

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:00pm - CCH East Library

MEETING MINUTES

1). Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order at 6:01pm. Opening Prayer led by Principal Joanne Polec.
- **Attendance:** Joanne Polec (Principal), Christa Sawatzky (Chair), Amber Baines (Secretary), Sally Schafer (Co-Treasurer), Tricia Doherty, Roisin Gibb, Chantele Motyck, Gina Dudas
- **Regrets:** Kayla Knowles (Co-Treasurer), Heather Spiess (Vice Chair)

2.) 2025/2026 School Council Executive

All executive positions remain the same as last year, with the addition of Sally Schafer joining Kayla Knowles as Co-Treasurer.

- **Chairperson:** Christa Sawatzky (continuing)
- **Vice-Chair:** Heather Spiess (continuing)
- **Treasurer:** Kayla Knowles (continuing) & Co-Treasurer: Sally Schafer (new)
- **Secretary:** Amber Baines (continuing)

3). Approval of the Agenda

- Items added to New Business
- Removed Trustee Report & Chairperson Report
- **Amber made motion to approve, Sally seconded. Motion carried.**

4). Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2025 meeting

- Available on the CCH website: [June 12, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)
- **Amber made motion to approve, Sally seconded. Motion carried.**

5). Treasurer's report

Sally Schafer presented the Treasurer's Report, providing an overview of the current financial status and recent expenditures.

Current Balance: \$2,321.00

Catholic Central High School			
School Council 2025-2026			
Date	Description	Amount	Balance
11-Sep-25	Opening Balance		\$1,605.66
20-Sep-25	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,600.66
2-Oct-25	Deposit - School Fees (2024-2025 school fees)	\$720.34	\$2,321.00

New Requests:

#	Request Details	Amount	Date Needed	Motion Made	Seconded	Motion Passed
1	Awards Night – Nov. 13, 2025	\$1,200.00	By Oct 31, 2025	Christa	Amber	YES
2	Student Council - Concession	\$ 500.00	By Oct 31, 2025	Christa	Sally	YES
TOTAL NEW REQUESTS		\$1, 700.00				

Estimated Total after New Requests: \$ 621.00

Anticipated Future Requests:

#	Request Details	Amount	Date Needed
1	Santa’s Anonymous	TBD, \$350.00 last year	November 2025
2	Play Bill	TBD, \$500 last year	Spring 2026
3	2026 Graduation Gifts (Rosaries)	\$500	Spring 2026
4	2026 Graduation Fee Assistance	TBD, \$500 last year	April 2026
5	Teacher Retirement Gifts	TBD, \$285 last year	May 2026
TOTAL		\$2,135.00	

- **Christa made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, Amber seconded. Motion carried.**

6). Principal’s report

Joanne Polec shared highlights from her report, and insights from other discussions. Read the complete report here: [Principal's Report for October 2025](#).

- 2025/26 School Calendar: [CCH 2025-2026 School Year Calendar](#)
- Joanne shared that the school year is off to an amazing start. Grade 12 students have embraced their mentorship roles, and extracurriculars are in full swing with active participation in Student Council, Drama, the Athletic Leadership Club, etc. Athletics kicked off with golf, football, and volleyball, with the football team and senior boys volleyball team currently ranked first in the province.
- Student Enrollment Count for 2025/26

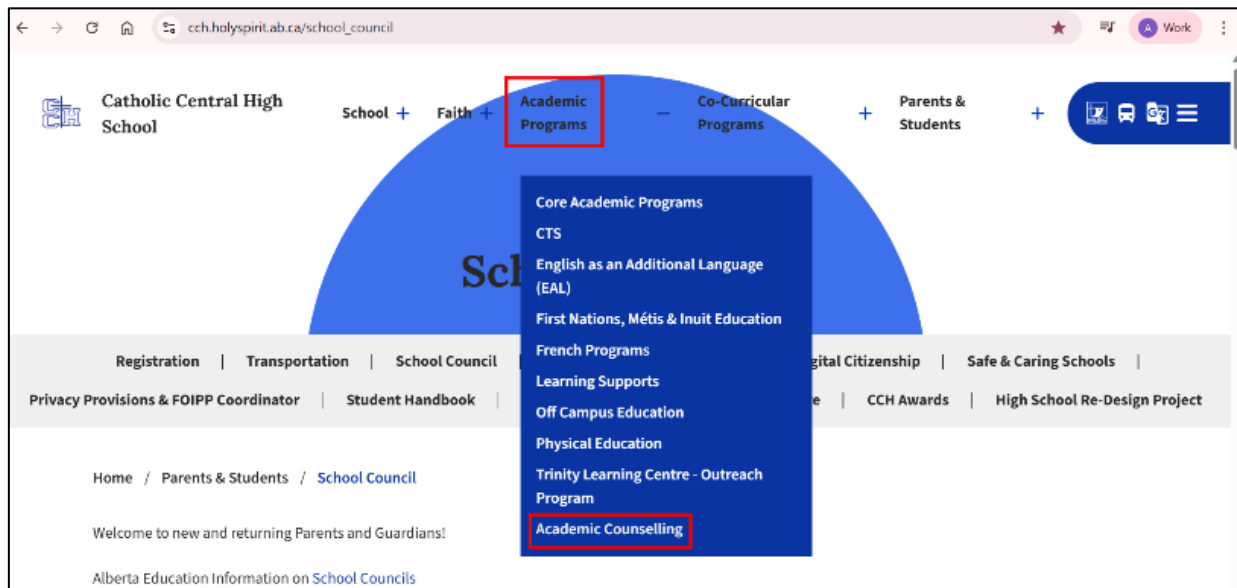
Grade 10	303
Grade 11	362
Grade 12	363
Total Students	1028

Student enrollment has increased for the third consecutive year, rising from 953 students in September 2023 to 1,009 in 2024, and reaching 1,028 in 2025—reflecting year-over-year growth of 5.88% and 1.88%, respectively, as per [previous School council meeting minutes](#).

- **November 3rd - Catholic Central Post-secondary Fair - 6-7:30PM CCH East cafeteria**
 - This event is open to all CCH Grade 10-12 students and parents only.
 - Over 28 Alberta universities and colleges, as well as the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP will be in attendance to provide information to CCH students and parents.
 - Students are encouraged to attend, as it’s **a great opportunity to connect directly with post-secondary institutions, explore programs, and even pre-register**. Many schools also offer the added benefit of waiving application processing fees during these events.

- **Mr. Hansen – Academic Counsellor**

- Mr. Hansen assists students with academic planning, post-secondary requirements, student finance, awards and scholarship information, class changes and ensuring students are on track to graduate. Students can join the Google Classroom for their grade to stay up to date on related news and updates.
- **Need a quick reference guide for scholarships?** Check out the new scholarship spreadsheet that summarizes all available scholarships, their deadlines, award amounts, eligibility criteria, and application links. This tool makes it much easier for students and parents to review and compare opportunities in one place, and to track what they qualify for. [Scholarship Information - Scholarships at a Glance](#)
- Visit the Academic Counselling section of the CCH website for full details and resources: https://cch.holyspirit.ab.ca/academic_counselling



7). Chairperson’s report – None

8). Student Council Update

Report presented by Shaina Spiess – Student Council President.

- Student Council events are funded through the student council fees collected at the beginning of the school year. These fees are reinvested into activities and initiatives that directly benefit and engage the student body.
- **Recently Completed Events**
 - Spirit Week activities and Cougar Blue clothing sales.
 - Lanyards and pens distributed to all students.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Faith Committee: Planning a bible study during Flex period.
 - Athletic Committee: Hosting free pizza at the October 3 football game.
- **NEW - Concession:** Student Council has observed that, unlike other schools, our home sports games currently do not have a concession. They are proposing to open a concession on both campuses (offering items such as candy bags, chips, and pop) and are requesting \$500 in start-up funds to launch this initiative.
- **Christa made a motion to provide \$500 to Student Council for the opening of a concession during home games at both East and West campuses. Sally seconded. Motion carried.**

9). New Business

a. Upcoming Events:

- School Council Chair of Chairs meeting expected to take place the beginning of November.
- Christa will attend CCH Awards night on behalf of School Council, currently planned for November.

a. Parent Guardian Library Launch Update

- The Parent/Guardian Library will be opening soon! This initiative was made possible through the School Council Engagement Grant received last year, which funded the purchase of a variety of parent-focused books. They have now been stamped as CCH, and the school librarian has generously offered to help manage inventory, and make titles viewable online, and oversee the check-in/check-out process using a Google Form.
- A Google Form is being developed to streamline borrowing: parents will select a book from a dropdown list, with their name and email auto-filled. The form will also include an option to suggest additional titles for future consideration.
- The library will follow a “take one, leave one” model to encourage sharing and community engagement.

b. Impending Teachers Strike & School Council Support

Joanne provided an overview of contingency planning should a teachers’ strike occur, noting the impacts to the school timetable can be especially challenging under CCH’s quarter system.

- A strike of 5–10 days can likely be managed by converting PD days to instructional days and using exam week for classes, allowing diplomas to proceed.
- If it lasts longer, a blended Q1/Q2 schedule (alternating days) may be required.
- Alberta Education may also choose to dismiss diploma exams depending on the length of disruption.

What can parents do to support?

- **Share your concerns** with local MLA’s and provincial leaders:
 - Nathan Neudorf: Constituency Phone 403-320-1011 // Lethbridge.East@assembly.ab.ca
 - Rob Miyashiro: 403-329-4644 // Lethbridge.West@assembly.ab.ca
 - Alberta Education: 310-0000
 - Minister of Education’s office: 780-427-5010
- **Standing in solidarity:** Participate in National Teachers’ Day on Sunday, October 5th, and join the Teacher Rally at Henderson Lake at 1:00 pm.
- **Follow the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA)** for the latest updates.
 - Web: Alberta Teachers' Association
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ABteachers>
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/abteachers/>
 - X: <https://www.twitter.com/albertateachers>

Your voice and presence can make a meaningful difference in supporting our teachers and students!

8). 2025/2026 School Council Meeting Dates

All meetings will be in the Library on East Campus at 6:00pm.

- Thursday November 6, 2025
- Thursday December 4, 2025
- Thursday February 5, 2026
- Thursday March 5, 2026
- Thursday April 30, 2026 (Graduation Rosaries)
- Thursday June 4, 2026

9). Closing prayer

- c. Closing prayer led by Joanne Polec.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm