



CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:00pm - CCH East

MEETING MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

- Meeting called to order at 6:01pm.
- Opening Prayer led by Principal Joanne Polec. Land Acknowledgement by Christa Sawatzky.
- **Attendance:** Joanne Polec (Principal), Christa Sawatzky (Outgoing Chair), Heather Spiess (Vice Chair), Amber Baines (Secretary), Kayla Knowles (Treasurer), Ambross Alvarez (Student Council President), Kira Kinahan, Carla Jensen, Tanya Koopmans, Gerriane Timmerman, Crystal Lee, Mandy DeCecco Kolebaba, Carmen Mombourquette
- **Regrets:** Sally Schafer (Outgoing Co-Treasurer)

2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Tanya would like to discuss concerns on growing class sizes related to Graduation.
- **Kayla made motion to approve, Crystal seconded. Motion Carried.**

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 4, 2026 MEETING

- Available on the CCH website: [June 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)
- **Christa made motion to approve, Tanya seconded. Motion Carried.**

4) SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM

Establishment of 2026–2027 School Council

- **Chair/President:** Christa attended to hand off the Chair role. Heather nominated Mandy DeCecco Kolebaba, and she accepted.
- **Vice-Chair:** Heather will continue in her role.
- **Treasurer:** Kayla will continue in her role. Council thanked Sally for her contributions as Co-Treasurer last year.
- **Secretary:** Amber will continue in her role.
- **Social Media/Instagram Lead:** Kira Kinahan will take over the School Council Instagram/social media account.

School Council Meeting Dates for the 2026–2027 School Year

The 2026–2027 meeting schedule was established, with all meetings currently scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the CCH East Campus Library. Council also discussed potential for holding some meetings at CCH West Campus to encourage more parents from the west side of the city to attend.

- October 1, 2026
- November 5, 2026
- December 10, 2026
- February 4, 2027
- March 4, 2027
- April 8, 2027
- June 3, 2027

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5) UPDATE FROM STUDENT COUNCIL – PRESENTED BY AMBROSS ALVAREZ

- Student Council has more than 50 members, with committees focused on faith, athletics, and social & wellness.
- The Faith Committee is developing a poster reflecting the school's faith plan, with opportunities for students to contribute.
- The Athletics Committee will continue operating concessions and is building school spirit by encouraging students to attend games and wear school colours.
- The Wellness Committee is planning a combined Thanksgiving and mental health initiative, along with Grade 10 check-ins to support students' transition to high school.
- Spirit Week took place the previous week, and planning is underway for Halloween activities.
- Student Council hoody sales will begin soon through School Cash Online. Hoody's will feature a small logo, with blue and white options expected at approximately \$40 each. Proceeds will support the year-end celebration.
- Student Council requested \$500 toward clothing for student council members.
- **Heather made motion to accept report and provide requested funding for Student Council clothing, Kira seconded. Motion Carried.**

6) TRUSTEE REPORT – PRESENTED BY CARMEN MOMBOURQUETTE

- Carmen attends School Council by invitation. Members may raise questions or request his attendance through the Chair or Principal Polec.

Division Priorities and Student Voice

- Carmen encouraged School Council members to participate in joint School Council/Board of Trustees meetings and upcoming division priority-setting discussions. An additional joint meeting will be included this year. Expected Council of School Council Meeting Dates for 2026-2027:
 - November 30, 2026
 - March 1, 2027
 - June 14, 2027
- The Board plans to hold student roundtables at division high schools. Student Council members will play a leadership role in facilitating discussions and encouraging student participation, with arrangements communicated through the superintendent and principal.
- Carmen encouraged Council to record its activities and achievements throughout the year so the annual report clearly reflects CCH's contributions and shares ideas with other school councils.

School Facilities and Capital Planning

- St. Francis remains a priority for a replacement school. A proposed site was discussed, but provincial funding has not yet been secured. The Minister of Infrastructure recently toured the school with division and provincial representatives.
- Holy Spirit Catholic School Division, Lethbridge School Division and the City of Lethbridge have submitted a joint proposal seeking funding to study traffic and transportation concerns in the area surrounding the nearby schools. Funding approval is pending.

- Carmen highlighted CCH's specialized programming, quarter system and work experience opportunities. A ministerial visit to CCH with Principal Polec is upcoming on Monday October 5.
- St. Kateri School is expected to receive building access in early November, with moving planned over Christmas and students transitioning in January 2027. The official opening and blessing is planned for April 16, 2027.

7) TREASURER REPORT – PRESENTED BY KAYLA KNOWLES

Kayla Knowles presented the Treasurer's Report, providing an overview of the current financial status and recent expenditures over the summer.

- **Current Account Balance: \$1,165.91**
- New requests were received to support purchasing hoody's for Student Council Members and upcoming Student Awards Night.
- School council revenue of approximately \$1,900.00 expected from the school at the end of October, which will go towards funding Student Awards in November. Kayla will provide a post-dated cheque for end of the month.
- **Amber made motion to accept report, Crystal seconded. Motion Carried.**

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	720.00	\$2,321.00
2-Oct-25	Deposit - Knights of Columbus (Santa Anonymous Donation)	500.00	\$2,821.00
22-Oct-25	Cheque #578 CCH Awards (Cleared 31/10/25)	-1,200.00	\$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	2,675.00	\$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
4/Jun/26	Cheque #583 Grad Fees (Hardship Fund) (cleared 6/12/26)	-1,100.00	\$831.84
4/Jun/26	Cheque #584 Retirement Gift c/o Sally (cleared 6/15/26)	-100.00	\$731.84
4/Jun/26	Cheque #585 Custodian Gift c/o Heather (cleared 7/9/26)	-45.00	\$686.84
15/Jun/26	Cheque #586 VOID		
15/Jun/26	Cheque # 587 Grad Rosaries 2026/27 (cleared 7/9/26)	-533.43	\$153.41
22/Jun/26	Deposit - School Council Fees	1,032.50	\$1,185.91
30/Jun/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,180.91
31/Jul/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,175.91
31/Aug/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,170.91
30/Sep/26	Monthly Maintenance Charge	-5.00	\$1,165.91

New Requests:

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

#	Request Details	Amount	Date Needed	Motion Made	Seconder	Motion Passed
1	Student Council Hoody's	\$500.00	Oct 2026	Heather	Kira	YES
2	Student Awards	\$900.00	Nov 2026	Amber	Crystal	YES
TOTAL NEW REQUESTS		\$1,400.00				

Expected Revenue:

#	Revenue Details	Amount	Date Expected
1	School Council Fees	1,900.00	October 31, 2026
TOTAL EXPECTED REVENUE		\$1,900.00	

8) PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – PRESENTED BY JOANNE POLEC

Joanne Polec shared highlights from her October 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 October 2026](#).

General Updates

- Staffing updates were provided. A correction was noted: Ms. Steinborn should appear in place of Ms. Ross in the written report. Two teaching interns are currently working at CCH.
- Guidance counsellors Danielle Christensen and Chris LaRue support course planning, academic concerns, dual credit, work experience, post-secondary planning and scholarships. Grade-specific Google Classrooms provide information for Grades 10, 11 and 12. Information sessions will be offered during the year, beginning with finances and scholarships. Students, particularly those in Grade 11, were encouraged to begin career and financial planning early.
- The Continuous Improvement Plan will be shared with Council at the November meeting after presentation to staff. The plan aligns school strategies with division priorities and previous-year data.
- CCH has received dual-credit grant approval to develop a lab at Father Leonard Van Tighem School. The additional space would support CCH dual-credit students with simulations and other practical learning, while providing junior high students with exposure to areas such as coding, robotics, nursing and veterinary medicine. Planning is in its early stages.
- Administration reported that up to 30 work experience credits can now count toward high school graduation, increased from 15. Each credit represents 25 hours of work experience.
- School pictures should be coming home around Oct 2-5. Retakes are Thurs Oct 8. Administration plans to move to a fully digital picture ordering process in future.

Enrolment and Graduation

- Current enrolment is **1,062 students**, down from an early peak of 1,104 and approximately 50 students above the previous year-end count. Changes in registrations have helped resolve some timetabling pressures.
- Graduation 2027 is scheduled for May 14–15, 2027. Approximately 363 students are expected to graduate, with a ceremony lasting about two hours and 45 minutes. The Lethbridge.com Arena is expected to accommodate the class, with additional floor space available if needed. Graduation bookings are secured for 2027, 2028 and 2029.

Faith and Continuous Improvement

- The school is in Year 2 of the division faith plan, Love God. Opening Mass and the school-wide retreat have taken place, and the staff faith committee continues its work.
- Catholic Education Sunday celebrations were identified as October 17–18, with Catholic Education Week October 17–23 and Wear Blue Day October 22.

Exams and Other School Updates

- Grade 10 and 11 final exam changes may be arranged through the classroom teacher, subject to the exam period and marking deadlines. Administration explained that Grade 12 diploma exam dates are set provincially; students unable to attend a scheduled sitting would need to defer to a later sitting. Diploma exams were reported as 30% of the final grade.
- Co-curricular programs are underway, see Principal's report for more details!

Transportation Between Campuses

- Parents raised concerns about access to after-school sports and music activities at the opposite campus, including the burden on working families and student safety.
- Administration confirmed that end-of-day transportation rules have not changed. Students are responsible for arranging transportation to co-curricular activities at the other campus; existing school transportation does not provide this service.
- Council discussed writing to the Board of Trustees about the effect on equitable access to activities and the dual-campus model. City transit options were also discussed. No formal motion or assigned Council letter was discussed.
- Students with course scheduling concerns may speak with a guidance counsellor to explore whether an appropriate class is available at the campus where their after-school activity occurs.

9) NEW BUSINESS

School Council Instagram / Social Media Handoff

- Kira was thanked for taking over School Council social media. The outgoing Chair, Christa, has handed off the role and account responsibilities.

Student Awards Funding

- Student Awards Ceremony is November 10 @ 7:00pm in Vasey Hall (gym) at Campus East.
- Principal Polec requested School Council to attend and present at awards. Heather will attend, and ask Mandy if she would like to attend.
- Principal Polec requested \$900 from school council to support upcoming Student Awards Night. The awards include Religious Education, Musical Theatre, highest Grade 10, highly commendable scholastic effort, and third-highest Grade 12 recognition.
- **Amber made motion to provide requested funding for Student Awards, Crystal seconded. *Motion Carried.***

Santa's Anonymous Funding

- The funding discussion was deferred to the November meeting. The organizing group has just begun meeting and may attend to present its request.

10) CLOSING PRAYER

- Closing prayer led by Heather Spiess.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.