

St. Joseph High School

Catholic School Community Council

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026

Present: Rebecca Berg (Chair), David Sumner (Secretary), Tania Hawat (Member-at-Large), Janelle Wist (Member-at-Large), Jason Benson (Principal), Diane Murza (Member-at-Large), Laressa Sander (Treasurer), Erin Lockert (Vice-Chair), Ana Crespo-Martin (Member-at-Large), Dean Willenborg

Regrets: Janine Tine (Member-at-Large)

1. Call to Order: 7:07 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer and Welcome (Jason Benson)
3. Approval of Minutes (January 7, 2026): Moved by Diane Murza, Seconded by Janelle Wist, Carried
4. Additions to Agenda (none)
5. Reports

- a. Chair's Report (Rebecca Berg)

Next trustee meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2026

- b. Principal's Report (Jason Benson)

Grade 8 Parent Night: This will happen on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. French, Math, Science representatives will be present, plus school counsellors. The event includes a 30-minute presentation, followed by question-and-answer time.

Grade 8 Student Visit: This will happen on Thursday, February 5, 2026. They will arrive at 12 noon so they can get an idea how crowded the school can get, begin in gym, tour of the entire school including the enhanced PAA program (additional offerings are planned for 2026-2027, some offered during the lunch time slot).

Grade 12 Registration and Graduation: Counsellors will be reviewing the transcripts of all current Grade 12 students to make sure they are on track to graduate with the proper numbers of credits and courses.

Football Class: This new class is going well. Students get two days of weight training (Ignite Training), two days of football training, and one day of football theory, each week. They get two credits, one for Phys Ed and one for Wellness.

AI and New Offerings: A new class on AI is being offered in Grade 9 starting in 2026-2027. Mr. Benson attended an AI in education conference. The school is considering a locally offered option in AI for Grade 11 students. This new course would need ministry approval. The course would include a focus on the ethics of AI, critical thinking, fact checking, etc. A Catholic school in Ottawa is offering AI within their Catholic Studies curriculum. Students also need learning time without technology. Assessment practices will have to change. Teachers are not to put student work into AI apps that will use the data.

A new Mental Health and Wellness elective for Grade 11 students will be offered starting in 2026-2027. This is a locally developed course that has been approved. Is the curriculum consistent with our Catholic education?

Calendar Feedback: Preliminary Public and Catholic School calendars for 2026-2027 are now out, with school starting before Labour Day, 197 work days, 180 student days. Why isn't Holy Week the week off from school at Easter time, rather the week after Easter? Students may be getting more Holy Week teaching if they are in school during that week.

Carryover Balances: School-Based: \$11,916.86 (less \$2,000 for Grade 8s and other uncoded expenses); SRC: \$12,981.86

Events: Feast of St. Joseph will be celebrated during first period on March 19, 2026, with the blessing and sharing of bread; Mass will be celebrated on March 20, 2026; a presentation on mental health is scheduled for May 4, 2026, for Grades 9-10, 2026.

c. Other Reports (none)

7. Staff Appreciation Week (February 9-13, 2026)

Luncheon - Wednesday, February 11, 2026, catered by Baghdad Restaurant.

The GoFundMe campaign raised \$3,035 (exceeded the goal of \$2,200) from 133 donors (up from 65 donors last year). \$30 of cash donations were also received. There are about \$130 of fees for GoFundMe. We anticipate a surplus of \$400 once we have paid for the catering, cutlery and drinks.

The catering cost is \$2,086.80 for Baghdad Restaurant, no delivery fee, no gratuity. We plan to add a gratuity of 10% to 15%. The expenses for drinks and cutlery were higher than last year. One dietary needs to be accommodated.

Next year we would likely seek \$3,000 from the GoFundMe campaign.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Home Economics Room

Meetings are 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 2, 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.

9. Adjournment: 8:15 p.m.