

**St. Joseph High School**

**Catholic School Community Council**

Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2025

**Present:** Rebecca Berg (Chair), David Sumner (Secretary), Erin Lockert (Vice-Chair), Laressa Sander (Treasurer), Tania Hawat (Member-at-Large), Janine Tine (Member-at-Large), Janelle Wist (Member-at-Large), Dean Willenborg, Jason Benson (Principal), Kate Day (Trustee), Jodie Semkiw, Leanne Shynkaruk, Donna Smith

**Regrets:** Diane Murza (Member-at-Large) and Ana Crespo-Martin (Member-at-Large)

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1. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer and Welcome (Jason Benson)
3. Approval of Minutes (October 1, 2025): Mr. Benson's name needs to be added to those present at the meeting. Moved by Tania Hawat, Seconded by Erin Lockert, Carried
4. Additions to Agenda: none
5. Reports
  - a. Chair's Report (Rebecca Berg)

**CSCC-Trustee Meeting Reminder:** The first meeting of 2025-2026 will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, starting at 7:00 p.m., at the new St. Francis School. The themes include Pilgrims of Hope and Family Engagement. There will also be a tour of St. Francis School. The registration link was sent to CSCC members. Today is the last day to register.

**Mother Teresa CSCC:** The committee chair (Edward Reed) requested summary news items from St. Joseph that might be relevant to the Mother Teresa school community. Once the minutes are approved, they will be posted on the St. Joseph High School website. Rebecca will refer Edward to the minutes on the website and also to the school's Instagram page.

**Staff Appreciation Week Reminder:** This annual event will be February 9-13, 2026. We typically organise one or more events during this week to express appreciation for school staff. There are 120+ staff members at St. Joseph High School, which include 80+ FTE teaching staff. We will need some CSCC members to volunteer to plan the event(s) and others to volunteer at the event(s). The GoFundMe page might begin in December or January. Tania Howat volunteered to help. Rebecca Berg also volunteered. Other volunteers are needed to form this small committee.

**St. Carlo Acutis Community Engagement Event:** Thank you to the organisers for a great event; from 500 to 700 people attended.

b. Principal's Report (Jason Benson)

**Awards:** A new format is being used this year since the numbers (students, parents, etc.) have become too large for a traditional ceremony. Awards are being handed out in class instead. Some Grade 12s expressed disappointment that they couldn't attend their last awards ceremony. A tea will be held for students receiving great distinction tomorrow, where there will be a short 15-minute program.

The major sports and social awards from 2024-2025 were honored at the school pep rally this week, and the parents of these students were invited to attend the pep rally.

An athletic banquet will be held in the spring to recognise student athletes from the current year (2025-2026).

**Remembrance Day:** School event will happen on November 10, 2025. Mr. Benson's brother will attend as the leading service member and lead the procession into the gymnasium. The gymnasium will be very full for this event with 1600+ students in attendance.

**Sublimator, Mugs, and Supplies:** The mug production equipment is operating and an example of a mug was shown to the CSCC.

**Athletics/Activities:** Two provincial champions in soccer. Basketball, wrestling, and curling are up next. Chess participation has been very strong.

The school musical ("Newsies") will be held November 26-29, 2025, starting each evening at 7:30 p.m. Elementary schools, Knights of Columbus, and other special guests will be invited to the dress rehearsals.

**St. Carlo Acutis Community Engagement Event:** A very special event, appreciation expressed to the CSCC members who organised the event, and to the school chaplain, Hannah Berry.

**Schools Win Twice:** This fundraising event is underway. Funds will be used to support the breakfast nook and additional technology. We are currently going through 1 kg of jam per week and 1 kg of peanut butter per week.

**International Travel:** The school division and St. Joseph are no longer sponsoring or organising any international travel. Some teachers are organising their own travel activities, but they involve independent organisations and not the school. The only school-sponsored trip is the Japanese exchange program.

**Parent Teacher Interviews:** The event was larger this year because there are more teachers and more students. Some teachers were in their classrooms (science, art, etc.) rather than in the central area of the school.

**Grad Data/Attendance Data:** Annette Bowman's administrative role has increased from  $\frac{1}{4}$  time to  $\frac{1}{2}$  time because of increased enrollment. We have the highest attendance rate and highest graduation rate (96%) in the school division. There are some administrative challenges to identify the 4% of students who are not graduating. We currently have about 70 self-declared Indigenous students at St. Joseph. The school has a strong TRC team this year and there may be up to four lunches this year to build community within the Indigenous students in the school.

c. Other Reports

**Parish Report:** Diane Murza sent a report, with details provided below:

**St. Carlo Acutis Community Engagement Event:** There was a lot of feedback from people who felt the adoration part of the evening was very moving, many people moved to tears. Some experienced adoration for the first time. Even a number of lifetime Catholics said this was their first time, finding it helpful to be walked through what a Eucharistic miracle is and how to do adoration. Fr. Gerard said it was an evening full of graces from our friend St. Carlo.

From an objective perspective, it was a successful evening on many levels. Great food planning and display, attention to detail with the décor, and how it drew church and school together in a planning and hosting partnership. The event drew a diverse array of guests, from the unchurched to the super-churched people and from students and family to parishioners and others from the larger community, and even from Outlook.

Also of note is the community's response in wanting to make further use of our banners and miracle panels. Hannah Berry has agreed to be the contact for interested parties and to oversee signing out the materials. A written form will need to be drawn out to formalize a lending agreement, but help will be needed with this. This should be done soon so that we can post the contact on the Cathedral's website.

**Soul Food:** The Soul Food noon hour at the school on October 16, 2025, went well, with about 25 students in attendance. Speaker Alicia Kowalski shared her very poignant story of abuse, conversion, and healing. The next Soul Food is on November 13, 2025.

**Youth Activities:** There is a Soul Food youth group at the Cathedral. The first formal Soul Food/high school youth group session was on October 28, 2025, with 18 students in attendance. Conchita says about 8 of them were new StJ students to her.

Conchita has been at Holy Family Cathedral for a year now and her hard work is gaining traction: three youth groups for different ages, the start of a worship band, rosary warrior nights (speaker and rosary). She helps keep Encounter (weekly musical adoration on Thursdays, lots of youth and university kids on this day) and Beloved (1st Friday of the month, with testimony, talk, musical adoration,

confession, prayer ministry) nights running. Through her leadership with Jesus Youth, she is overseeing the Grades 5-8 youth stream at the Life in the Spirit weekend (January 16-17, 2026). The high school and adult stream will be at St Anne's parish.

A student-led Alpha course was requested last year by some St. Joseph students, but the school would like this activity to be connected to the cathedral; there hasn't been any request or interest this year.

**St. Carlo Acutis Community Engagement Event:** There were some additional expenses, for the church's musicians (\$150) and an appreciation gift for the choir director (\$35). The food costs came to \$593.

**Motion:** To approve \$185 from the CSCC grant to cover the expenses for the musicians and choir director. (Moved by Janelle Wist, Seconded by Janine Tine, Carried)

**Motion:** To approve \$593 to cover the food expenses. (Moved by Erin, Seconded by Janine Tine, Carried)

We will have \$223 remaining in our school grant.

6. New Business (none)
7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Home Economics Room

Meetings will be held in the Home Economics Room on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting dates for 2025-2026: October 1, 2025; November 5, 2025; December 3, 2025; January 7, 2026; February 4, 2026; March 4, 2026; April 1, 2026; May 6, 2026; June 4, 2026

The meeting agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting will normally be sent out on the Sunday before the meeting.

8. Adjournment: 8:25 p.m.