

Maurice Cody Family & School Association
Tuesday May 11, 2021, 6:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Welcome and introductions – Natasha Golding

Natasha welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Acceptance of April minutes - Natasha Golding

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

Finance report - Tracy Allardyce

- Some Enrichment donations have been received from some families.
- Expenses - there have been additional expenses for online programming.
- Staff appreciation funds - A reminder that we had a staff appreciation lunch event in March that was really well received. Many families inquired what else could be done and the FSA facilitated a donation collection that would go toward additional staff appreciation events in April & May, 2021. \$2,800 was raised (split between the two months). Initially an account was opened for staff to purchase coffee and treats at Lit Cafe on Bayview, but unfortunately the next day schools were closed by the province. Alternatively, for April, we offered gift cards to teachers and staff. We provided them a choice of Indigo, Starbucks, Skip the Dishes or Amazon, and gave out \$25 gift cards to all staff (including crossing guards). Staff reported to be grateful and feeling the love!
- Now considering what else can be done before the end of the year. If anyone has any ideas, please let the FSA know.
- Mr. Nigro has been getting gracious and supportive feedback from the teachers and staff.
- Some suggestions include: subscription of some kind, tv/cinema gift cards, something from the Creaky Crafter (Nicole Colacci).

Question - *If families email teachers with positive feedback, is it a good idea to cc. Mr. Nigro?* ANSWER: It is a personal choice but he is happy to see those emails and it is nice for the teachers.

Community safety report - Michael Healy

- Application submitted for a new crossing guard on Soudan but this may be delayed until next year due to Covid restrictions on traffic studies.

- No other community safety news to report since our last meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, Rachel Chernos-Lin, the school trustee is very accessible, or you can direct questions to Michael Healy as he is always happy to connect with Rachel.

Hodgson Update - Natasha Golding

- There was a community meeting last week about the construction plans for Hodgson Middle School.
- In Sept 2022 they plan to start a new renovation which is likely to affect students currently in grades 3-5. Possibly grade 2 if delays occur.
- Studies completed to determine safety and security of students to stay on the premises during construction. Unfortunately it was determined that it is not possible for students to stay on-site during construction due to health and safety risks. Even if it was deemed safe, 19 portables would be required to house the increasing number of students during this time which would result in no green space in addition to lack of gymnasium. The planning committee looked at many different options and it was determined that it just wasn't possible due to safety.
- Students will bussed to Vaughan Road Academy (currently where Davisville PS has been located during their construction).
- It was asked if feeder schools could take part in the planning process and they were happy to include a Maurice Cody representative in the meeting. The Hodgson principal is asking about safety issues and the architects are very open to hearing ideas from community partners.
- If anyone has questions or ideas, please let the FSA know.
- There is another community meeting on May 17th.
- The architecture firm is open to looking at ways the renovation can enrich the community better. Since Maurice Cody is the only school in the area with green space, this could be an opportunity to make the Hodgson green space more of an amenity for community use.
- Mr. Nigro noted that having been an administrator in the area of Vaughan Road Academy, he knows the school well. Given the circumstances, it is the next best option. He reports that the amenities in the building are great such as the swimming pool and science labs. It will be a high school facility for middle school. The Hodgson principal is really on top of the transportation issue. She is committed to making sure our students do not have the same transportation issues that have been a problem for Davisville students in the past.

FUNraiser Updates

- Another trivia night was held last week and was well attended. Thank you to Camp Onondaga for hosting again.

- This Friday we have our first adult only cocktail night. This is a new event for the school and we are looking forward to a good night. If anyone still wants to join, please email Natasha Golding to register.

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

- Details for the next virtual meeting about the Hodgson construction will be sent out.
- Teachers are continuing with their day to day teaching.
- Enrichment is happening where possible.
- End of year activities are being planned. Teachers are looking to inject some fun before the end of the school year.
- There have been some situations with children having a hard time being online for the school day. Feel free to reach out to your teacher if this is a problem. We are always looking at the health and well-being of the children and will make accommodations as needed.
- Report card distribution will be on June 28th.
- Whether we are online or not, we are prepared to continue teaching virtually. This is what we predict but we are ready to make any changes necessary.
- We're in staffing allocation mode - this is time where teachers may look at other teaching opportunities with the Board. We have 18 teachers on leave right now. We will find out in August if those teachers are coming back but hope to find out sooner.
- Classroom placements - we will be working on this in the coming weeks. May 14th is the deadline to send any special requests to Mr. Nigro. Most of the time friend requests are in line with what the teachers are thinking too. Friends are a priority especially if we are in single class cohorts again.
- Full rotary of classes are expected (phys-ed, music, etc.) but we will pivot as needed.
- There will be an opportunity for online learning for next year. We don't have the answers yet in terms of what that means to Maurice Cody. Some regions have received letters from their Board that the model will be simultaneous learning. This means the classroom teacher will teach a class with students in class and those online (similar to the Hybrid model some Boards are currently using).
- **We haven't been given direction from the TDSB yet so discussions about how this model relates to Maurice Cody is purely speculation.**
- Our goal is to include all the current virtual students in our school numbers for next year until we hear differently from the parents.

Question - *how would the hybrid model work if the class goes to the gym or away from the room?* Unfortunately, those kids online would have to log off but it's understood by families who make the decision.

- Ms. Helpert noted that the hybrid model happened in the rare instance to support well being of those at home (ie. online recess break with the class). The hybrid

model is something that is not supported by TDSB. We will await further direction from the board as to what next year's learning model will look like.

Question - *will we have another re-org?* If families go virtual but stay with Cody (if TDSB chooses the hybrid model), it may eliminate issues with a re-org. Again, this is all speculation since we have not been given any direction yet from the TDSB.

- Information will be sent by the end of the month about retrieval of personal belongings from the school.
- Graduation - Grade 5 graduation will happen on June 24th (time TBD)
- Graduations across TDSB must be pre-recorded. Live graduations will not happen due to bandwidth issues, people entering that shouldn't be among other reasons. We will do the best we can with the grade 5 team to make sure it's seamless. Although we don't have a scheduled time yet, it will be in the afternoon or early evening.
- We will be giving a gift bag to Grade 5 grads.
- The yearbook team has been working very hard. The committee includes student ambassadors from each classroom, our parent volunteer Michelle Wagland and Mr. Baker and Mr. Lindstol. There has been lots of student input in the yearbook which is great.

Questions/Comments

I hope all classes will get to mark the end of the year in a meaningful way. If teachers are planning something could they give parents a heads up, especially if they'd like parents to be available? Yes, we can let teacher's know to advise parents.

Other Business - Natasha Golding

Finance Committee - In the beginning of June we have a Finance Committee meeting to look at what we've spent money on and what we've raised. Claudia has volunteered to help with this. If anyone else is interested in being represented, please let us know.

Adjournment

Karen Wiseman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Shehrose Rehmani seconded the motion.