



School Council Meeting

5427 - 50th Street, Taber, Alberta T1G 1M2
Phone: (403)223-3165 Fax: (403)223-4233

Date: Sept 24, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Attendance:

Name	Position	In Attendance	Regrets
Michelle Nevil	Principal	•	•
Josh Van Uden	Associate Principal	•	•
Laurie Kerkhoff	Chairperson	•	•
Alison Goodwin	Vice-Chairperson	•	•
Sue Sawatzky	Secretary	•	•
Nicole Elliot	Treasurer	•	•
Tom Machacek	Trustee	•	•
Teagan Church	Student Rep	•	•
Hawley Lequiere	Teacher Rep	•	•
Deacon Brian Kinahan Le/Jason Baier	Parish Deacon or Parish Council Rep	•	•
Tamara Miyanaga	Community Rep	•	•
Mandy Cornet		•	•
Elizabeth Ostrop		•	•
Alex Ostrop		•	•
		•	•

<h2 style="text-align: center;">AGENDA ITEMS</h2>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order Items 2. Reports and discussion 3. Other Business: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Set meeting dates b) Donation for Academic Awards 4. <i>Additions to Agenda</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Welcome Packages</i> b) 5. Next Meeting Date 6. Adjournment
1. Call to Order <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Opening prayer and treaty acknowledgment b. Welcome and introductions. c. Approval of Agenda d. Approval of last meeting's minutes 	<p>MEETING NOTES AND ACTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Opening Prayer led by:</u> Josh Van Uden <p>Treaty Acknowledgement: Holy Spirit Catholic Schools acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Nations and the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Welcome and Introductions c. Motion to approve agenda: Mandy Cornet 2nd: d. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 17th, 2025 meeting: Sue Sawatzky <p>Motion to approve these minutes as circulated by <u>Laurie Kerkhoff</u> on Oct 2, 2025</p>
2. A. Principal's Report- <u>Michelle Nevil</u>	<p>Welcome to the 2025/2026 School Year!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enrollment is currently 174 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11.8 FTE Teachers, 5 Intern Teachers, 3 EAs, 1 FSLC, 1 Librarian, 1.5 FTE office staff, 1.6 FTE custodians, and one SRO - Welcome and Congratulations to Sue Sawatzky who is the librarian at SMS and SPT. - Welcome and Congratulations to Matt Marchand new assistant custodian at SPT and SMS - Welcome Back to Constable Chris

- New Families from Mexico, Dubai, and Africa
- Different Cell Phone Policy for Jr High
- Ministerial Orders that have affected our Processes
 - There has been a change in fairness and safety in sport in regards to school sports. Parents must declare that their daughter was born a biological female. [Bill 29 Act and Regulation](#)
 - Student Names & Sexuality-[Bill 27](#)
 - Human Sexuality → Parents will now have to opt in rather than opt out, CEC will get the letters to us
 - Pronouns and Names → For a student less than 16 years in age school will need parent consent to change name and pronoun. Students 16 years and older, the parents only need to be notified.
 - Literary Works in our School Library and Classroom Libraries with new [Ministerial Order #034/2025](#)
 - Must inform parents of content in classroom libraries
 - Images of explicit depictions of sexual acts will be removed by Oct. 31
 - Capital Projects:
 - Gym audio/visual system
 - Gaga Ball Pit

2. B. Associate Principal's Report-
Josh Van Uden

Associate Principals Report
DREC Update

- Friday Masses are continuing
- Opening School Mass was a great success
 - Our new choir was amazing.
- Community Garden was yesterday.
 - More parents would be great next year.

Faith Plan 2025-2028 – Open Wide the Doors!

- Know God (2025-2026) - Year One of our new faith plan is focusing on the call to Know God. There are a variety of tools to support the implementation of the plan.
 - I will go through this in more depth at the October Meeting

	<p>Catholic Education Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Education Week (October 18-24, 2025) - This year's theme is "Anchored in Christ, A Beacon of Hope," which is based on Hebrews 6: 18-19. • GrACE Summit - there will be a provincial GrACE summit for students in grade 9-11 on Friday, October 24 in Sherwood Park. Due to the logistics that are related to this (transportation and hotels, chaperones, etc.), the division will make arrangements to host a central gathering virtual at each school. <p><u>IEL Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRM Continuing on Friday's • IPP are being created <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pd on Monday <p><u>Other:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports in Full swing • Friend of St. Mary's Meeting Oct 1 at 7pm
<p>2. C. a. Chairperson Report Laurie Kerkhoff</p> <p>2. C. b. Vice Chairperson Report Alison Goodwin</p>	<p>ASCA eNews</p> <p>The ASCA 2025 - 2026 Learning Opportunities Brochure is now available! Learning Opportunities are delivered to school councils (regardless of ASCA Membership status) in a fee structure aligned with the Alberta School Council Engagement (ASCE) Grant. Check the Learning Opportunities Annual Calendar, and book now! ASCA Learning Opportunities and Support Services Brochure</p> <p>New* School Council Engagement Guide School Council Advocacy: Navigating Elections - Municipal, Provincial & Federal</p>

The next municipal general [election](#) will be held on October 20, 2025.

[ASCA Access Pass](#) (click link)

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 and suicide prevention

Family Wellness

[Family Connections™ Program link](#)

Sashbear Expert Education Series

Sashbear works across Canada to educate families, communities, service providers and researchers of the important role and burden borne by families of those with emotion dysregulation. Together, we are making waves for mental health.

Topics include:

- Lived experience — living with borderline personality disorder
- Skills for family members — learning about dialectical thinking, relationship mindfulness, validation, and more
- Mental health disorders — what does emotional dysregulation look like when someone also has another mental health disorder such as PTSD or OCD
- Concerning behaviours — Gain understanding and skills to cope if your loved one is dealing with substance use, self-harm, or an eating disorder
- Trauma — Learn about the intersection of trauma and BPD. Recognize the potential and impact of trauma on family members
- Suicide, grief and loss
- Evidence-based treatment modalities — Dialectical Behaviour Therapy, Mentalization Based Therapy, Radically Open DBT, Mindfulness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indigenous cultural safety and awareness <p>Sashbear's programs are provided free of charge to participants, thanks to generous donors and supporters.</p>
2. D. Treasurer Report- Nicole Elliot	<p>St Mary's School Council funds</p> <p>Opening balance as of Sept 1, 2025 was \$607.75</p> <p>Current balance as of Sept. 22, 2025 is \$872.65</p>
2. E. Trustee Report- Tom Machacek	
2. F. Teachers Report Hawley Lequiere	

<p>2. G. Student Report- Teagan Church/Elizabeth Ostrup</p>	<p>Leadership is planning activities to help fill the time that was taken up by phone use. Students are adjusting, although they aren't happy with the change.</p>
<p>2. H. Parish Report- Deacon Brian Kinahan or Jason Baier</p>	<p>Deacon is working hard to build a bridge between the school and parish. Encouraging connection and communication. CWL will be helping with soup day at St. Mary's. Aira will add particular items to the parish bulletin to promote school activities. Ie: band concert.</p>
<p>2. I. Community Member Report- Tamara Miyanaga</p>	<p>Thank-you to St. Mary's for your dedication to the community garden. Over 21K pounds of food was harvested from the garden, and provided to foodbanks throughout Alberta.</p> <p>October 1, 6:30pm - Taber Chamber All Candidates Forum at the Taber Legion</p> <p>October 20: Municipal Elections. Town of Taber There is advanced voting dates - check the website. Barnwell. MD of Taber</p> <p>Taber & District Health Foundation: seeking a board member, Fall Campaign October 13-24</p> <p>September 27: Taber Public Library & Eagle Spirit Nest: National Truth and Reconciliation afternoon film. 1:30pm Taber</p> <p>November 14 Winterfest Taber & Chamber</p> <p>November 14 & 15: Taber Library Jingle Sale - volunteers needed</p> <p>December 2: Foodbank Stuff Bus: Volunteers needed</p> <p>Taber Public Library: Annual costs have been cut in half.</p> <p>Volunteer Opportunities</p> <p>Alberta Health Services - Taber Hospital</p> <p>Clearview Lodge</p> <p>Lindenview</p> <p>Taber Special Needs</p> <p>Taber Food Bank</p> <p>Taber Lost Paws</p>

3. Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Set meeting dates B. Donation for Academic Awards 	<p>A. 2025-2026 School Calendar Meeting dates were set for</p> <p>Oct 2025 - 21 st 5pm Nov 2025 - 18th 5pm Dec 2025 - skip Jan 2026- 20th 5pm Feb 2026- 24th 5pm Mar 2026 - 24th 5pm Apr 2026- 21st 5pm May 2026- 19th 5pm</p> <p>June 2026- year end supper</p> <p>B. St. Mary's School council received a letter from the school requesting donation to the academic awards. The letter was circulated. Motion was made by Laurie Kerkhoff to donate \$300 towards academic awards. Motion was second by Alex Ostrop. Motion carried.</p>
4. Additions to Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Welcome Packages 	<p>Welcome packages for new families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation from the parish - Information about school council - Town map with local spots highlighted - Coupons or gift certificates from local businesses - A phone call or a personal connection with the new families. - Have a SC presence at band concert, awards night, tournaments. Be seen at events happening in the school. -
Next Meeting:	Oct 21, 5pm
Adjournment:	8:20 pm