

École St. Mary School Council Meeting

Date: November 13, 2025

Attendance: Andrea, Heather, Wendy, Roisin, Jeremy, Jodi, Davorka, Temi, Megan, Malorie, Justin, Kiera, Camille

1. Opening

- **Prayer and Land Acknowledgement** – Led by Justin.
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2. Call to Order

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Megan, seconded by Jeremy.
 - **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Wendy, seconded by Temi.
 - **Secretary Role Update:** Gerrienne has stepped down. Council is invited to consider taking on the role.
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3. Reports

Division Report – Roisin

- **New Board Positions:** Linda Ellefson elected as Chair; Roisin as Vice-Chair. Board briefs will be shared and are also available online.
- **Role of Trustees:** Trustees attend meetings by invitation from the School Council Chair and act as advocates. Issues typically do not progress directly to trustees.
- **Council of School Councils Meeting:** December 1 at 6:00 PM at head office. Open to all School Council members. Topics will include labor action.

- **Complexity in Classrooms:** A division committee has been created to examine complexity in learning environments. Schools are submitting data on short timelines.
 - **Clarification of Complexity (Kiera):** Includes EAL learners, medical needs, exceptionalities. At ESM, approx. 40% of students are EAL.
 - **Charter School Application:** A new charter school has been proposed in Lethbridge. Trustees believe its services duplicate existing ones.
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School Report – Kiera

School Report – School Council Meeting November 13th, 2024

Mission: Christ-centered learning community where students are cherished to achieve their potential.

1. School Update: Thank you!
2. School Activities ~Volleyball, Run Club Div 2, Leadership Club, Photography within Leadership, Go Girls, Game On. Upcoming: Intramurals, Basketball, Afterschool Skating, Working on something for Div 1 during the day, Science Nights (APEGA.)
3. School Operations Update ~CIP, AEAM, PGP, IPP Meetings coming soon.
4. Goal Setting/Interviews ~ Goal Setting/Parent Teacher Interviews have been rescheduled for Thursday, November 20 th , 4:00-7:00 pm, Friday, November 21st 1:00-4:00 pm.
5. Carnival~
6. Santa's Anonymous~ CCH is doing Santa's Anonymous. ESM will be doing a food drive to support hampers, a silver collection at the Christmas concert. They are also doing a bottle drive if you have bottles to donate at Greens Pop Shops for CCH Santa's Anonymous.
7. Grade 6 Camp Fundraising ~ Meeting to be scheduled. Poinsettias/Christmas décor.

8. Turkey Dinner ?- Monday, December 15 th TBC (if School Council will again agree to committing some funds towards turkey dinner.)

9. Christmas Concert: December 18 th , Southminster Church, 6:00 pm. Each class will perform a song. Silver Collection. Great night! Friday, December 19 th PJ Day!

10. December: School Decorating, Last Day Dec. 19 th PJ day and Bingo.

Citizenship: Food Drive, Silver Collection,

11. DREC ~Faith Update

12. Other

- **Operations Update:** Key processes such as CIP, AEAM, PGPs, and IPP meetings are slightly delayed.
- **Goal Setting Interviews:** Upcoming; focus on meaningful planning with parents and students.
- **Carnival Planning:** Staff supporting Savio with preparations.
- **Santa's Anonymous:** Continuing with a simplified format—gift cards and food hampers instead of full family sponsorships. Silver collection will occur at the Christmas concert, and a bottle drive is active at Green's Pop Shop.
- **Staffing Update:** Betty Ann is retiring. A 0.5 librarian position has been posted. Additional EA approved due to enrollment.
- **Grade 6 Camp:** Poinsettia fundraiser underway. Meeting date to be set.
- **Turkey Dinner:** "Buy a plate, donate a plate" option available. School Council has historically contributed to support all students.
- **Christmas Concert:** December 18 at 6:00 PM.
- **Decorating Day:** Scheduled for November 28.
- **Citizenship Initiatives:** Includes food drive, silver collection, and outreach through choral/card presentations.

- **T-Shirt Orders:** All students sized. Deposit paid; orders placed.
 - **Basketball Nets:** Estimated cost: \$16,973.50 + GST. \$7,000 already allocated. Additional fundraising required.
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Faith Report

Advent Mass

- Our school Advent Mass will be celebrated with our Grade 4 students.
- It will take place here at École St. Mary on **December 3 at 9:00 AM**.

Advent Celebrations

- **2PSI** will be leading their Advent celebration on **December 11 at 11:15 AM**.
- Our **Kindergarten Advent celebration** will be held on **December 16**. We are still coordinating a time with our Kindergarten team and will share that with families as soon as it is confirmed.

Santa's Anonymous Food Drive

- This year our food drive will run from **November 17–28** in support of Santa's Anonymous.
- We will be focusing on collecting specific items to help best meet the needs of families, such as:

- pancake mix/flour
 - pancake syrup
 - pasta and pasta sauce
 - canned soup
 - canned corn or green beans
 - canned fruit salad
 - More information will be shared with students and families soon. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support.
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Treasurer's Report

Ecole St Mary School Council Financial Report as of Nov 13, 2025

Bank Reconciliation

<u>Bank balance according to BMO</u>		\$9,415.57
<u>Less uncleared cheques</u>		
<u>Add uncleared deposits</u>		
<u>Bank Balance</u>	November 13, 2025	<u>\$9,415.57</u>

Income and Expense Activity

Opening Bank Balance Beginning of Year		\$9,415.57
Opening Student Fee Balance		\$2,494.61
Student Fees 2025/26		\$1,512.00
Income and Expense Activity		
Subway	1,287.72	\$0.00
Tshirts	1,723.14	
		<u>(\$1,723.14)</u>
<u>Book balance = School Council available funds</u>		<u>\$11,699.04</u>

Commitments for 2025/2026 School Year

Field Trip donations \$100 ea x 13 classes		\$1,300.00
Henderson Year End trip		\$1,000.00
Grade 6 camp		\$2,000.00
Gym upgrades		\$2,000.00
Ipads		\$1,200.00
Tshirts for 2025/26 year	\$3500- deposit of \$1723.14	<u>\$1,776.86</u>
		<u>\$9,276.86</u>
	Funds after commitments	\$2,422.18

- **Grade 6 Camp Funds (2024):** Were not withdrawn because camp fundraising fully covered expenses. Funds must be used as intended before accessing School Council

budget.

- **iPad Purchase:** Expense still to be reflected in budget.
 - **Homeroom Increase:** Budget to be adjusted to reflect additional classes.
 - **Current Balance:** Approx. \$2,000 remaining (excluding Carnival and Turkey Dinner commitments).
 - **Motion:** Jeremy motioned to allocate \$1,500 for the Christmas Turkey Dinner. Seconded by Andrea. Approved.
 - **Questions & Clarifications:**
 - Hot lunch donations: Rare but do occur.
 - Turkey Dinner serves ~450–500 individuals.
 - Possibility of adding a donation option for hot lunches will be explored through School Cash Online.
 - School ensures equitable distribution for students in need.
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4. New Business

- **Agenda Suggestions:** Contact Brody to add discussion items.
- **Carnival Planning:**
 - Food, silent auction, and prize table are organized.
 - Volunteer sign-up will go out via Google Form.
 - Candy has been picked up by Savio.
 - Silent auction donations are strong. Suggestions made to thank donors via Facebook and at the event.
 - Better promotion of silent auction purpose and impact encouraged.
- **Hot Lunch Updates:**

- November: Subway.
 - January: Heather to coordinate.
 - **Mural Project Proposal (Jeremy):**
 - **Grants:** Two options through Allied Arts Council.
 - *Heritage Grant:* ~\$9,000, geared toward Alberta history.
 - *AFA Residency Grant:* ~\$15,000, supports in-school artist residency. Grant writing support provided.
 - **Additional Support:** Jeremy's business may assist with 25% of remaining costs.
 - **Deadline:** May 1.
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5. Samaritan Stars (Shoutouts)

- **Heather:** Camille, Kiera, Justin
 - **Megan:** All ESM teachers
 - **Kiera:** Parents for their patience
 - **Wendy:** Davorka and Temi – Welcome!
 - **Tammy:** Jeremy and Jodi – Thanks for all your work
 - **Jeremy:** BLAST program staff
 - **Kiera:** Carnival Committee – thank you!
 - **Kiera:** Heather – for chairing the meeting
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6. Next Meeting

Date: December 11

Format: School Council Social

Location: Moxie's, 6:30 PM

7. Closing Prayer - Led by Justin