

# St Catherine's School Council Meeting Agenda

March 18, 2026 7:00 pm

1. **Call to order: by Crystie @ 7pm**
2. **Record of attendance: Amanda Anderson, Gabi Kolk, Leslie Martin, Devan Kolk, Dan Vanden Dungen, Michelle Rodgers, Lenae Brillman, Deanna Brillman, Blaire Forbes, Michelle Forbes, Amy Brecka, Lexi Paskal, Chelsey Paskal, Andrea Nieboer, Josh Gatner, Breanne Poppe, Karem Bracamontes, Carlee Nummi**
3. [Opening prayer](#) and **Land Acknowledgement** - Dan
4. **Review and adoption of minutes from previous meeting** ([February 2026](#))
  - **Adopted by Michelle**
5. New business or items to add to the agenda?
6. **Old Business:**
  - a. Grade 4&5 Basketball & Volleyball
    - Next week is final week
    - Not much parent help - are we committed to continuing this?
    - Could it consistently be one day of the week so families can plan for other activities
    - Advertise earlier, maybe at parent teacher interviews
  - b. Kindergarten Coffee - Gabby/Alyssa/Ashley
    - **Tuesday March 31st @1030 am**
  - c. ASCE Grant - Crystie
    - Evening Art classes?
    - Parent Materials?
    - Some money will be spent to attend the ASCA spring symposium
  - d. Family Dance - March 19th
    - Green Day / St Patricks Day theme
    - Jess Cook has offered to DJ for free with her DJ gear!
    - Ask Student Leadership to run 3-4 games/dance songs
    - **Purchase snacks: Michelle**
    - **Set-Up:** Breanne, Michelle, Deanna, Carlee  
Please come at 5:30 if you can help set up decorations and snacks.
    - **Clean Up:** Volunteers Needed!

## 7. Reports:

- a. Principal (attached below)
  - Mr. V to send out survey to Pre-K and Kindergarten parents regarding two full days or four half days for the 26-27 school year
- b. Associate Principal Faith Report (attached below)
- c. Chair - Crystie
  - **Council of School Council Chairs / Board of Trustees Meeting - March 2**
    - Complete schollie survey- reports will be coming soon
    - Complexity funding, St. Catherine's is low priority and will have no teams
    - Holy Spirit hosting budget meetings virtually, info will be shared for those who would like to watch

## 8. Correspondence:

## 9. New business:

- a. Budget Town Hall Meetings
  - From our School Division: "We are moving forward with a series of Town Hall sessions throughout the month of March. These gatherings serve as a vital bridge between our division and our community, offering stakeholders a dedicated opportunity to connect and gain a clearer understanding of our current budget realities and Board priorities. Most importantly, these sessions will allow us to share our projected needs for the 2026-2027 school year, ensuring our community is well-informed and engaged in our shared future."
  - Monday, March 23, 2026 @ 5:00 PM - **Virtually** (Link to follow)  
(In person meetings were held on March 11 and 18th)
- b. Safety Plan Review
  - Josh and Dan took feedback from the last Council Meeting to create a new [Saint Catherine Locked Doors Policy](#) ; we also had discussions with our superintendent, trustee, and Coordinator of Counselling and Wellness. They were supportive and particularly agreed with our approach of involving parents in the process and notifying them before

putting the policy into effect. We were advised to notify RCMP as well before putting it into effect.

- A letter to parents sent on Feb 27, informing them that the new procedures would be effective Monday, March 2
  - Adjustment to 11:35 door opening for ELP / Kinder pickup
  - Reaction: mostly supportive, a few minor concerns
    - A small number of people very passionately expressed the view that this was not quick enough and that it wasn't necessary to work out details of the policy or to notify parents first.
  - I was asked to find out what other schools in our area are doing:
    - Most schools in Holy Spirit do not have front doors locked and there are a great variety of differences regarding equipment like cameras, intercom, door buzzers etc. Lethbridge School Division schools are also "all over the map."
    - Palliser schools are in a different position - all schools have doors which remain locked at all times, cameras and intercoms with ability to buzz in at main doors, and video throughout the building and entrances.
  - Holy Spirit Schools are conducting an audit of equipment and practices and will be seeking consistency and upgrades
  - Consistency will likely be coming from a school division perspective
  - Dan is part of lockdown committee for Holy Spirit
  - Parents can send letters to the Holy Spirit board about what they would like to happen security wise. Maybe a general letter can be created and parents can sign and send if they choose?
  - Could classroom doors be locked?
  - Would RCMP come to the school to show representation/ be around more at the school?
  - Peak times seem to be first thing in the morning when absences are being called in and students are showing up late. Could we have an automatic system to mark a child as absent instead of parents having to call? School Messenger?
  - After school events- noone is designated to open the door if its locked for after school activities, kids need to be reminded to ring the doorbell
  - Tournaments or evening games- will it be locked?
- c. [ASCA Spring Symposium](#) April 25/26 in person and online
- If anyone is interested in attending the symposium it is in Edmonton as well as an online option, let Crystie know

d. School Photographers:

- Feedback on Lifetouch
  - 3 year contract is over
  - Overall consensus is to find someone else
- Thoughts on Mountain West proposal
  - Yes, prices seem to be the same or slightly lower

10. Next meeting: **April 22 @ 7pm**

11. Closing prayer:

12. Adjournment: **By Crystie at 838pm**

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## Principal's Report

### 1. Staffing:

- Miss Barch's final day is April 17 and Mrs. Nelson returns April 20.
- PSIII students (Miss Goudreault and Miss Vossebelt) and Lethbridge College E.A. practicum student (Ms. Elliott) will all be finishing in April as well.
- The timeline for Chris Snow's return is not yet set; in the meantime, Ms. Ortiz continues to be head caretaker and Mrs. Pat Kubic does the evening part-time
- Mr. Vanden Dungen will be meeting with Deputy Superintendent Anthea Boras March 24 to discuss staffing for next year

### 2. Enrolment and Registrations

- Several new registrations in the last few weeks will mean 5 new students (3 new families) by the end of April. That almost balances the exits last month.

### 3. 2026-2027 Calendar:

- We have been assured that we will have bussing for the first week of school when we have students but Palliser does not
- Meeting scheduled for next week to work out the details for the Coaldale / Picture Butte calendars for Holy Spirit (eg. school-based PD days)

### 4. Holy Spirit Catholic School Division News:

- Holy Spirit received government funding for 5 classroom complexity teams (one teacher and two EAs); these are mostly hired and in place.
- A new elementary school on the west side of Lethbridge, St. Kateri, is being opened next year. The building is expected to be ready for students in January 2027 but the staff and students will start the year operating out of Fr. Leonard Van Tighem.

- Starting next year, 4 Holy Spirit schools will be offering full-day kindergarten, four days per week. This may be extended to other schools in the future.

#### 5. Calendar:

- Mar 24 - Hot Dog Day
- Mar 25 - Grade 3 Canteen Day
- Mar 25 - Lord of the Rings Dressup Day
- Mar 26 - Global Play Day
- Mar 26 - Ski Trip
- Mar 31 - Grade 2 Canteen Day, ELP/K Parents Coffee
- April 2 - Holy Thursday
- April 2 - National Autism Awareness Day
- April 3 to 12 - Easter Break
- April 14 - LLT Meeting for Josh and Dan
- April 15 - Monthly Mass led by Grade 7
- April 16 - Dress as a Teacher Day
- April 16 - Bishop's Assurance Pilot

## Associate Principal Faith Report

*With Lent, there are many opportunities to lead staff and students to encounter Jesus in their lives. Our call to almsgiving, prayer, and fasting continues to challenge us to refocus our lives on the spiritual as we prepare our hearts for Easter.*

#### Events:

- **Weekly staff prayer continues, with the resource**
  - With the new year, we are using *The Simplest Prayer* by the Irish Franciscans
- **Parable and Saint of the Month - with Fr. Iqbal helping during Friday Gospel:**
  - **March**
    - Parable of the Wedding Feast (Luke 14: 7-14)
    - St. Benedict Joseph Labre and his Humility was March's Saint
      - We celebrated Reese Paskal (Gr3), Carmen Mendoza (Gr4), and Graecyn Vanden Dool (Gr7) on March 6th. Their pictures will be added to our Wall of Saints.
  - **April**
    - Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15: 3-7)
    - St. Charles de Foucauld and his Mercy is April's Saint
      - Saints of the month will be shared on April 17th.
- **Monthly Mass**
  - Dan Vanden Dungen and the Grade 5 class led our monthly mass in March. Students read the First reading, the Psalm, and the prayers of the faithful, while others had the opportunity to present the gifts, altar serve, and to join the choir.
  - April 15th's mass will be hosted by Josh Gatner and the Grade 7 class.

- **Retreats**

- Face2Face Ministries joined us from Saskatoon with a fund and energetic day, on March 6. This Grade 1-6 retreat focused on how Jesus is an "Unshakable" foundation for our lives. There is a great social media post that they left us with that was shared on Instagram and Facebook.
- Spiritual Development Day, for staff, happened on Friday, March 13th as we gathered with colleagues from across the division for mass and to listen to bible scholar, Katie Patrizio.

**Looking Ahead: April and Easter**

- Stations of the Cross for Grades 6-9 on Friday, March 20 with Grade 9 students leading. We go again with Grades 1-6 the following Friday on March 27 with Grade 6 leading.
- Grade 6, led by Heather Harling, will lead our school in a Holy Thursday prayer service on Thursday, April 2nd in anticipation of Easter.
- Bishop's Assurance Pilot Program - St. Catherine School has been chosen to host a delegation on April 16 that aims to help Catholic schools maintain a high standard of faith.