

St. Joseph High School

Catholic School Community Council

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026

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

Regrets: Janine Tine (Member-at-Large), Janelle Wist (Member-at-Large)

1. Call to Order: 7:07 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer and Welcome (Jason Benson)
3. Approval of Minutes (February 2, 2026): Moved by Ana Crespo-Martin, Seconded by Tania Hawat, Carried
4. Additions to Agenda (none)
5. Reports
 - a. Chair's Report (Rebecca Berg)

The next CSCC trustee meeting is on Wednesday, May 20, 2026; details to come.

As CSCC chair, Rebecca participated in division discussions on the name of the new high school to be built in Holmwood. Widespread consultation among the schools and community had occurred beforehand. An extensive list of possible names, and background information for each of the names, was examined. There was a brief discussion of who is selected as a school's saint if the school itself is not named after a saint. In accordance with division policy, the school's name shall:

- Reflect Catholic doctrine, values, virtues, and identity;
- Honour officially recognized (venerable, beatified or canonised) saints, or other individuals of significance to the Catholic Church or Catholic education;
- Reflect titles or mysteries of Jesus Christ or the Blessed Virgin Mary;
- Be appropriate for a Catholic educational institution;
- Not be of an individual still living.

Nominations are being held for a new member (trustee) of the GSCS Board of Education, to replace a member who passed away.

- b. Principal's Report (Jason Benson)

Registration for 2026-2027: About 90% complete; new classes (Sports Science, Mental Health and Wellness, Artificial Intelligence) will be offered. This registration completion date is earlier than last year, so that the school can get an early idea of staffing needs in the different area. As an example, there may be a surplus of English teachers next year as both the Grades 10 and 12 English requirements are changing from two courses to one course.

Computer Usage: Chromebook carts have 30 or 35 computers. Computer labs have 36 computers. There are sufficient numbers of computers for instruction. Students also need time when they are NOT using computers during the school day. The growth of AI usage has meant teachers are changing their assessment methods.

Staff Appreciation Lunch: The lunch was excellent, staff were thankful, and they noted it was good to see so many parents there to help with the lunch.

Project Enrollment: Last year, the school planned for an enrollment of 1700 students; our actual enrollment is 1620 as of March 3, 2026. Our adjusted projected enrollment for 2026-2027 is 1670 students.

Feast of St. Joseph: Announced this week, Mass on March 18, followed by the feast day on March 19, when bread will be brought to school (there are 65 classrooms, 120-200 student representatives (two per class) will bring bread to be blessed by Father Gerard; the bread will shared by students and staff during class).

Time Capsule: A new capsule will be prepared in the spring. Ten submissions (two from each grade, one from staff, one from SRC) will be accepted. Each will be assigned a small volume for their selected items. To be opened 20 years from now, on the feast day of St. Joseph in 2046, to coincide with the school's 50th anniversary.

Guardian Award: Will be offered to two students at this year's graduation.

c. Other Reports

Parish Report: Diane Murza gave a short report. Holy Family's actual Feast Day is December 20, but this is already a busy festive time of year. The church has adopted St. Joseph's feast day, March 19, instead. This year, a potluck church supper will be held on March 19, and a family friendly Easter dance will be held on April 25.

6. Staff Appreciation Week Luncheon

Summary of Rebecca's financial report.

For the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, five CSCC members helping out worked well. For next year, if a catered meal is used, we may need additional help serving the meal to ensure the food will last. We may need to set aside a smaller amount of food for staff who come early. We may need a separate area for vegetarians. It would be helpful if people with food allergies could confirm their attendance. Suggest raising \$3,000 from the GoFundMe site next year.

We have a surplus of \$149.70 from the luncheon, that should be used for the teachers. This could be carried over until next year or used for coffee/snacks during the Parent-Teacher Interviews on Thursday afternoon.

Motion: To use the surplus to buy treats for the teachers for the PT Interviews on Thursday, March 12. Moved: Tania Hawat; Second by Erin Lockert; Carried.

7. Other Business

Grant Money: We have \$223 remaining CSCC grant money from 2025-2026 that needs to be spent before the end of the school year. This should be spent on community-related activities.

Cell Phone Policy: Address specific concerns with specific classes and specific teachers directly with the principal.

My School Survey: Required by the Provincial Government. We were not able to add our own school-specific questions. Our results are above the national norms except engagement for Grade 10 students.

Space to Sit and Eat Lunches: Space is tight in the school at lunchtime. Eight more café tables have been added this year, 20 more to be purchased next year. The Grade 9 lunchtime could shift to a different period next year, but these students would miss out on SRC activities during the standard lunch period.

Re-taking Exams: There is no formal policy for re-taking regular class exams and it is up to the teachers to make these decisions. The school handbook explains some procedures. Exam accommodations can also be provided to students.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 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: 8:38 p.m.