

CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Thursday, June 4, 2026 6:00pm - CCH East

MEETING MINUTES

1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.
- Opening Prayer led by Principal Joanne Polec. Land Acknowledgement by Christa Sawatzky.
- **Attendance:** Joanne Polec (Principal), Christa Sawatzky (Chair), Heather Spiess (Vice Chair), Amber Baines (Secretary), Sally Schafer (Co-Treasurer), Shaina Spiess, Ambrose Alvarez, Kira Kinahan, Chantal Motycka, Rosin Gibb, Carmen Mombourquette
- **Regrets:** Kayla Knowles (Co-Treasurer)

2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- One addition to New Business – discuss parent concern Heather received.
- **Chantal made motion to approve, Amber seconded. *Motion Carried.***

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2025 MEETING

- Available on the CCH website: [March 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)
- **Christa made motion to approve, Sally seconded. *Motion Carried.***

4) UPDATE FROM STUDENT COUNCIL – PRESENTED BY SHAINA SPIESS

- Student Council hosted a LEGO Day at the beginning of the quarter. Attendance exceeded expectations, with more than 30 students participating at each campus.
- During Grad Rehearsal, Student Council provided cookies to all graduating students.
- Student Council welcomed incoming Grade 10 students and helped introduce them to the school community.
- Shaina led a fundraising initiative with support from local grocery stores to provide care packages for students. A total of 50 bundles containing food and dental hygiene supplies were assembled and distributed, with 25 bundles provided to each campus. Student Council also hosted a booth to distribute the packages directly to students.
- Shaina introduced **Ambrose Alvarez** as the **incoming Student Council President** for the **2026–2027 school year**.

5) TRUSTEE REPORT – PRESENTED BY CARMEN MOMBOURQUETTE

- Carmen congratulated the school community on a beautiful Graduation Mass and Convocation Ceremony, noting that 343 students graduated this year. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Polec, staff, parents, and volunteers for their hard work in planning and delivering such a meaningful celebration.
- He shared that it was encouraging to hear about graduates pursuing a variety of pathways, including the Armed Forces, Bible camp leadership, post-secondary education, and skilled trades. He specifically

highlighted the positive influence of CCH's trades programs in inspiring more female students to pursue careers such as welding.

- Carmen reported that Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's graduation rate for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students is on par with that of the overall student population. He noted that this achievement is uncommon and reflects the division's commitment to student success.
- An update was provided on the provincial education budget. Large class sizes are expected to continue, as the majority of new funding is directed toward elementary schools, with some support for junior high and very limited additional funding for high schools. The division's funding priorities remain the addition of teachers and educational assistants (EAs).
- The Board plans to utilize approximately \$1 million from reserves to supplement teacher salaries for the upcoming year. Carmen noted that this is expected to be a one-time measure, as Government of Alberta regulations require school division reserves to remain above 2%.
- Carmen shared his excitement for the opening of the **new St. Kateri School in January 2027**. Students will initially be housed at FLVT for the first portion of the school year before transitioning to the new school.
- CCH continues to experience steady enrollment growth. Enrollment began the current school year at approximately 1,000 students, increased to 1,036 in January, and currently sits at approximately 1,080 students. Enrollment is projected to exceed 1,100 students for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Funding allocations are based on projected enrollment numbers submitted in January, which will be used to determine funding levels for the upcoming school year.

6) TREASURER REPORT – PRESENTED BY SALLY SCHAFER

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

- **Current Account Balance: \$1,932.34**
- A final payment of **\$982.50** is expected from the school, which will bring the projected year-end balance to **\$2,914.84**.
- An outstanding expense of approximately **\$100** remains for retirement gifts and will be paid before the year-end financials are finalized.

Catholic Central High School School Council 2025-2026			
Date	Description	Amount	Balance
11-Sep-25	Opening Balance		\$1,605.66
30-Sep-25	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,600.66
2-Oct-25	Deposit -2024-2025 School Council Fees	720.34	\$2,321.00
2-Oct-25	Deposit - Knights of Columbus (Santa Anonymous Donator)	500.00	\$2,821.00
22-Oct-25	Cheque #578 CCH (Awards) (Cleared 31/10/25)	-1200.00	\$1,621.00
22-Oct-25	Cheque #579 Student Council (Cleared 31/10/25)	-500.00	\$1,121.00
31-Oct-25	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,116.00
7-Nov-25	Cheque #580 CCH Santa Anonymous(Cleared 24/11/25)	-850.00	\$266.00
30/Nov/25	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$261.00
31-Dec-25	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$256.00
31-Jan-26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$251.00
6-Feb-26	Deposit - School Council Fees	2675.00	\$2,926.00
6-Feb-26	Cheque #581 Play Bill (cleared 13/02/26)	-500.00	\$2,426.00
28-Feb-26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$2,421.00
10/Mar/26	Cheque #582 Grad Rosaries (cleared 21/02/26)	-474.16	\$1,946.84
31/Mar/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,941.84
20/Apr/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,936.84
31/May/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,931.84
	School Council Fees	982.50	\$2,914.84
2025-2026 Expenses:			
Maintenance Charges (for the year) \$60.00			
Awards \$1200			
Student Council \$500.00			
Santas Anonymous \$350.00 (Knights \$500.00)			
Play Bill \$500.00			
Grad Rosaries \$474.16			

New Requests:

The following funding requests were presented and approved by School Council during the meeting:

#	Request Details	Amount	Date Needed	Motion Made	Second	Motion Passed
1	Graduation Fees (hardship fund)	\$1100.00	May 2026	Heather	Christa	YES
2	Graduation Gifts for 2027 (rosaries)	\$600.00	May 2026	Christa	Kira	YES
3	Custodian Gift Cards (\$15 ea x 3)	\$45.00	May 2026	Christa	Chantals	YES
TOTAL NEW REQUESTS		\$1 745.00				

Estimated Total after New Requests: \$ 1,069.84

Anticipated Future Requests:

The following anticipated expenditures were discussed for the 2026–2027 school year to assist with budget planning, based on prior years:

#	Request Details	Amount	Date Needed
1	Annual bank account maintenance charges	\$60.00	monthly
2	Student awards	\$1200.00	October 2026
3	Santa’s Anonymous	\$350	October 2026
	With an additional contribution anticipated from the Knights of Columbus	\$500	October 2026
4	Play Bill	\$500	February 2027
5	Plan for 2027-2028 Grad Gifts?	\$600	March 2027
6	Administration Retirement Appreciation Gifts	\$100	April/May 2027
TOTAL		\$3,310.00	

Expected Revenue:

Based on revenue received during the 2025–2026 school year, the following high-level revenue estimates were presented for 2026–2027:

#	Revenue Details	Amount	Date Expected
1	School Council Fees	\$700	October 2026
2	School Council Fees	\$2675	Jan/Feb 2027
3	School Council Fees	\$980	May 2027
TOTAL		\$4,355.00	

Kira made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, Chantal seconded. Motion carried.

7) PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – PRESENTED BY JOANNE POLEC

Joanne Polec shared highlights from her June 2026 Principal's Report and provided updates on staffing, student programming, athletics, and preparations for the 2026–2027 school year.

View the full report here: [Principal's Report June 2026](#).

General Updates

- Joanne recognized staff members who are retiring, taking leaves, or pursuing new opportunities, and welcomed several new staff members joining CCH for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Updates were provided regarding staffing changes, student support services, and positions still being recruited for next year.

Athletics, Fine Arts, and Student Activities

- CCH celebrated another successful year in athletics, earning six Zone Championship banners, a Provincial Championship banner in Senior Varsity Boys Volleyball, and numerous provincial recognitions across several sports.
- The Fine Arts program concluded the year with its annual music concert, and student achievements in athletics and fine arts were recognized at the Year-End Mass.

Planning for 2026–2027

- Student timetables will be distributed in June, with designated dates available for timetable change requests before summer break.
- Joanne reviewed the school's timetable development process and noted that future timetable changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis to balance programming, staffing, and transportation needs.
- Key dates for June, summer timetable support, new student orientation, and the start of the 2026–2027 school year were shared.

School Fees 2026–2027

- Joanne reviewed the proposed school fees for the 2026–2027 school year, including approved fee increases.
- It was noted that any surplus fee amount greater than \$3.00 per student is credited back to families.
- **Heather made a motion to approve the 2026–2027 school fees as presented. Christa seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

8) CHAIRPERSON REPORT – PRESENTED BY CHRISTA SAWATZKY

- Christa thanked School Council members, administration, staff, and parents for their support and contributions throughout the school year.
- Christa shared that she will be taking a "gap year" from School Council and will not be returning next year. But possibly again when her youngest starts Grade 10 in 2027-2028!
- She reflected on her time with School Council and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn new skills and contribute to the school community.
- Christa highlighted the launch of the School Council Instagram account as a successful initiative this year, helping to increase awareness, communication, and engagement with parents and the broader school community.
- Council members thanked Christa for her leadership, dedication, and many contributions to School Council, including her efforts in attending and reporting on school board meetings for school councils, and establishing and managing the School Council's social media presence, which has been well received and successful in connecting with families.

9) NEW BUSINESS

School Engagement Grant

- Joanne Polec informed Council that CCH School Council has received the \$500 School Engagement Grant for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Council discussed potential uses for the grant and reviewed a list of "adulting" and life-skills resource books researched and recommended by Christa for addition to the Parent/Guardian Library.
- Joanne will work with Tamara to purchase the selected book titles prior to the end-of-June spending deadline.
- The additional resources are intended to support parents and guardians in helping students develop practical life skills and prepare for adulthood.

Graduation Fees

- Joanne shared that each year a small number of graduating students require financial assistance to cover graduation fees.
- For the 2025–2026 school year, seven students required support, with graduation fees totaling approximately **\$160 per student**.
- Council discussed the importance of helping ensure all students are able to participate in graduation celebrations regardless of financial circumstances.

Graduation Gifts (Rosaries)

- Council reviewed the 2025–2026 graduation rosary purchase and noted that the rosaries were high quality, well received by graduates, and represented good value. The total cost of the purchase was \$474.16.
- To avoid potential price increases and ensure availability, Council discussed purchasing rosaries for the 2026–2027 graduating class during the current school year.
- Joanne will work with Tamara to place the order and arrange for storage until the rosaries are needed.
- Approximately 350 rosaries and bags will be ordered. Joanne advised that the 50 rosaries remaining from this year's order, combined with the new purchase, should be sufficient to meet the needs of the anticipated 2026–2027 graduating class.

Custodian Appreciation Gifts

- Council discussed recognizing the custodial staff for their ongoing efforts in maintaining and supporting both school campuses throughout the year.
- Heather proposed purchasing three \$15 gift cards as a small token of appreciation for the custodians' dedication and hard work.
- Heather will purchase and distribute the gift cards on behalf of School Council.

School Council Report

- Christa will prepare the annual School Council Report for submission to the School Board.
- Council discussed key activities and achievements from the 2025/2026 school year to be included in the report, including:
 - Support for student awards and recognition programs.
 - Graduation rosaries, bags, and well wishes for graduates.
 - Purchase of books and resources for the Parent & Guardian Library.
 - Retirement gifts and staff appreciation initiatives.

- Financial support provided through the hardship fund to assist students with grade-related fees.
- Establishment of the School Council Instagram account to increase communication and engagement with families.
- Regular attendance of Student Council representatives at School Council meetings to provide updates on student activities and initiatives.
- The report will also include a summary of School Council finances and year-end financial statements.

School Council Instagram Account

- Christa shared an update on the School Council Instagram account, which was launched during the 2025/2026 school year.
- The account has been successful in increasing communication and engagement with students, parents, and guardians.
- Over the past 30 days, the account received approximately 11,600 views.
- Council agreed that Instagram results and engagement metrics should be included in the annual School Council Report.
- As Christa will not be returning next year, responsibility for managing the Instagram account will need to be transitioned to another School Council member.
- Kira expressed interest in potentially taking over management of the Instagram account for the 2026/2027 school year.

Next Meeting Dates

- Meeting dates for the 2026–2027 school year will be established by the newly elected School Council following the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- The first School Council meeting of the 2026–2027 school year is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the CCH East Library.

Parent Concern: Potential Graduation Ceremony Format

- Heather shared feedback received from a parent regarding discussions about the possibility of splitting future graduation ceremonies due to increasing class sizes. The parent expressed concerns about this approach and indicated they would prefer that graduates remain together for a single ceremony.
- Heather will encourage the parent to attend a future School Council meeting to share their perspective and participate in the discussion.
- Administration noted that the current Grade 10 class has approximately 411 students, making it the largest class the school will have had to graduate. Based on current projections, a single graduation ceremony for this cohort could last approximately 3.5 to 4 hours.
- Preliminary enrollment projections estimate approximately 356 graduates in 2027 and 306 graduates in 2028.
- Council acknowledged the challenges associated with continued enrollment growth and the need to explore options for future graduation ceremonies while maintaining a positive experience for students and families.

10) CLOSING PRAYER

- Closing prayer led by Joanne Polec.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm