

St. Thomas Aquinas School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

Attendees:

2 STA Staff In-Person: Anna Gomez, Ferdinand Filiplic

5 In-Person Attendees: Victoria Kuras, Adam Brown, Melissa Gibson, Carol Caines, Janice David

15 Online Attendees: Lincy Cecili, Aba Sapon-Amoah, Onyinye Nze, Tina Mtshiya, Alma Rodriguez, Amy Paris, Oluwasegun Ogunfowokan, Chelsey Howat, Omo Tubosun, Amy Brenneis, Anuoluwapo Oluseyi, Chinonso Amakiri, Bernardo Castillo & 2 other online attendees.

Call to Order @ 6:18pm by Adam Brown

Prayer & Land Acknowledgement

Review of Previous Minutes: Approved by Carol C. & seconded by Janice D.

Principal Report

- We had a Wonderful December – Activities included: Christmas market, Dreams for Kids campaign (Raised \$3621.37), St. Vincent de Paul donations, Advent Celebration, Krispy Kreme & Mochi Donuts (provided by parent council)
- Elementary Running Club began – Running Club Games on Jan 19th
- Jr. High Basketball began
- Elementary Volleyball to start in Feb
- Portables – still being worked on, hopefully complete this week (two gr. 6 classes will be moving into them)
- Mr. Palladino finishes at end of Jan. A current substitute teacher has been hired on to replace him (fte 0.2) starting in Feb
- Mrs. Schmidt returns from mat leave Feb 2.
- Bus helper initiative is being discussed. They would help kinder/grade 1 students get from their bus to their doors in the mornings. We currently have 16 busses coming to our school; callout for volunteers from older students – bus ambassadors – trying to figure out details & how it will work.

New Business

- School Council Meetings and Participation
 - How can we improve parent participation with School Council?
 - Make the meeting about something people care about
 - Reduce friction
 - Personally invite people (mass emails don't cut it)
 - Show that attendance leads to impact
 - Use multiple channels (and the right tone)
 - Give people a role
 - Start small and build consistency
 - If you have any feedback, please send an email to info@staparentsconnect.com

Open Floor - Questions

- Kindergarten door locks early some mornings – kids have been found wandering & unescorted, parents bang on door to get attention from teachers. Is there something that can be done about this? Does the intercom at that door work?
 - Mrs. Gomez will look into this
- 2 additional portables coming in spring, 1 classroom, 1 bathroom. Unofficial April installation.
- Portable doors opening triggers the grade 1 / 2 door to unlock. There is a timer that will relock the school door.
- Grade 1 / 2 door is very busy with all grade 1's, grade 2's & a grade 3 class entering there.
 - Mrs. Gomez will look into how busy this entrance is.
- 2026 enrollment – boundaries have changed. Kindergarten will stay at the school. Bussing remains for current students in neighbourhoods designated to Joan Carr.

Adjourn School Council Meeting – 6:42pm