

St. Mother Teresa Catholic School Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 19, 2026

In attendance:

Steven Boucher (Chair), Karen Jacyno (Vice Chair), Wanda Symes (Principal), Tiziana Balice (Treasurer), Deborah Imarah (CSPA Representative), Maria Perez (Parish Representative)

Parent Representatives:

Karen Hennessy, Deborah Imarah, Erinn Ladouceur, Lindsay Wyllie, Susan Kasumba, Davina Mullaly, Charleen Bortot, Andrea Shaffer, Anna Noussis

Regrets: Sarah de Boer (Secretary)

Welcome & call to order at 6:01

Steven Boucher

Prayer, Land Acknowledgement

Steven Boucher

Approval of Agenda Items

Karen, Andrea & Tiziana

- Steven Boucher motioned for approval of the agenda. Approved, no revisions or omissions noted.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Karen, Andrea & Tiziana

- Steven Boucher motioned for approval of the previous minutes. Approved, no revisions or omissions noted.

Business Brought Forward

Steven Boucher

- Nil

Treasurer's Report

Tiziana

- We had to cancel the Paint Night due to low participation. A few fundraisers to consider but there was agreement on a pizza lunch and a Trivia Night.
- Considering a pizza lunch on Friday Jan 23rd for the grade 7 & 8s since the caf is closed. Wanda to gage interest tomorrow from the kids and to connect with Tiziana, Davina and Maria on Wednesday/Thursday with details.
- Considering a Trivia Night at the Jolly Taxpayer restaurant. Tiziana to get additional details from restaurant, Erinn and Lindsay.

Chair / Vice Chair Update

Steven Boucher

- Nil
-

Principal's Report

Wanda Symes

1. 9-12 Semester 1 Exams

SMT SEM 1 EXAM SCHEDULE - JANUARY 2025

Attendance on exam days is mandatory. A medical note must be provided if sudden illness occurs. Exams begin promptly at 8:45 am.

- Thurs, Jan 22 - Grade 10-12 Period 1 exam and Grade 9 Period 1 RST
- Fri, Jan 23 - Grade 10-12 Period 2 exam and Grade 9 Period 2 RST
- Mon, Jan 26 - Grade 10-12 Period 3 exam and Grade 9 Period 3 RST
- Tues, Jan 27 - Grade 10-12 Period 4 exam and Grade 9 Period 4 RST
- Wed, Jan 28 - Exam Buffer day in case of inclement weather ('snow day' - bus cancellation)
- Thurs, Jan 29 - Credit Intervention Day (students will be invited to attend, if required)
- Fri, Jan 30 - PD Day
- Mon, Feb 2 - Semester 2 begins

Grade 9 students do NOT have exams. They are expected to attend for approximately 90 minutes (8:45-10:15 am), depending on how much time it takes for them to complete the assessment, for each of their 4 classes. See schedule to the left for the dates.

ALL students are expected to exit the building promptly upon completion of their RST/exam as there is no supervision for students afterwards. School-designated OC Transpo buses are running as per the regular schedule so students will need to be picked up OR take the regular OC bus home.

In the event of a 'snow day' and bus cancellation, the exams following would be bumped back by one day. For example: if the second day of exams (on Friday) is a snow day, then subsequent exams would take place on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

2. Students Turning 18 Years Old

As of Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Compass, the parent portal provider, will have blocked access for parents and guardians of students 18 and older. This is a legal requirement. Parents and students who are or will turn 18 during this school year will receive the following emails on January 14. This information will be sent out centrally.

- Parent Email
- Student Email

Parents who have been blocked in Compass can regain access by asking their child to log into the student's portal account and sign the Over 18 - Parent Portal Consent Access. Once that

form is submitted, their access will be restored with the overnight refresh. For students with special education needs, who are unable to provide informed consent, the school OA can access the blocked parent account and, with the parent's consent, can sign the 18+ consent form on behalf of the parent.

To access a parent portal account:

- Follow the steps in this video until you are in the Parent Portal Preview (1:35 mark)
- Click on "Forms" on the left-hand side to access the links to the live Laserfiche forms
- Complete and submit the 18+ consent form on behalf of the parent.

3. OCSB's 2nd Student Census - Feb 24th - March 13th

Each student in the OCSB in grades 4 through 12 can complete the census at school. Answers are voluntary and confidential. The information collected will help us:

- Plan programs and services that support student success.
- Understand language, cultural, and identity needs in our schools.
- Improve resources for students with diverse backgrounds.
- Guide equity and inclusion work.
- Identify areas where additional support is needed; and
- Create schools where every student feels safe, welcome, and included.

Want to learn more? Parent Engagement Session:

- Virtually: Thurs, Jan 29th at Noon or 7:00 PM
- Sign up for a session [HERE](#) using the same email address you will use to access the Google Meet.
- Translation will be provided automatically through closed captioning.
- In-Person:
 - Wed, Feb 4th at St. Paul High School (6:30 PM)
 - Thurs, Feb 5th Lester B Pearson High School (7:30 PM)
 - On-site child minding will be provided.
 - Need more info? [Board Census Webpage and FAQ](#)
 - Note: If you prefer that your child not participate, an opt-out form will be available from Feb 2nd - 13th on our website, and a link will be sent directly to your email in February.

4. Summer School Preview 2026 - July 2 – July 23, 2026

- Registration: Registration will officially open on Friday, March 13th, 2026.
- Hours: Summer school hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.
- In-Person Reach Ahead Locations: St. Pius X Catholic High School (Central) and St. Matthew Catholic High School (East).
- Credit Recovery: St. Pius X, St. Mother Teresa, St. Patrick, St. Matthew, and Holy Trinity.
- Skills Builder Courses: English Numeracy & Literacy Support or Core French Literacy Support will be offered at St. Pius X and St. Matthew.
- Indigenous Education: This will be offered at St. Pius X.
- Conversational English & Literacy Development: Offered at St. Pius X, this is a 55-hour non-credit course for students entering Grades 9-12 who are beginner multilingual learners (ELD and ESL AO/BO) and have not yet earned a mainstream

English credit.

■ **Course Requirements:** All courses are dependent on enrolment. Students are required to bring their own laptop.

5. Reminders for Parents:

Students are expected to leave school by 3:10 unless participating in a supervised extra-curricular activity or peer tutoring. Students should not be waiting after school for a ride home.

Parking lot - now that snowy weather is here, more parents are dropping off and picking up - make sure to do so on the east side of the building and encourage your child to walk a block (no access to the front of the building between 8-9 am and 2:30-3:00 - new signs being ordered to show times to parents

Grad Photo Retakes - February 9 and 10 (book online)

Ski Club Date Change - new date is February 19 (departing SMT at 1:45pm)

High School Parent Information Night - February 11th at 6p

Catholic School Parent Association (CSPA) Report

Steven Boucher

- Next general meeting will be Wed Jan 28th - it is virtual and on Principal's roles (leadership & parent engagement and math)
- Feb meeting is planning and facilities and student senate trustees will be present.
- Feb 11th there is a meeting on French pathways

Parish Report

Maria Perez

- As previously noted, Masses for St. Andrew Parish are taking place at 5:00pm on Saturdays, and 10:00am on Sundays, at the St. Joseph High School Gymnasium (Confession will take place from 4:15-4:45 pm on Saturday, and from 9:15-9:45 am on Sunday)
- Sunday Mass is also live-streamed at 10:55 am by visiting <https://saintmonicaparish.ca/>
- Set up for Mass is at 4:00 pm on Saturday, and take down is after the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. We are always looking for new volunteers, call the parish office for information. **High School students looking for community service hours are welcome!**
- Older students and adults seeking to complete their Sacraments of Initiation and or wishing to become Catholic are welcome to contact Janice Pilgrim at 613-723-9767 x 1 or secretary@saintandrewparish.ca for information. Weekly RCIA meetings are being held on Wednesday evenings at St. Monica Church.

Upcoming events:

- January 23 at 7:00 pm: Youth Group Faith in Action- Pathfinders, to meet at 7:00 pm at St. Monica Parish Hall.

- January 24 at 7:00 pm: Euchre Night at St. Monica Parish Hall. Doors open at 6:30 pm, play begins at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$5 per player.
- January 24- February 8: CWL Annual Valentines Day Raffle. The 1st prize is a Valentine's Day Basket with various goodies and the 2nd Prize is teddy bear and a gift card. Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5 (cash only), sold every Saturday and Sunday. Draw takes place on Feb. 8th after the 10:00 am Mass. Proceeds will be given to the parish.
- January 30 at 6:15 pm: Movie Night at St. Monica, featuring Forever Young (1992).
- February 8: The CWL will be hosting a Coffee Social after the 10:00 am Mass. You are invited to bring goodies to share!

Other business:

Steven Boucher

- Nil

Meeting adjourned: 6:43 p.m.

Next meeting: April 20th, 2026