

## NOTES from Maurice Cody Family Council Meeting

Attendees - 42 participants

- 1) Motion to accept June 2021 Meeting minutes approved
- 2) Natasha introduced Rob Hochberg and Gillian Lea. Rob has worked all over the TDSB except Scarborough. Gillian has mostly worked in the Etobicoke area and this is the furthest east she has worked within TDSB but she was a former resident of midtown Toronto
- 3) Teacher Report – Mubarak Baker, Grade 4 and Phys Ed teacher, presented on behalf of Cody staff.
  - a. Thanks for the Welcome Back package from FSA.
  - b. School morale is good – enforcing safety and public health requirements. Thanks to Rob and Gillian for stepping into our third year of school in a pandemic
  - c. Tech program – for anyone who has a child in Grade 5 or Grade 9 , each child will receive a Chromebook free of charge and keep for four years. 88 devices were received last week, worth \$34,000. If you haven't heard from your Grade 5 teacher, hope to have it in place next week. For grade 1-4's, 3 iPad and 3 Chromebook carts can be signed out by teachers – supported by FSA. Kindergarten students will have iPad stations.
  - d. School Spirit and School Events – have Terry Fox Run this week; kindergarten this week, Grades 1-5 later October 4-8th. Will not mix cohorts. Creativity will be employed; want to bring the fun back to school but keep it safe. (Question: will help be needed to support Terry Fox Run – have had parent volunteers in the past? Answer: only need 1-2 phys ed teachers, will only allow one class or cohort outside at a time to avoid mixing and have the runs during their phys-ed classes.)

Jennifer Peters, Grade 2 teacher

- e. Children and staff excited to be back in school. Kids have become more tech savvy as a plus from the pandemic. Teaching staff hope that we can stay in school all year.
- 4) FSA volunteers for 2021-22 Committees (Sarah)
  - a. Many opportunities despite the pandemic. What's new this year: instead of a physical whiteboard for sign-up, a Google Form link will be shared.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejuVBQS6sgH4EzB6aR5MEHnxEdscxOYuAguE17Wgi7nq4E0A/viewform>
  - b. Role of the executive is to act as the voice of the parent community, not to make all the decisions. Opportunity to get involved and get to know Cody top to bottom. Executive is headed by a Chair; can be co-Chaired by two people, and supported by vice-Chairs. Liaison between families / parents / caregivers and Cody staff. (See Committee roles and responsibilities:  
<https://mauricecody.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CODY-FSA-COMMITTEE-DESCRIPTIONS.pdf>) Roles need to be filled by October 2021.
  - c. A number of new committees this year:
    - i. Health and Safety Committee
    - ii. Traffic Committee

- d. Notes on some of the other committees:
  - i. Community Partnership and Outreach: 5% of FSA fundraising is donated to Thorncliffe Park PS, our sister-school. Looking to develop a closer relationship with that school which has traditionally been principal-to-principal by having a Cody parent connect with a Thorncliffe Park teacher or others.
  - ii. Pizza Lunch – if this resurrects (uncertain due to the pandemic), need someone to organize. If you like spreadsheets and work at home, it is one of the biggest moneymakers for the FSA exceeding \$30K/year
  - iii. Cody Swag – need some parents to select some samples in the fall, makes great holiday gifts (has been done by Cody teaching staff before). FSA will identify a website provider.
  - iv. Staff Appreciation – traditionally had a staff appreciation breakfast provided by the Cody community, during the pandemic it became a pre-boxed packaged meal. Also had a morale event “pots and pans” before the holidays
  - v. Events at Cody that require leadership (Movie Night on the field in September, Cody Howl—parent party in the school gym and fundraiser with live band and auction, Winter Fair (typically January-February but requires permits), Spring Fair (held outside, usually a lot of inflatables), Danceathon, Skating Party, Freeze Friday (last 4 Fridays of June, volunteers needed to purchase and sell the freezies)

5) Committee Reports

- a. No lice check this year due to COVID.
- b. Finance Report (Tracy Allardyce) – 3 budgets were presented in June, worst case, best case, mid-point case. The Mid-Point case was presented on screen by Tracy. Limited revenues including from Mabel’s Labels school fundraiser.
- c. Each classroom is given a budget of \$20 (per student) and we also discuss with teachers on their wish lists and how we can support them. Example—some teachers wearing masks are less audible to students and are asking for microphones.

6) Timing of future Meetings

- a. Typically 6:30 – 8:00 pm pre-COVID. Asking if this works versus switching between morning and evening. General consensus that evening works for most.

7) Social Media Report (Jodi Abrams, Shehrose Rehmani)

- a. Thanks to Michelle Wagland who is the outgoing person in this role.
- b. Instagram account @CodyParents is private and used for day-to-day accounts – those requesting will get a response from Shehrose asking who their child’s teacher and classroom are to validate that they are connected to the school. Please reply to that query. Have 22 people who have not responded and thus not yet admitted onto the Instagram account.
- c. Posts for Instagram - posts need to be submitted before 4:00 pm to allow admin to validate and post by 8 pm.
- d. Email – use [socialmedia@mauricecody.ca](mailto:socialmedia@mauricecody.ca) to contact them.
- e. Link for Google Forms for volunteering is now on the website.
- f. There was a Principal’s message on the website from Robert Nigro; Rob Hochberg to inform if he’d like to have a message and/or a photo posted. Gillian also invited to provide a photo and bio to post.

- g. Twitter is used to post school events like swag sale, spring fair, winter fair. Anything open to people outside of Cody and does not require verification.
- 8) Question on chat from Monica Lamb: *Will the library be open? What about class pictures from last year?* Natasha: library is closed now but will find out about class photos
- 9)
- 10) Principal and vice-principal's report
- a. Natasha welcomed Rob and Gillian to the Cody FSA and community
  - b. Rob and Gillian have launched a safety committee since August. Have had to hire LTO teachers and contract teachers. Past 4-5 weeks have been spent preparing and getting students back into the classroom. Rob is impressed with Cody students and what he is seeing in the classrooms – when students are finished whatever task they are supposed to be working on, they all have books and a lot of reading and literacy. Rob is also impressed seeing what he sees outdoors – students collaborating, getting along and being kind to one another. Good start to the school year.
  - c. Safety – make sure the kids have their health assessment when they arrive at school, that they are washing their hands regularly, that they social distance, and if they don't feel well to tell their parents and not come to school. Daniella Latino and Nasim \_\_\_\_ have regularly looked at the decision tool from Toronto Public Health and making decisions daily. Decisions are focused on close contact – best to stick with the game plan to keep schools open.
  - d. Head caretaker Jane has informed Rob the ventilation system is the best that we can ask for in a school building. Teachers will keep windows open in the school building as much as possible throughout the school year.
  - e. Students need to keep masks on upon arrival on school property and when standing in line. Parents coming onto the school property also asked to wear a mask.
  - f. Pivoting to a virtual teaching – teachers do have their google classrooms or BrightSpace set up and if there is a need, it should be a quick pivot within 12-24 hours.
  - g. **Question via chat: Will there be any reorganization of classes?** Gillian Lea: unlikely we will have to reorg and we have passed the re-org deadline. Did a re-org before school began when the school lost an ECE and had to do a mini re-org.
  - h. Curriculum Night: Will be run in four 20-25 minute sessions. Two sessions will be held with homeroom teachers. Two will be with rotary teachers. Trying to consider that everyone may have more than one child at Maurice Cody and want to break it up so that there is an opportunity to attend more than one class. Parents who cannot attend curriculum night can reach out to the teacher for the info shared in that 25 min session.
  - i. Staffing: Last year there was a real focus on keeping schools open and safe. This year, we would like to come back to the school improvement plan and what we can do academically with well being and equity. Already have had some preliminary discussion around that.
- 11) Vice-Principal's report
- a. 3 pillars that we tend to focus on are equity, well-being and academics, acting in conjunction with each other. Will have a STEM coach come in for coding to follow the updated curriculum for math. While we may have to pivot, still pushing through with the normalcy of what school focuses on.

- b. Edge Imaging has been booked for October 1 for student individual portraits, and November 1 for graduation photos to ensure students get a grad photo. Have worked with Eric Lindstol in the past to create the graduation yearbook but cannot have anyone coming into the school but we will encourage teachers to come up with their own classroom photos from events such as Terry Fox etc. Is there a Google Drive for Teachers to place their photos? (Answer: yes) There will be a make-up day for all photos October and November 1<sup>st</sup> which will be November 9th.
- c. Class photos assembled from portraits but came too late to be distributed to families. 2020-2021 photos will be distributed sometime in October.
- d. Terry Fox and Orange Shirt Days – teachers not told what to do in the classroom but administration offers resources where teachers can leverage for those specific days. There will not be group class photos but composite class photos.
- e. WITS Program – problem solving program for students for conflict resolution “Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek Help” employed for students K-5, common terminology for students, teachers, and lends itself for mini-assemblies and other activities through the year, and the well-being of all the students in the school.
- f. Budget – A lot of partnership between FSA and the school. Waiting for the TDSB school budget to be uploaded to the school, not sure when to expect this year but looking forward to working with FSA to use the budget effectively for the benefit of students at Cody. Please feel free to email Gillian or Rob.
- g. Library – close to opening in a few weeks, students will be able to borrow 1 book at a time. Trying to get back to the feeling of being in a “normal, live” school environment.

Question (Unknown Sender): is there an option for traditional class photos in spring once kids are vaxxed and/or if CVOID is more under control? Answer: things are changing week by week, month by month, we are hopeful but not sure.

Question from Raviv Israel: if it is raining or snowing, are the kids still lining up outside? Answer (Rob) Weather like today would still have the students line up outside. If it is a light snow still likely line up outside. If heavy rain fall, would go into an inclement weather plan and line up outside their classrooms where they have their health + safety check done.

Question from Raviv Israel: Is there an update on upgrading the playgrounds? Answer (Rob) will speak with Natasha, there was something in the works for the playground when Robert Nigro was here.

Question from Nicole Medina: How will you manage the little ones – Grade one for example, if they don't know how to get to their room alone? Answer (Rob) most of the little ones know the school fairly well after the first week, parents will drop off at their entrance door and staff member to greet them at the door.

Question from Raviv Israel: Will there be any TLC for the floor in the gym? Answer (Rob) will need to put in a work order via the head caretaker to see when that will be fixed. May need to be scheduled for the right time when students are not using the gym. Update: Caretaker has work order in place from last year, waiting for a date.

Question from Fiona Lee: Is it possible to use electronic Health pass instead of paper? Answer (Rob) we would need the teachers to have a phone and need to hold up the phone to check the QR code. May not work well in a school like hours; the health passes are working. Keep it as simple as possible and keep the hard copy passes. Committee decision to stick with this going into the school year.