

Maurice Cody Family & School Association

Tuesday October 12, 2021, 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION

ACTION, TIMELINE

MRP

1.0 Welcome and introduction

1.1 Natasha outlined the agenda for the evening which forms the topics for today's meeting

1.2 Introduction for new attendees to FSA, to Rob Hochberg, Principal, and Gillian Lea, Vice-Principal, new to Maurice Cody this year.

2.0 Teacher Report and classrooms sent home to self-isolate

2.1 Sherryl Vroom, provided a teacher report. She is a kindergarten teacher for a class that has gone online / virtual provided the Teacher Report.

2.2 Sherryl explained what happened when a classroom had to be sent home, including how PCR tests were conducted. Parents were able to turn back the tests outside the school building. Toronto Public Health decided on an extended closure this week and scheduled to return to in-person learning next Monday. Teaching included morning and afternoon sessions for synchronous learning, and posted lessons for asynchronous learning. Online learning is going well and while not ideal the students are doing well and parents' support is much appreciated.

2.3 Rob: Sherryl is a POR (Position of Responsibility) or teacher lead for the kindergarten classes. There were no other positive tests. Toronto Public Health (TPH)'s recommended optimal retesting is 7 days from the date of the first day the students were sent home. Retest would thus be Thursday September 14; highest likelihood of identifying any other positive cases. School and parents of the positive case would be directly notified by TPH. Difference between this year and last year, is that last year:

- Last year, TPH would base the start of self isolation to be on the last day the student was at school (in this case, October 1st)
- Now: TPH would base it on the last day the cohort was in school (which began on October 7th)

Question: is it mandatory for students to be tested? **Answer:** it is not mandatory because all students in impacted classes are out of the class for at least 10 days, but it is helpful and provides

peace of mind for everyone including students, parents, staff. Do not have to do the rapid saliva test but anywhere PCR tests is done.

Question: Do students have to provide a response? It would be ideal if everyone provides a negative test before returning.

Answer: the school is taking its direction from Toronto Public Health

Question: Is there any provision to keep cohorts from mixing in the playground – increased risk that more classes have to self isolate. **Answer:** something that was discussed prior to the start of school year. Several issues arise: 1) not a lot of space on the playground and 2) supervision requirements. Teachers can only supervise so many minutes per week as per their collective agreement. According to TPH, students can be on the playgrounds and mix with masks off; Maurice Cody has tried to keep the students in smaller cohorts. But it is difficult to keep them in their own cohorts and zones. 3) Students miss their friends. Socialization an important aspect to students’ well being. 2.4 Kindergarten team is also partnering with TDSB psychologist. Will be discussing stress-induced and anxiety-induced behaviours and to receive advice since we are still in a pandemic, and many kindergarteners are new to the school environment.

2.5 Kindergarten team is also partnering with STEM enrichment team and exploring opportunities to learn in science, technology, engineering, math. Request for teachers to return and report back on some of the successes

Report back from POR’s to FSA on successes in the classroom

S. Vroom, other POR’s.

3.0 Volunteers and Parent Reps

3.1 Parent reps for a classroom can contact their child’s teacher. Julianne Bryant will be the lead parent rep.

Additional volunteers required

ALL

3.2 Check www.mauricecody.ca for description of all the committees that are available. Email contactFSA@mauricecody.ca for any questions or to join.

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 **Dance-athon Committee** – still waiting to hear from the superintendent on the parameters of what we can and cannot do – as soon as we hear back will forward to this committee.

4.2 **Trivia Night Event** – to be hosted by Camp Onedaga who has previously hosted for us. Was booked for Thursday November 18 2021 at 6:30 pm; however Friday November 19 2021 is a PA day next day and parent-teacher interviews; date will be rebooked.

4.3 **Winter Fair** – will not have the usual Winter Fair but some parent volunteers are looking to do something fun for the end of the year for students and staff for the last week of school in December. First meeting is next week; new members welcome to join this committee.

4.4 **Community Connections**– this group has started and looking at donations,

4.5 **Swag Committee** – committee has met and looking into an online shop and have been reviewing suppliers.

4.6 **Cody Howl** – postponed to the spring, targeting April 30 2021 (parent-only social event and fundraiser)

5.0 Finance

5.1 Tracy Allardyne not available but no major changes from last month's report. Major expenses were staff swag bags, some income from Mabel's Labels fundraisers.

5.2 FSA is being conservative with funds since it remains uncertain what fundraisers can be held, but still have funds remaining from last year.

5.3 Math IXL online learning tool is being renewed this year.

5.4 Staff request for microphones – staff are being canvassed for their interest / need and pricing is being sought.

Question: once Class Reps are appointed – can teachers let class reps know their wish list?

Question: Can instead we have classroom wish lists to go to the FSA first, triage and figure out what can be funded by the FSA and which can be addressed directly by parents of a given classroom.

Answer: Yes. Things like microphones, or a special program would typically go to FSA, items like yogurt containers or tissue boxes can direct to students.

Question: What about a consolidated school-wide list that we can work towards a team, that way we ensure equity **Answer:** Yes, that is what we are working towards.

Question: What about an auction and online fundraiser?

Answer: have previously done so, will likely try this again.

6.0 Elections

6.1 With many committees, the Executive is a smaller, tighter group that work to provide a link between the administration, teachers, and the many committees.

Treasurer: Claudia Fernandez; previously on Finance Committee and has agreed to become the Treasurer taking over from Tracy Allardyce. Motion to confirm Claudia as the Treasurer was carried.

Secretary: Vera Kan has agreed to be Secretary. Motion to confirm Vera as the Secretary was carried.

Vice-Chair: they sit on the committee to help the Chair and to assist parent reps. Julianne Bryant (Juls) was on the executive last year and has agreed to stay on. Motion to confirm Juls was carried.

Additional Vice-Chairs – there may be additional vice-chair positions. Time commitment: one FSA meeting per month. May get together to trouble-shoot issues or for major decisions (e.g. a

fair). Vice-Chairs can have different roles or focus on certain committees or tasks and provide general support to the chair. **Chair** – supported by past Chair (previously was Sarah Claydon, Natasha Golding will be available to support the new Chair). Bylaws do not permit the Chair to serve beyond a maximum of two years. Rob and Natasha are available to answer any queries. Partnership between the parent community and the staff and administration.

M. Lamanna to provide contact info offline to N. Golding

All

Motion required to have Natasha Golding stay on for one more month was carried.

Identification and nomination of a new Chair

7.0 Principal and VP Report

Question: Can there be a video tour of the building so families can see the indoor school environment? **Answer:** will be looking to provide a video of a “day in the life of a student at Maurice Cody”

7.1 Library is now open and students are entering it for orientation and understanding how to look for and borrow books.

7.2 The board is slowly moving towards permitting more extracurricular activities starting with students age 12 and up. Both parents and students are interested; hope we will get there soon.

7.3 Toronto Parks and Recreation is starting up; have programs established to be run out of the school. Check the Toronto Parks and Recreation website to identify the programs being run out of the gymnasium or outdoors.

7.4 Grade 5 engagement: discussion about leadership, Spirit Days, and solicited their ideas for what might be a fun Spirit Day. Example: school-wide Maurice Cody swag day, school-wide Comfy Cozy Day, etc.

7.5 Progress Reports: Teachers are working on these and the reports will be issued prior to the Parent-Teacher interviews the evening of Thurs. Nov 18 and morning of Friday Nov 19.

7.6 School Improvement Plan (SIP) committee: had been previously put on hold with pandemic but being brought forward again. Can address items like student performance in numeracy or equity. Committee composed of mostly staff and teachers – to work on how to help students be successful and meet the curriculum.

7.7 School washrooms: all functional and in good condition, but some individuals are attempting to flush items that don't go down the plumbing and causing closures. . “Gotcha Award” for those who have demonstrated positive behavior. Have asked teachers to track those who are being given a washroom pass to correlate with any incidents.

7.8 Terry Fox Run / Walk: Every student has a Terry Fox run or walk as part of the phys-ed class. Whole school could participate without mixing of cohorts. Encouragement to make donations to the Terry Fox Foundation either through the Terry Fox school fund raiser portal, or via SchoolCash Online.

7.9 Classroom visits: WITS (walk away, ignore, tell someone) program and reading books on mindfulness and kindness

7.10 Special Education portfolio: IEP's (individual education plan) for students who require one should be coming out October 22, 2021. In-School Team Meetings are comprised of the Vice-Principal, the Special-Ed Teacher and the teacher of the student. May also include support team (consultant, psychologist, speech and language or social work).

7.11 COVID-19: One case involving a student who had no symptoms but his parent was not feeling well. While it came to the attention of Maurice Cody last week, he had been out of school all the preceding week. Delta variant has resulted in a different approach from the TPH from last year.

Double-vaccinated adults with no symptoms can come to work (last year, schools were shut down not because of positive cases but staff members who had to self-isolated). Two classes were sent home due to contact in the playground. Many learnings through this first case for the school year. Anticipate there will be more clarity and messaging in any future cases.

One very helpful thing was a partnership with Sick Kids and was able to send the tests home with students the same day they were sent home, and receive them the next day at the school.

Question: if there was only one case in one classroom, and not a second case, why after 10 days are the children not back in school? **Answer:** TPH is based not when the first case was positive, but when was the last day all the students were together (which was considerably later than that first case last came to school)

Question: if a child has tested negative 3 times during this period, does the child need to be tested a 4th time before returning to school?

Answer: No. It is not required, but recommended. It is recommended because of the chance some students may have asymptomatic symptoms. School Board Trustee is also interested in hearing from families, "Coffee Talk" next one scheduled tomorrow at 10:30 am and helps to explain why the board has made the decisions and policies that it has.

Link and information on www.mauricecody.ca website

Question: Going forward, should we anticipate the future communications on Covid incidents to come from you, Rob?

Answer: Yes. Also, if your child tests you will receive a call directly from TPH, not from the school principal.

11.0 Other Business

Meeting was formally adjourned at 8:07 pm

Next Meeting: November 9 2021, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

- END OF MINUTES -

Recorder: Vera Kan, Secretary

Note:

The preceding is intended to be an accurate recording of the discussions of the meeting. It is the responsibility of those present to identify any errors or omissions. Corrections should be noted to the recorder within three (3) business days of issuance of these Minutes. If no comments are provided in writing within this time frame, the Minutes will be considered as accurate and true.