

**Catholic School Advisory Committee**  
**St. Columban School – January 15, 2026, via Google Meet**  
**Minutes**

**Attending:** Dan Gracey, Amanda Linton, Diamond Terpstra, Jenny Feltz, Katie Louwagie, Kim Renne, Krissy Cronin, Carolyn Bachert, Elyse Ryan, Jenna Duck, Kay Madsen, Anna Blando, Aleshia Nolan, Ashley Ryan, Laura O'Rourke,

**Regrets:** Claire Krempien, Taylor Ramseyer, Amy Ritz.

**1. Opening Business**

- 1.1 Opening Prayer – Dan Gracey
- 1.2 Approval of October 16, 2025 minutes. 1st - katie 2nd - laura
- 1.3 Approval of January 16, 2026 agenda. 1st - jenna, 2nd - laura

**2. Reports**

2.1 Treasurer Report

Starting balance - \$4215.78

Expenses

- Kinetic Sand for St. Pats - \$135.58
- Soccer Goalie Gloves - \$83.56
  - FIAT Stocking Campaign - \$83.06 (not discussed/voted on? – was to be paid by school funds?) Stocking FIAT - was this a CSAC purchase? Amanda believes no, CSAC purchased and reimbursed from school account.

Income

- Money transferred from school accounts as per DG - \$2163.72 (this cannot be anticipated every year)
- Dunny's Spirit wear profits - \$226.00
- Anna Mae's Pie Fundraiser
  - Money In - \$11858.89
  - Outgoing - \$9099.25
  - Profit - \$2759.64 (CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW FOR ACCURACY, TO BE CONFIRMED AT NEXT MEETING)
- Christmas Dinner
  - Expenses - \$3189.90 (Rollin Roasters biggest exp @ \$2964.94)
  - Donations from families - \$1029.25
  - = \$2160.65 cost to CSAC

Donations based on suggested price of \$9/meal 114 of 289 meals paid for (not including adult meals). Approx 39%. Donations closed before event, some parents wishing to donate and couldn't. When CSAC asked for the item to be reopened on school cash we were told the board had said it was inappropriate for us to collect any more contributions towards the lunch considering the amount of generated funds we have "unspent".

Rollin' Roaster gives us a "good" price, in future years it could be more expensive – need to keep in mind for future planning.

**Ending balance - \$7850.29 + \$2488.89 in our HST account. = \$10339.18**

Upcoming Expenses

- St. Andre Bessette Fund contribution - \$300.00
- Grad - \$1750.00
- Family BBQ/Fun Night - \$1300.00 (rounded up approx. number from 2024 exp, add another \$1000.00 if grant not approved.)
- = \$4350.00 committed this school year.

2.2 Principal Report

- EQAO results: Some results below board level. We expect to have more support from the board in the class based on results. Literacy screening at St. Patrick's as current as last week. Results do not change finances to a school budget. More human resources deployed to the classes and the school.

- Make it Sow fundraiser planned for year end grade 8 class trip mitigate costs for families. More info to come.

### 3. Discussion Items - ongoing

#### 3.1 Anna Mae's Fundraiser wrap-up

- Amanda to confirm numbers with Carolyn.
- If repeating fundraiser next year date needs to be set in advance.
- Learned different tips and tricks to run this fundraiser, important to maintain pick up time slot and not have orders being requested outside of this time.
- Keep in mind the drive to pick orders up - need 2 people to go each day so it is a commitment from CSAC.

#### 3.2 Christmas Lunch wrap-up

- Scott "retiring". Will need a new caterer for 2026.
- JK-4 is one set price, grade 5-8 a little more. Adult numbers included in gr 5-8 totals.
- Live music was a good addition - Aleshia's Dad can do it again.
- Kay to reach out to caterers for the 2026 meal
- Gluten free options - reach out to Carolyn next year to purchase.

#### 3.3 PRO Grant – due February 27 following new guidelines.

- o Creating parent resources
- o Delivering parent info sessions
- o Implement innovate activities
- Things to consider - How can we be more inclusive of our community? If we intend to use for the Family Fun Night we need new ideas so the grant will qualify.
- Possibility of having booths for family services in our community (Health Unit, School Based social worker, library)

#### 3.4 Family Fun Night

- Date – May 27 2026
- Requesting donations - Carolyn/Dan to request debit machine from board. Jenna to make a poster with a QR code for school cash online. Some sort of a family fun pass? \$20.00 possibly. Does this sound inclusive? Kind of like a fair, more strict guidelines. Maybe "suggested donation" on poster instead. Keep it open, all are welcome. Offer different denominations for donations on school cash.
- Any changes from last year?
  - Some confusion based on fundraiser options last year. Put together a subcommittee.
  - Croc charms – give out with kindergarten orientation bags - need 40, sell for \$ at family fun night as well. Hand them out with catholic graduate school expectation certificates - starting in September 2026. Put back on school cash, online for \$2.00 (reduced price).
- Do we want an auction or bake sale?
  - Can local businesses help support the event? Like with silent auction items etc.
  - Decided no auction, no bake sale
- Request tables: Jenna: West Perth Rec, library, Laura: health unit, Dan: multicultural association of Huron Perth.
- Entertainment
  - Mary Paige St Onge – music – Julie Schoonderwoerd will book and confirm to Jenny. Jenny to process payment as CSAC member.
  - photo booth (Jenny), face painters (Amanda to book), yard games, chocolate bar bingo all wanted again.
  - party rentals (football toss, popcorn machine - \$536.00 last year). Katie to look into the party supply companies.
- Food
  - Food trucks? Dublin fritter truck, Kens Fries - any sort of cost share, minimum costs for them to come? Disclose if we have any other food items to the trucks. Krissy reviewing.
  - Hot dogs cooked prior to the event. Too much chaos running back and forth. Should we do hotdogs if we have food trucks?
  - Cake from Costco – Kay to order.

- Snack program to source buns bring watermelon through the snack program
- Point People - Kay and Jenna. Jenna to make a group chat following meeting for anyone who would like to be involved.
- Student volunteers – student council? Dan to see if interest.

3.5 Life Vac – no further update. Closing request.

3.6 Wellness Day – Past days involved Gymnastics, Yoga, Mind and body wellness, visual arts with Vanessa DeGroot at both schools. During Catholic Education Week & Mental Health in the past.

- Maybe tie together with EQAO? Maybe yoga or art?
- Closing request for now until Dan reviews further with staff for interest.

#### **4. Discussion Items – new**

4.1 Rocks & Rings

- Katie to look into pricing for them

4.2 Spirit Wear

- Mistakes again with Dunny's - spirit wear in the future, another provider probably for next go around. Not opening again right now with Dunny's. Jenny to look into alternative suppliers.

4.3 Storage for Nutrition Program and CSAC supplies

- Kay doesn't have a problem with keeping them with her, no need for additional storage at this time.

4.4 Theme days notice

- Christmas theme days, more notice for these, and include both schools for all theme days.

4.5 Concerns regarding free time on Chromebooks

- Parent concerns shared regarding amount of free time on Chromebooks, kids rushing through work to play games after. With significant number of snow days and our results from EQAO concern is expressed that there is free time for gaming instead of academically purposeful tasks. Some kids will never earn free time as they are less advanced students or work at a slower pace. Purpose of computers in classrooms for was for education not recreational. Dan to discuss with staff.

4.6 Staff request St. Patrick's:

- a) Grilled cheese lunch suggestion
  - Too much work at this time and would require several volunteers. Nutrition program offers lunches and options as well very successfully.

4.7 Staff request St. Columban:

- Pottery request - grades 3 and 4 are booked, wondering was is that something we want to bring to every class. Not sure if the provider can do the whole school, but something they were inquiring about. \$20-25 per child total. Proceed with 3 and 4 participating with school covering costs at this time. Too large of an expense currently for CSAC to cover multiple classes.

4.8 New Chair interest for September 2026 – Amanda stepping down. Interested members please consider in advance.

4.9 New treasurer interest for September 2026 - Claire stepping down. Interested members please consider in advance. Note Katie is co-treasurer this year and learning the process.

4.9 CPIC Meeting – Jan 21, 2026, 6-7:30pm. Additional CSAC members welcome to attend.

#### **5. Date of next meeting**

April 9 2026, 6pm

6. **Adjournment** 1st Jenny 2nd Jenna