



ST. MARY'S

CATHOLIC SCHOOL, LISTOWEL



Agenda

January 21, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: virtual

There must be a minimum of 5 parents/council members (Chair, Vice Chair (or Co-Chairs), Treasurer, Secretary and the chair or delegate from each committee and sub-committee) present in order for voting to be able to take place.

CSAC Members

Principal - Paula Valcke

Chair - Alyssa Fries

Secretary - Lauren Hayward

Treasurer - Tara Cullen

Safe and Healthy Schools - Julie Murtha/Sonia Viridi/Brianne Heffernan

Fundraising - Brianna Schlegel/Nadia Goubault/Milan Schnock

Parish Representative - Eline Terpstra

CPIC Representative - Brianna Schlegel

1. Welcome and Prayer:

Catholic School Advisory Council Prayer

God, the source of every good gift,

Grant us Your Spirit to guide us in our responsibilities as a School Council.

May we work together in harmony for the common good;

May we listen to one another in a spirit of genuine respect;

May we encourage and reverence one another's unique talents;

May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership;

May we approach our decision-making through discernment and prayer;

May we respond effectively to the needs of the children in our care.

God of Love, May Your blessings radiate from us to others as we strive to do Your will, We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

2. Call to Order & Recording of Attendance:

Meeting started 6:03

In attendance: Paula V, Colleen P, Alyssa F, Sherri D, Brianne H, Amelia S, Celeste C, Lauren H, Anne-Marie M, Nadia G

Regrets: Tara C, Brianna S, Julie M, Sonia V, Milan S, Eline T

3. Approval of Agenda –

Motion: Lauren H

Second: Celeste C

Approved

4. **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting –**
Motion: Brianne H
Second: Celeste C
Approved

5. **Treasurer's Financial Report & Approval of Financial Report**
Tara C absent
Account balance: \$1739.01

Motion to approve financial report: Lauren H
Second: Celeste C
Approved

6. **Principal's Report & Business Arising from Report**

Paula V presented Principal's report. Summary:

Currently have 392 students.

Kudos on the Christmas Luncheon, thank you for the donations of food and tireless volunteers - huge success

Parish News:

Confirmation preparation (Grade 7 and up) and First Communion preparation (Grade 2 and up)
Our altar servers have been serving at funeral masses at the Church.

Masses in December and January

December Mass - prepared by FIAT and Mr Leyser
January Mass - prepared by Ms Kelly's grade 5-6 class
OCGE Honorees celebrated
Thank you to the choir and altar servers

Social Justice Initiatives

60 coats collected for the coat drive.
FIAT will be organizing a food drive over Lent
Food and gift cards provided to families in our community
Snack program: \$1000 received from Josslin Insurance, \$500 from Spinrite Inc., food donations from Listowel Girls Volleyball Program

Academics

First Term report cards will go home on February 13.
Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) - results have been distributed to Grade 4 and Grade 7 families. First year that it was completed online.

Our next PD Day is January 30.

Report card writing day for our teachers.
Safety training offsite for EAs

EQAO Dates 2026

Our EQAO dates have been tentatively set for May. We will be spreading out the EQAO assessments over the month instead of concentrating them in a week or two. We will have two assessments per week over 4 weeks. Research supports spreading out the assessments to avoid EQAO fatigue.

PRO Grant Funds

The Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant helps school boards partner with their parent involvement committees (CSACs) to lead projects that meet local school needs. The goal is to remove barriers that prevent parents from fully participating in their children's education and faith formation.

Interest in engaging a speaker to have an anti-racism, diversity-equity-inclusion workshop for grades 5, 6, 7, 8. PRO Grant application available to fund part of the speaker cost.

Baseball Diamond Update

JaysCare Foundation application made for a grant to support the construction of a new baseball diamond. Conversations starting with Municipality regarding baseball diamond relocation possibility. Besides moving the diamond itself, other considerations include parking and accessibility.

Tremaine Road Signage

Upcoming meeting with Municipality to discuss enhanced signage/speed limit awareness in front of the school on Tremaine Ave.

Inclement Weather

12 Inclement weather days thus far this school year
When buses cancelled, school attendance drops
It is important for those students at home to engage in remote learning opportunities provided by their teachers

Additional Parking in Front of the School

There are additional parking spots located in front of the school. These can be used for brief visits to the school during the school day. However, there is to be no traffic on the access route during bus unloading/loading - 9:00 - 9:15 and 3:15 - 3:45. No exceptions.

Cell Phone Use at School

A continuing reminder that student cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. This policy helps maintain a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment for all students and protects everyone's privacy. Cell phones and personal devices can be a distraction in class and also raise serious privacy concerns when photos, videos, or recordings are taken at school. To help maintain a positive school community, all devices must remain turned off and stored away during instructional time and recesses. Devices used for medical reasons are the only exception.

Happenings:

Diversity Training took place in Grades $\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 to support our students
BordenBall - January 29 for Grade $\frac{5}{6}$
Director Visit on February 3
Ash Wednesday Mass on February 18

7. Parish Report-

No report

8. CPIC-

No updates

9. Other Business:

Fundraising

major fundraiser proposals, presented by fundraising subcommittee;

1. Major School-Wide Initiatives

These "anchor" fundraisers involve the whole community and are managed via **School Cash Online**.

Initiative	Lead Group	Timeline	Focus
Schlegel Charity Auction	Committee	April Target	Online High-Value Bidding
Pop-Up Garage Sale	Committee	Late Spring	Donation, Sort, & Host
General Fundraiser	All School	Now – Year End	Direct Cash Donations

Discussed pros and cons of in person silent auction versus online auction. Online auction (via Schlegel Auction Services platform) likely will attract more interested buyers (virtual/more widespread reach).

Discussed other potential options: garage sale, Food fundraiser options

Discussed expected good ROI of focusing resources into online auction this year, versus several dispersed smaller fundraisers this year. This is the proposed plan.

Spring: there is always an end of year BBQ as well. Discussion of having a BeaverTails dessert food truck, with some profits going to school. Could also add BeaverTail to Carnaval.

Voting on the 2 major annual fundraisers:

Motion: online auction and school cash online are to be 2 main large annual fundraisers

Motion put forth by: Brianne H

Second: Celeste C

All in favour:

Opposed if any: none

Motion passed

Timeline of the above 2 major fundraisers:

1) Online auction: Aim for mid April start

- **Action item:**
- **Nadia G** (head of fundraising subcommittee) to send CSAC via email an update on motion passed for online auction. Estimated start date mid April. CSAC callout for volunteers to seek donations.

2) February to ?(TBD end date) - School Cash Online (SCO) cash donations.

- **Action Items::**
- 1) **Fundraising subcommittee** to send Colleen description/details to add to the SCO fundraising item. Send by Friday Feb 23.
- 2) **Colleen** to send descriptive email to families, and add option onto SchoolCashOnline platform for donations. Go live on SCO next week, Jan 28.

Motion: Proceed with list of classroom-based fundraisers, funds will go towards improvements in school yard (grade 7-8, JK-gr2 have completed their allotted classroom fundraiser already this school year)

Motioned by:

Seconded by:

All in favour:

Opposed if any: Yes - more discussion required on classroom-based fundraisers. Motion not passed.

Next steps:

- Create communications plan for online auction
 - Include flyers in backpacks about auction (in addition to emails/virtual comms)
- Create strategic/op plan for organizing online auction (it is a lot of work - gathering auction items, photos for platform, collect \$, ensure people get their items)
- Further discussion of classroom-based fundraiser plan, which could span more than one school year for completion.

10. Closing Prayer: Our Father

11. Next Meeting:

Alyssa to arrange

12. Meeting Adjourned: 7:37pm

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