

School Council Meeting Notes – Dec 3, 2025

Secretary's Note: Several topics are compiled within sections, even though during the meeting those may have come up at different times. Highlights are also used to mark takeaways, where relevant.

Land Acknowledgement & Prayer

Read by Mr. Hopewell.

Discussion on Agenda & Preamble

No set agenda, but some Council members and attendees have items to raise along with the normal set updates from the school staff.

Need to vote on several things, including voting on accepting last meeting's minutes. Secretary notes that the minutes are available in the drive.

Council attendees are counted. We do not have a quorum and cannot vote.

Craig will reach out to Council Chair, see if we can do votes online.

Craig and Secretary agree on running the AI Scribe. Secretary will still take notes, but we'll use this as a test of the feature for future meetings. Secretary to review the AI Scribe results before next meeting.

Principal's Update

As we are now in December, we are in the season of Advent and we have started our Advent Project, with a canned food drive for the Kanata Food Cupboard.

For our support of our community members, this year, based on past practice and staff recommendations, we are looking to support 20 families. I have been in discussions with our contact from Ciena and unfortunately, they won't be able to provide support this year.

Our goal will be to provide a \$100 Walmart or Superstore gift card to each of the 20 families. As part of our canned food drive, we have encouraged families to make donations via School Cash Online to help support families in our community. We would ask that the remainder of the \$2000 be provided by the School Council.

This Friday, we have a PD Day, where the teachers will be involved in a variety of professional development activities, including collaboration between grade teams and an anti-racism PD session from the school board.

The volleyball tournaments were very successful for our two teams. They really enjoyed the experience.

We look forward to the Grade 3 team leading the Advent Liturgy with Father Marc on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 11:00am in the gym. Community members are welcome to attend. Before

the liturgy, from 10:00am to 11:00am, Father Marc will be having reconciliation with students whose parents have signed them up.

The St. Martin de Porres Christmas Market is back! If you have any items to donate, please send them in with your child (or drop them at the office) from Friday, November 28th to Monday, December 8th. We will be collecting gifts for parents, toys, board games, and books. Please do not send in any damaged items.

Our Christmas Market will be held during the school day on Thursday, December 11th. The grade 6 students are using this opportunity to fundraise for the Grade 6 graduation field trip. Please send in \$1 or \$2 (your choice) for your child to pick items from the Christmas Market, or make a contribution on School Cash Online. Your child's homeroom teacher will collect this money from December 1st to December 8th. They can also bring money on the day of the Christmas Market.

The following week, we will have Mr. Farrell's production of the Little Drummer Dude. We look forward to the performances on Dec. 16th and Dec. 17th. In his teacher report, Mr. Farrell will be talking about the performance times and other details about this exciting event.

We will also be having a Spirit Week, the last week of school, with themes similar to last year, which will be shared by the Spirit Committee very soon, so there is lots of time for planning.

Remote Attendee raises that School Cash Online donations go up to 5 dollars per student, other sources mention 3 dollars per student. What's the max number of items?

Craig will talk to the Grade 6 Team and follow up.

Some Additional Updates from the Vice-Principal, Chad Hopewell

- Skating Program:
 - Expected to start Jan 14, 2026.
 - Chad counted the helmets, we have about 30, only 10 of those still have a valid CSA date.
 - Some money was used to repair the skate sharpener with a new grinding wheel. Chad has been learning how to use it.
 - Love 2 Groove dance program is coming in 2026.
 - Hoping to designate sports areas in the yard and get equip for these. Soccer nets for one area, other type of sports equipment in another area, etc. Also hoping Council can fund Winter sports equipment.

Mr. Farrell Teacher's Update

No teachers have approached Mr. Farrell with information they wanted to share since the last meeting.

Reminder that one of our teachers saved some outdoor play equipment from last year. Some outdoor funds have additionally been allocated to the Kinders.

Food drive is underway, always starts slow. Getting the message out.

Food can be brought to teachers, food will be kept on display out front as another reminder to everyone.

TAKEAWAY: Ask Social Media Coordinator to mention the food drive in the Facebook Group if they haven't already.

Additional Updates Related to The Little Drummer Dude

Doing pretty good. The kids are motivated and dedicated. Haven't reached out, but will need help soon.

2 afternoon showings, one evening show. Evening show will be the biggest show available to the public, about 300 people, 100 available at the afternoon shows. Council can potentially fund refreshments.

Items that need help: Printing Tickets, Printing a Program

Attendees: Also a good opportunity to print info on joining council, volunteer for the school, and joining the Facebook Group.

School Admin has turned on the SchoolCash Online ticket buying. There is no charge for booking tickets, but each attendee should bring something for the food drive.

Craig: Will help a lot with the food drive. If Council wants, they can try to recruit new attendees and council members.

Social Media Coordinator – We can promote on the FB Group. QR Code would make this easy.

Craig: Great idea.

Refreshment idea: Lemonade would be a good idea. **Council discusses a potential budget of 500 dollars to be voted on.**

TAKEAWAY: Look into posters for FB Group, Promoting Council, maybe Promoting Volunteering, maybe a program as well. QR codes would be ideal.

Craig: We can provide some promotional photos for these.

Pizza Days

A poll was taken on the FB Group regarding satisfaction with Jojos. Majority seem to be happy.

Attendee suggests that we plan a vote on Jojos in December (before the next semester). Next semester of Pizza Days would start on/around Jan 21, 2026.

Assuming the vote goes through, Secretary suggests we provide an update with the announcement of the next semester of Pizza Days. Announcement would explain the work done to review available vendors. Show a little bit the work we did before retaining Jojos (assuming the votes go that way).

Secretary additionally notes that he will vote in favour of retaining Jojos. The Pizza Days are working very smoothly, other school councils generally shared favourable reviews of Jojos, and Secretary thinks the stability is valuable.

Popcorn

Info on pricing was forwarded to Council email.

Treasurer can look at how it work before and set it back up for this year.

Craig: Yea we can set that up.

We will need volunteers. Attendee offers to handle it, “No problem”.

Craig: We tend to distribute popcorn in the AM. Better for the juniors.

A Question from a Remote Attendees: What about Hotdog Days?

We had some last year, but it was run by the Grade 6 classes as a fundraiser.

Council has rules about the number of events where we are able to serve “unhealthy” food.

We can look into more food programs.

Winter Carnival

Do we have a date?

Craig: No, but we will discuss on Friday (Dec 5, PD Day).

Next Council Meeting

Any Wednesday in Jan appears to work. A vote will be sent out for next Council Meeting date.

Update on Vulnerable Sector Checks and Volunteering from Secretary

Secretary: Did check the VSCs of myself, my wife, and two other volunteers with the Office Admin and was able to confirm all four had valid VSCs. We can re-do this anytime we need to.

Lunchlady Program

The Secretary notes that the Office Admin can launch this program. The secretary spoke with the Office Admin earlier in the afternoon, she noted that there are many parents asking about Lunchlady and she believes we should launch it ASAP.

Craig: Will talk to the admin and email everyone tomorrow.

Christmas Hampers

Attendee offers to go to Wal-Mart and Real Canadian Superstore and ask about Gift cards

Craig will forward a request letter to be shared with these vendors.

Council to vote on 2k earmark for gift cards.

50th Anniversary of St Martin De Porres Elementary School

Chad presented 3 different logos. Main feedback: Attendees seem to agree that moose are adorable.

Summary of items to vote on online

1. 500 dollar earmark for Little Drummer Dude refreshments
2. 2000 dollar earmark for Gift Cards for Xmas Hampers
3. Vote in a Chair and/or Co-Chair, depending on Craig's update on current Chair.
4. Wednesday in January date for next Council meeting
5. Retention/Rejection of Jojos as Pizza Day vendor