based subject. We will still have music, health & phys-ed, but will add drama & dance.
- We will be asking parents to give feedback, friends requests, teaching style etc. By the end of May we look at building the classes based on this feedback including gender balance.
- This coming June we won't be sharing the following year's teacher as we have done in the past. The reality is, we can't guarantee what the Board tells us what will happen. We have 19 LTO's (out of 36 teachers). We need to know that the teachers who are on leave are coming back before we announce class placements.
- LTO's (Long Term Occasional) - LTO's are long term supply teachers for our permanent teachers who are on extended leave for one reason or another. If our current long term teachers do not return, we have these great LTO's we will be happy to hire. We are going to hold off until we know. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

### **Questions**

*Do you put kids in split grades that have been in a split before?* Ideally we don't for consecutive years, if a child has been in a split grade we try not to do it again. There are circumstances where teachers and parents request it, but this is not common.

*Are there going to be any requirements for teachers who have gotten vaccinated?* There hasn't been a mandate for educators to get a vaccine. We encourage staff to get a vaccine if they wish to and are able to. It can't be mandated. It's our expectation that our staff will continue to follow all the safety protocols.

*Will there be parent/teacher interview this term?* There is no formal interview for the end of year. What I would suggest for next year is to engage in a conversation with your teacher and get their thoughts on classroom placements for next year. Be assured, teachers are in the meetings and we scrutinize it to make sure they are the right fit.

*Is there any information from Hodgson for students going from Grade 5-6?* I connected with Hodgson last month. There will be something happening, likely a virtual tour. Usually their teachers and staff have conversations with our teachers so when they transition from 5-6 they know the best fit.

*Is it possible to advocate for something to happen (info to Cody parents)?* Mr. Nigro will follow-up with them.

*Is it rotary in Grade 6?* They do tend to have rotary in middle school so that would include Grade 6.

*What did they do last year?* Parent response - There wasn't a great virtual visit for the school and not too much information was provided. Once the kids started Grade 6 they provided much more information and made the kids feel as comfortable as they could. It is rotary in Grade 6. The principal and VP are great at making everyone feel comfortable.

- Information Night for Kindergarten - We will be sending something in the middle of May for a virtual open house.
- Looking at a virtual graduation for Grade 5. Mr. Baker is working on this with Michelle Wagland. We are also making sure the yearbook is something the children will have in their possession, and looking at lawn signs. There is money in our budget set to help subsidize graduation.
- Special Ed update - for the first pivot our special ed staff were invited into google classrooms where their special ed students were. We've been reaching out to our special ed staff to see how things are going. It's challenging for those students to receive support right now. If you don't feel your child is getting the support they require, please let us know.
- Playground structure update - We are at a bit of a standstill at the moment because of restrictions but we'll share more details soon.
- Stay-at-home order - We've been told that TDSB playgrounds are open and other amenities are closed. Basketball nets are closed. Baseball and soccer fields are closed.
- There is confusion with the rules. We continue to encourage our families who send your children to play, to do so responsibly. We will continue to remind the community to be responsible, not to gather in groups and wear a mask.

### **Adjournment**

Shehrose Rehmani made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Healy seconded the motion.