



# Holy Rosary School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - 6:00pm

## Attendees

Sandra Labelle (Principal), Emily Da Ponte (Vice Principal), Karen Maric (School rep)

Parent reps: Emma Watson, Angela Oppong, Stephanie Bonnick, Heather Leinonen, Mandy Armstrong

## Regrets

Meron Gebre-hiwet, Kristina Benoit, Ryan Loveday, Diego Velasquez, Rasaan Omoloja, Cristina Podariu

## Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement and prayer – Ms. Da Ponte

Approval of [February CSAC Meeting Minutes](#) (Motion: Emma, Angela)

Approval of [agenda](#) (Motion: Heather, Mandy)

## Agenda

### Financial report:

- Feb spending:
  - Jan-March - Not much happening, but we did have revenue through the fundraiser \$10,514 (\$11,803.38 total)
  - expenditures: pancakes ~\$650 & \$746.91 (\$1397.36 total expenditures)
  - \$10,406.02 total in the account, noted that there is a cheque that has been cleared but not cashed.

### Debriefs:

- Friendship festival fundraiser:
  - Added winter olympic events
  - Harder to get uptake since it was later in the year (but numbers say otherwise).
  - Kids had a positive experience
  - Need volunteers beforehand for extra things like estimation jars and labelling (needed more in this case)
  - From a teacher's perspective: Overall the day went well, nice to try different activities, loved the leadership of the olympics by the older kids in the afternoon (could have been a full day event). Overall positive experience and flowed well with the large

- number of students and events.
  - Impacted some teacher's valentines day activities (however, there was warning)
  - Lots of appreciation for estimation jar prep
- Pancake day:
  - Meron took the lead for that day
  - Overall relatively smooth
  - Great to see everyone together, the preplanning, and the experience
  - Short on griddles which impacted production of pancakes, ended up using less boxes even though there were more kids
  - Could potentially purchase a couple more to store at the school using CSAC funds
  - Some volunteers could no longer attend due to illness which reduced the expected equipment
  - Some boxes of pancake mix left which would be donated to the food bank
  - Allergies: Had so many this year, some could have pancakes but not syrup which was hard to navigate with so many volunteers. Suggest getting coloured cards (or an indicator that is clear) to help the volunteers know what not to give or who has allergies. Supply/student teachers may be unsure of who has allergies.

### Principal's report:

- Volunteers in the school
  - New mandates **from the Ministry**: Starting in September, all parents (and employees) will need a vulnerable sector check (VSC) even to go on a field trip (cannot even drive themselves and meet at the event). Strong Start, pancake day, driving for sporting events, etc. will also need this. This is not reimbursable by the school or Ministry. This may deter parents from helping. (WRPS may give a discount for volunteer positions)
  - Administrators are asking the Board to start communicating this to families as it is not specific to the school.
  - Any parent on CSAC will also need a vulnerable sector check
  - How frequently will the Ministry require a recheck? Every five years
  - Other schools put out a notice to parents at the beginning of the year that if you plan to volunteer, that you will need a VSC.
  - Suggestions to get kindergarten teachers, especially, to promote getting it in that year.
  - Catholic education week: This could be the last year that parents can visit the classes during school time.
- Registration and the 2026-2027 school year
  - Communications have gone out regarding registrations
  - 6 children away from a fifth Kindergarten class (for now that collapses one currently existing kindergarten class)
  - In the process of doing staffing now
  - 27 classes for Sept.
  - 641 children enrolled currently (classes sizes have increased - more kids, no additional classes). This is slightly lower than previous forecasts
  - Boundary review: Still planning to put forward for Sept 2026 to initiate the boundary review.
  - No additional class for French Immersion (English) - splitting classes for grades 4-8
  - At this point we will not be adding another portable, however, we are only 6 away from an additional portable.
- Multicultural festival
  - Set for June 11th
  - Emails went out for the food trucks, we have asked for 2 ice cream trucks (Mr. Patrick Power)
  - Emma: A similar format as last year worked well. A stage might be nice for performances (might not be able to find one big enough). Seemed to enjoy doing performances and sharing their cultures.

- We may have to pay for some performances.
- Emma has volunteered to help coordinate the festival.
- Cake walk/cultural snack basket: in favour of going ahead with this. Could either do a silent auction again, or submit an application for lottery licence. Note: We made more with the silent auction than we did with the raffle.
- Spending of funds
  - Some teachers were in favour of going to the movies for the year end event, however the walk is a safety concerns
  - Most teachers are in favour of going back to bowling for the year end event. Could we coordinate with Splitsville and Victoria bowl for a small treat to be included?
  - Last year Council donated \$4000 for bussing and bowling. Hoping we can do the same this year. Proposing \$6000 to supplement **(Motion: Emma, Angela, Mandy)**
  - Ice cream truck - to be paid for by pizza funds
  - Grade 8 grad (51 grads) (\$500)
  - Kindergarten welcome (53 currently registered) (\$600)
  - Money may come in from the Multicultural night
  - Suggestion: An award for each division that embodies what our council stands for (eg. involvement in the community)
  - Suggestion: \$500 still remains from CPIC (could be used for the photo booth at the multicultural festival)
  - Classes are looking for outdoor equipment (eg. chalk, bubbles, balls) (\$500) **(Motion: Steph, Mandy, Emma)**
  - Still one remaining reward to do for their fundraising efforts. Could give popcorn to students for movie day. (\$400), could have an alternative snack for those that can't have popcorn. **(Motion: Steph, Mandy, Emma)**
  - This will allow approx. \$2500 to be carried over to next year.
  - Agreement from CSAC for remaining smaller items in the above list
- Year end activities
  - Activate or escape room for Grade 8
  - Bowling for school year end activity

## Future meetings

- First Tuesday of every month - 6pm
- Next meeting: May 6

## Meeting adjourned: 7:25pm

(Motion to adjourn: Emma, Heather)