

St. Martin de Porres Catholic School – School Council Meeting Notes – Oct 8, 2025

Notes:

- The Principal's update, delivered by Chad this month, is not included here, but will be added after it is shared with Council.
- In many cases the meeting notes are not in chronological order, but rather are consolidated by topic. So, if a topic was discussed multiple times in the meeting, it won't appear under multiple headings.
- Takeaways are highlighted in yellow.
- Measures voted on are highlighted in orange.

Getting Started

Opening Prayer was read.

Voted to accept minutes from last meeting. Passed.

Principal's Report / Vice-Principals Report

Principal Report - Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Since we last met, we had a very successful Program Night on Thursday, September 18th. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity for families to meet our amazing team of educators.

Acadience Screening has been completed for all Grade 1 and Grade 2 students, with the assistance of Board staff that were here on Friday, September 19th.

Board staff was also at the school on Tuesday, October 7th to complete Math screening activities with the Grade 1 students.

Our Grade 6 students had their Church Retreat at Holy Redeemer Parish with Cathy Koss on Tuesday, September 23rd. They enjoyed the activities, discussions and pizza lunch that was provided, as well as the opportunity to explore and learn more about the church.

Orange Shirt Day was recognized on September 30th, with Primary and Junior assemblies. It was a very meaningful experience for the students that was wonderfully led by Ms. Surgeon and Mrs. Pattyson's classes.

We had our Terry Fox Run on Thursday, October 2nd. We had great participation, with \$2340 raised for the Terry Fox Foundation.

We were very pleased, with the support of Mattamy Homes and the Ottawa 67's, to secure 200 tickets and have the opportunity to send many families from the school to the 67's game on the afternoon of Saturday, October 4th. Many students shared with me that their family had a wonderful time at the game.

At the request of the Council, the information for the Pizza order was sent out this week. The deadline for placing orders is Friday, October 10th.

We look forward to our Thanksgiving Liturgy, which is taking place in the gym on Thursday, October 9th at 11:00am.

A reminder that Friday is a PD Day and Monday is a holiday, due to Thanksgiving, so it is a four day weekend for the students.

Our Cross Country was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 7th at the Terry Fox Complex, but it had to be cancelled due to the rain. The Board has quickly rescheduled the event to Monday October 20th.

The individual school photos will now be taken on Friday, October 17th by Edge Imaging. We will be having retakes and class photos taken by Edge Imaging on Thursday, November 27th.

Mr Farrell - Teacher's Update

Nothing presently raised by school staff to bring to council's attention.

Council asks for update on the school play.

School Christmas Play

First rehearsal has already happened.

Financial support is still needed. \$510 in expenses thus far, Mr Farrell has personally paid these bills. Estimates \$600 total cost.

Council asks if Mr. Farrell is planning to charge for tickets/attendance. Mr. Farrell has not yet decided. This might be a fundraising opportunity or food drive opportunity.

Council member offers to help with Hair, if desired/needed.

Parish Update

Youth group continues this Friday (Gr. 6-8).

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Families are encouraged to pray the Rosary together.

First Communion update.

Cathy can take any questions parents have via email.

2024-25 Year-End Budget Report

Estimated revenue from pizza is forthcoming. We should know shortly after the payment window closes (Friday Oct 10 2025).

Food Programs

Pizza Days

Attendee raises concern that Angel Food program did not appear in the SchoolCash Online. Council member takeaway, Request the Angel Food feature be activated. Should remain open for the remainder of the school year.

Volunteers are needed for the first Pizza Day (Oct 15 2025). Volunteers note that in ideal conditions the work can be done in one hour, by one volunteer, if two admins are available.

Two attendees have volunteered for Oct 15 2025.

Council will create a volunteer list within the GDrive (and also include the Popcorn volunteering) and share.

Outstanding question: What to do with the leftover pizza boxes.

Council Member raises that two people reached out with issues that occurred with SchoolCash Online. One has been resolved. Suggests that in term 2 and 3 we send some instructions with how to interact with the site.

Council Member raises: Can we look at new Pizza vendors?

Secretary's notes on relevant selection criteria mentioned: Needs gluten-free and vegan options, needs to have the school within their delivery area, cost should ideally not exceed current costs with Jojos, and needs to have Wednesdays available (not booked with another school).

Council Member to reach out to other School Councils for their impressions, experiences, and perspectives on the vendors we are considering. Whitney recommends Ed reach out to Craig to get in touch with those groups.

Same Member also commits to review the Pizza Vendor data sheet and then reach out to attendees and Council Members for any missing info.

Attendee asks if we have warned Jojos about the recurring raw food issue. Council Member notes that yes Jojos is aware and is also aware that we are reviewing other potential vendors for the remainder of the school year after term 1.

McDonalds

Attendee shares an update. McDonalds on Hazeldean can do the fundraiser. They can only do Tuesday or Wednesday from 4pm-8pm as long as there is no event at the Canadian Tire Center that night and they don't already have a fundraiser booked. 20% of the revenue (profit?) will go back to Council.

Attendees agree to avoid scheduling on a Wednesday, to prevent overlap with Pizza Days.

After some discussion, attendees agree on potential dates of Nov 4 or Nov 11.

Attendee to reach out to McDonald's about these dates.

Popcorn Days

Another successful format from last year. Needs 1-2 volunteers the day before the popcorn is handed out.

Fridays worked last year.

Council votes to launch Popcorn Days on Fridays.

Question asked: Some local schools have more food days. Curious why we don't have more.

Response: Past experience taught Council that there were a lot of families in the school that could not afford a larger variety of paid lunch days. Another attendee notes that volunteers have been sparse since Covid-19.

Chad notes that the individually wrapped food vendors (ex: Subway) makes things easier for volunteering.

Other Food Program Questions

Question raised, why don't Burrito Days require a vote?

Answer: That is a school program and not run through School Council. So, we don't get budget out of those programs, don't run them, etc.

50th Anniversary

Council member asks if there are any updates on this front.

Chad says not yet, but more to come.

New Ideas for Using the Existing Budget

Love 2 Grove

Chad shares that one of the Grade One teachers has asked about potentially funding a week of dance lessons from a company called Love 2 Groove. If we book quickly, we can get a discount. Students would learn over the course of a week and present a dance at the end of that week.

New Skating Equipment

Council Member suggests the possibility of spending on some new pairs of skates for the winter skating program. Chad notes that several helmets are also reaching their CSA expiry dates and will no longer be used by the school.

Martial Arts

Chair provides an update on a local Kickboxing Gym and their request to be considered for an at-school, at-gym, or after-school program. Would like to give them some response.

Various attendees share their perspectives. These include: Concerns about liability, cost, location, and gym culture. Chad shares that there is a vetting process the board has for vendors/service-providers.

Chair will follow up with them. No immediate plans to do business with this vendor.

Hot Chocolate (Winter Carnival Day) & Napkins (Pizza Day)

Costco hot chocolate is allergen-free and the kids love it. Also 4 adult volunteers needed for Winter Carnival Day (Date TBD).

Attendee to buy the Napkins and Hot Chocolate. Council Member will message Attendee after checking the leftover hot chocolate mix we already have at the school.

Discussion and Voting

Treasurer suggests council votes to earmark [confirm amount with Treasurer] for fall dance activities (Love 2 Groove) and for Physical Activity Events + Equipment.

Council Member notes that we always set aside money for Summer Fun Day (inflatables and games around the yard). That money is already budgeted and shouldn't be impacted by the options being discussed today.

Note: If we buy food it cannot be for the teachers. Sounds harsh, but Chad endorses this position. Council money is for the students.

There is about 8k in the Council account right now. In the near future some money will be going out of the account as we pay for pizza, then some money will be coming in as we get our profit from the Pizza Days program.

Vote on earmarking [confirm amount with treasurer?] money for Fall Activity & Equipment Program. Vote Passes.

Vote on granting Mr. Farrel's School Christmas Play a budget of 750 dollars. Vote Passes.

Note: Council has purposefully put some buffer room into Mr. Farrell's budget that is above his own estimates so that he has some freedom of decision making if prices/plans change.

Vote on 500 dollar earmark for Costco supplies: Napkins for Pizza Days and Hot Chocolate for Winter Carnival Day

Vote on next meeting Nov 5. One member cannot attend. Vote Passes.

Roundtable & Adjournment

All Council members attending virtually are asked to forward their email addresses to the School Council address.

Treasurer will make an official report on funds/cash-flow next meeting.

(Virtual Meeting Ends)

Attendee expresses interest in remaining council positions. Plan to vote on new council positions next month. We will need to prepare an agenda, additional voting can be added to the agenda.