

St Catherine's School Council Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2025, 7:15 pm

1. Call to order:
2. Record of attendance – Dan Vanden Dungen, Nicole Fuller, Crystie Praskach, Andrea Nieboer, Angela Faber, Amy Brecka
3. Opening prayer and Land Acknowledgement - Dan Vanden Dungen
4. Review and adoption of minutes from previous meeting - approved
5. Reports:
 - a. Principal (attached below)
 - b. Chair -
6. Correspondence:
 - As things come into Crystie's personal email, she is getting them switched into the school council email.
7. Old business:
 - a. School Council Grant
 - Grant has largely been spent:
 - Spanish / English dictionaries available for students for PATs
 - \$550 spent on Parent Resource Lending Library
 - Lending library bookshelf will go under the bulletin board in the Gathering Space
 - b. Screensanity Presentation
 - Has not been purchased yet - we only get 6 months to use it, we are waiting for a later time so it goes later on into next school year.
 - c. Pre-K Kindergarten Coffee Time
 - Not happening on May 29
 - Potentially June 9th, 10th? or Might not happen until next year?
8. New Business:
 - School Pick Up and Drop Off Times and Procedures
 - Concerns expressed about the amount of time between dismissal of bus students and the time that non-bus students are dismissed; particularly a problem for those trying to get to events / appointments

- Parents should be informed that the school does not control the bus pickup / dropoff locations, and that the front of the school location is required for the safety and efficiency of transportation.
- Potential Solutions:
 - We could have students all dismissed at the same time and have town students exit the back doors, so long as:
 - A staff supervisor was posted outside in the back
 - We ensure that students do not just come around in front and interfere with bus loading and/or cross the street unsafely (train them to cross at the corners).
 - Alternatively, 2 bell system:
 - Parents can come in and get non-bus students if they need to leave earlier than the second bell
 - First Bell - bus kids pack up and go directly to the bus; and town kids pack up and go to the gathering space;
 - Second Bell - buses are dismissed and town kids are allowed to leave the building; this would happen at a set time every day that parents could count on it.
 - If bus students are not on the bus by the second bell, they will miss the bus and parents will be contacted to pick them up
- Council parents expressed a desire to train children to take responsibility to get ready more efficiently
- **Draft 2025-2026 Calendar**
 - Calendars of HS and Paliser are aligning much better this year!
 - Sept 29- is a div wide PD to work on ISPs
 - Halloween is on a Friday!
 - May 19th day is being changed to May 15th PD day- School Based
 - Proposing P/T interviews in Oct - Identify problems earlier rather than later...
- **Kindergarten Survey Results**
 - Results of the Survey - Full Day vs Half-Day Kindergarten
 - Next year's Kindergarten Parents were strongly in favour of continuing with our half-day program
- **Enrolment Trends and Future Classes**
 - Overall enrolment trend has been down in the last 2 years; concerns about a few small classes, including a very small grade 2 class next year; also a trend of many students leaving St. Catherine school in junior high.

- JR Highs leaving St. Catherine School - What can the school do?
 - Sports is a big reason (sports academies and sports opportunities in other schools); also larger number of peers to relate to and additional events and other opportunities
 - Danger of burnout when we try to just get our small number of existing junior high staff to just “do more”; we need to have lots of parent involvement
 - This reaffirms the need to work on communication with jr. high parents; parents express feeling unheard and more follow-up would be appreciated
 - Several suggestions for sports / athletics (see below)
 - Mixture of grades for options has been good for Jr High; increases the friend pool and available opportunities
- Small Classes - What can we do?
 - Will try to keep the small grade 2 class single-graded as much as possible next year; will need to multigrade some subjects (we already do that now, but perhaps add a couple more)
 - Will likely need to do combined grades in the future; we will have a public meeting to discuss if necessary
 - Council parents have had good experiences with combined grade classes and will gladly speak to that issue if needed
- **Additional Discussions:**
 - Suggestions for Sports Programs:
 - Continue building up the skills at a younger age of sports through after school elementary volleyball and basketball
 - Maybe open this up to DD students / volunteers?
 - (Non-coaching) Parent Reps for teams and give them roles to help with communication and logistics (i.e. “team manager”)
 - Clearly identify St. Catherine's student track athletes:
 - T-shirts or jerseys for other sports (cross country, track, badminton etc.)
 - Bring pinnies for Track and Field Meets (we were the only school without visible representation)
 - Bring the tent on hot days and make sure it gets set up
 - Make sure that we are registering for tournaments where our teams can be appropriately competitive.
 - Join with PBHS to create teams when numbers are too low

- Communication: How can we shift the division of responsibilities between parents and staff?
 - More communication from the classroom teacher vs the newsletter
 - Have grade level parent rep or parents for school council
- Home and School - Have more than one joint meeting with Home and School and School Council together
- Permission Click Issues:
 - Some parent responses are not going through
 - Teachers have had difficulties being able to see who signed up for volunteering for field trips
- Spaces:
 - Desire to see the division's Spaces Survey results

9. Next meeting: **TBD (in the fall)**

10. Closing prayer

11. Adjournment

Principal's Report

1. Staffing:
 - Our Teacher Staffing FTE allotment for next year has been confirmed - we will have the same amount as this year.
 - We are currently in the process of interviewing and hiring for a temporary grade 6-9 Science/Math position, temporary Elementary position, Admin Assistant position. These should be decided within the next week or so.
2. Maintenance / Facility:
 - The division has created a new centralized Furniture and Equipment fund; St. Catherine's number one priority is clocks
3. Budget / Finances:
 - The School Division Budget discussion at LLT was more positive this year; less about cuts and more about additions; the exception is Jordan's Principle Funding which is still uncertain. This could affect our part-time FNMI support position and a 0.5 EA position at St. Catherine's
 - Enrolment changes and expected increases in subbing costs will mean a \$5000 reduction in the budget for St. Catherine School.
4. Calendar:

- We encouraging people to use the online calendar since events are constantly being added and/or changed and the monthly calendars tend to be “*out of date the day after they are published*”
- <https://scpb.holyspirit.ab.ca/calendar>