

Maurice Cody Family & School Association

Tuesday December 14, 2021, 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION	ACTION, TIMELINE	MRP
1.0 Welcome and introduction		
1.1 Meeting called to order by new chair JC van Marle		
1.2 Meeting minutes from prior meeting approved, motioned by V. Kan and Claudia Fernandez		
2.0 Teacher's report – Jennifer Peters		
2.1 Teacher morale has been reasonable good despite stresses of the past few weeks. Remaining classes in the school are enjoying spirit week. The teachers have been very appreciative of the appreciation breakfast earlier today and other measures undertaken by the FSA.		
2.2 Staff have assembled and provided learning goals		
2.3 Professional Days with specific courses in mental health have been well received and very useful for front-line staff working with children and learning how best to address children's needs. With thanks to Principal and VP to be able to focus on this and work together.		
3.0 Principal Update (Rob Hochberg)		
3.1 Principal's presentation is focused entirely on COVID-19 mitigation, case and outbreak management and to clarify anything that may not be well understood. Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff at TDSB are now fully vaccinated. One staff member who did not have complete vaccination was only permitted to work the first week of school. • TDSB staff and administration have continued to follow TDSB and TPH protocols and policies before and during the outbreak • There are currently 15 active cases of which 8 cases involve siblings (4 families). 		
3.2 Rob's perspective is that cases may have been spreading in the school earlier, more recent ones may have been coming from the community; based on conversation with the TPH investigator, and even local community groups (hockey league convener as an example		

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<p>3.3) Rob wanted to address the concerns about cohorts not being dismissed together when one class has a positive case. Safety Committee meeting in August made a decision to stay in cohorts even though the Board has said schools were free to allow students to mingle at recess or lunch with all classes. As a result Maurice Cody has maintained cohorts of two primary classes (due to space and numbers) not enough space for each class to have their own zone at recess. Junior classes are in their own zone. Classrooms do not cohort inside the building.</p>		
<p>3.4 Question: how are decisions made to close a school? Multiple schools across TDSB and Toronto are dealing with outbreaks. TPH is looking not just at the number of cases but also <i>how</i> they are spreading and that forms a basis to decide if they close a school versus keeping it open.</p> <p>Most of the time, Rob will hear from a parent who calls or emails to notify their child is positive for COVID-19. At that point, the school dismisses the class based on TPH protocol for a positive case. Then TPH starts their investigation and gather specific information on date of symptom onset and that helps determine how long a individual student has to stay out of school After they complete the investigation, they will decide if a class has to stay out and isolate for ten days, or if they are permitted to return to school within a day. Maurice Cody has also had TPH decide to dismiss / bring back in a day or two and then later dismiss again. Decisions are made by TPH not by TDSB or the principal or school administration.</p> <p>Once investigation is complete, the school cannot send out any information until TPH has provided a letter to share. The school may not be able to share information because of privacy concerns, or because the school does not have answers. At times the investigator may not have all the answers. The school strives to share all the information as soon as they can share it.</p> <p>TDSB cannot dismiss a class without TPH direction. Early in the outbreak at Maurice Cody, Rob Hochberg wanted to hold back a class from returning to school, and was specifically told he cannot do that. Only classes with a positive case were dismissed. Siblings of positive cases were also told to stay home, but not the close contact of a sibling of a positive case (example classrooms of siblings of positive cases)</p>		
<p>3.14 Question: what would cause TPH to close down Cody? What would they need to see to make that decision? Regarding question of closing the school altogether – the investigator and</p>		

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<p>the superintendent do not make this decision. The investigator goes to their supervisor with findings and they take it to a doctor who is on the COVID response team. That doctor makes the final decision. As of yesterday the final decision as of 3 pm is to not close the school but they continue to monitor the school. No new cases today (Tuesday December 14)</p> <p>TPH’s approach now is different from last year; last year we dismissed siblings and cohorts of siblings, but now they wait on positive cases and make decisions on dismissal.</p> <p>In another change: last year they would dismiss a class then decide on dates of isolation based on the last time the positive case was in the school. This year, they decide on isolation period based on the last time the whole cohort was in class. If the positive case was last in on Thursday and the rest of the class came in on Monday, then TPH sets the date of isolation to begin on Monday because there may be another positive in that cohort.</p>		
<p>3.8 Question: I would like to know if we know which variant has affected the school and what the early symptoms may have been for these families. Symptoms: Rob’s observation to date with the Maurice Cody cases is that most of the children have headaches and are sent home, then they develop a fever at home which prompts the parents to test the child.</p>		
<p>3.9 Were the cases identified on the weekend from the Sick Kids school-wide testing? Mostly yes. That said many people did not use the saliva kits handed out, many families went to get their own testing. May not have been just the Sick Kids but the importance of school-wide testing taking place.</p>		
<p>3.10 When we talk about dismissal, what is the situation with respect to return? Every time the TPH dismisses a class, there is a letter that goes home with all the dates including dismissal date, return to school date, and second testing date. Maurice Cody also tries to send back a letter to welcome students back to school. At peak we had 7 classes dismissed, we are down to 5 today and by end of week only 2 classes dismissed (who will not return until after the holidays)</p>		
<p>3.11 Are there any learnings from this that will result in any adjustments to how students are welcomed back? Rob: even before this outbreak started, administration have been reminding teachers and staff daily, and emails to parents regarding safety protocols. The school trusts that parents do not send their children to school without any symptoms, and that</p>		

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<p>staff are able to pass their own health assessment before they enter the school.</p> <p>Protocols around lunch –students will eat their lunch with masks off and are not to socialize until they finish and put their mask back on. Limited lunch supervisors who are supervising 2, 3 or 4 classes at one time which is challenging to enforce.</p>		
<p>3.12 Question: Do we know if the families are okay? Is anyone very very sick? How could we help them? Rob: it’s been hard to keep up with all the families plus everything else but in the conversations he has had with some families. Some of the students are actually asymptomatic and only found because of school-wide testing. Other families have children with headaches or fever for a few days and then they feel better. Mostly flu-like symptoms</p>		
<p>3.21 When there is a class being dismissed and an email is sent telling us to pick up our child, is it possible to use a subject line prefix that indicates that the email is urgent (ex. URGENT: Class Dismissal Letter)? Rob: yes. The emails you are receiving may come from Daniela Latino and team, but they are coming from either Rob or Gillian supported by Daniela.</p>		
<p>3.22 D Does the school ever have a CO2 monitor in to measure air quality? The caretaker would probably say the mechanical ventilation system is in good condition and amongst the best within school board. Ventilation in schools – windows are kept open in the classroom even in winter to promote this.</p>		
<p>3.23 Do we know if Sick Kids has processed all the tests.... ie can we expect possibly more pos cases later this week? The TPH investigator notes the Sick Kids testing lab is overwhelmed due to surge of tests and unable to come back with data as fast as they once did. Of 500 tests given out; 400 came back and out of those tests, have positivity rate of 5 or 6 cases, but still waiting to collect all the data. Rob has been told some are still in process, and not everyone has gotten their results yet.</p>		
<p>4.0 Vice-Principal’s Report</p>		
<p>4.1 Thanks expressed for teacher appreciation presented today, teachers were “blown away today”. Gillian will be following up with their own teacher appreciation on Friday.</p>		
<p>4.2 Very invested in keeping spirits high in the school. Students are participating in wacky hats, pyjamas, look forward to the Cody colours and swag day tomorrow.</p>		
<p>4.3 Regularly trying to give students awards “Gotchas” that we’ve “got” them doing amazing thing. Were only looking do this once a week, but stepped it up to a Gotcha for a day. Sometimes an entire class, other times a student for cleaning up, or some students who wrote up all the raffle tickets. Gotcha are announced on the PA and also posted on the Gotcha board and students look for their names.</p>		

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<p>4.4 Food Drive – Had two vans lined up on school property and two Food Bank represents received the donations. Two minivans were fully loaded with donations. Students were excited to participate. What of families who were dismissed and want to participate? Recommend you take them to the food bank, local supermarket, and participate since it all will get to a food drive even if it is not Maurice Cody’s own drive. Thorncliffe Park is not very far for a drop off.</p>		
<p>4.5 Friendship Group – started with a social worker (Carolyn) and social work student at University of Toronto who are working in one of the classrooms. Friendship / resilience / loyalty group – students talking through how to be resilient, how to be a good friend. With many students isolating in bubbles or small groups this has been a very helpful program. Hope to have a presentation to the FSA in near future.</p>		
<p>4.6 Hopefully Dr. Paul Szego will be invited back; student emotional regulation, child psychology, etc.</p>		
<p>4.7 Emphasis on student emotions, self-regulation and psychology is a priority; academics we are seeing the gaps closing but want to ensure they are well equipped for other areas.</p>		
<p>4.8 Toy Drive – Toronto Police Service overwhelmed with community response with tables filled with contributions –t hank you!</p>		
<p>4.9 Raffle – great success. The monster truck happened to be won from someone from Ms. Vroom’s class. Many happy children yesterday.</p>		
<p>4.10 Possibility to team up with Thorncliffe Park food drive in the same way for the spring; was easy to do and happy with response. Share with our students that these food drives don’t happen at holidays but that there is a need all year round.</p>		
<p>4.11 Gillian wanted to address a prior question what happens when a kid gets to office with a cut or scrape? Nazim or Daniela take down information on what happened, that parents are contacted. If bandaid or ice is applied, the parents are informed, and we follow up with the cause of injury. Usually accidental, but if there was pushing or shoving, then Rob or Gillian will step in and have a conversation with the injured child and perpetrator. While unnecessary visits to office are discouraged, they do follow up on everything that happens especially if someone is hurt at school.</p>		
<p>4.12 Rob and Gillian will send out another reminder with fun and educational websites for students who are isolating over the holidays.</p>		
<p>4.0 FSA updates</p>		

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Fundraising efforts have been very successful to date. With thanks to FSA team members who have run the Cody Swag drive, Raffle, Cody Spirit, Halloween.		
Cody Cares - three nearly simultaneous drives; toys, personal items and food drive with very enthusiastic response		
Holiday spirit and raffle extravaganza – a lot of effort for reaching out to sponsors, wrapping packages, posting on Instagram and website. Fundraising supports enrichment. Funny hat, pizza night, pyjama day, staff appreciation		
Shout-outs and recognition to FSA executive and volunteers and parent reps who have pulled the many undertakings over the past few weeks.		
5.0 Traffic report		
5.1 There is a desire to resuscitate the orange flags; will issue a survey how well used they are.		
5.2 Kiss-n-ride, was put on hold for a variety of reasons but will come back in new year and training Grade 5's to help. Still looking for parent volunteers		
5.3 Crossing guard locations – have an idea of the intersection to locate or add new crossing guards particular north of the school on Cleveland and need to submit application to city before end of January to start the process. Duration of process TBD	Submit application for additional crossing guard on Cleveland north of the school	JC van Marle (?)
6.0 Finance Report – November-December (Claudia Hernandez)		
6.1 Revenue – Two events: Maurice Cody Toque: \$1,165 Raffle Extravaganza: \$3,040 Total raised \$4,205, Bank balance \$40,671.03		
6.2 Expenses – \$4,255 Teacher's budgets \$275 Technology and Enrichment \$1,680 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math for JK to Grade 2 and Grade 4/5 • Writing for JK to Grade 2 • School-wide microphones for teachers and reading for all grades Grade 5 graduation preparation \$300 Raffle Toys: \$361		
6.3 Overall assessment is that the finances are better than expected given COVID, the worst-case scenario modeled by FSA earlier in the year, requiring a creative approach to fundraising. Everything planned is allocated and can be purchased.		
6.4 FSA asking for wish lists to come forward again. Currently in a very good spot and if you hear of creative fund raising at other schools please let the FSA know.		

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11.0 Other Business		
Looking forward: Skating Night, Fun-raising (not fund-raising).		
Meeting was formally adjourned at 8:00 pm		

Next Meeting: January 11 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.