

**Sir John A. Macdonald Junior High – School Council Meeting:**  
**Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025**

**Attendees**

Executive: Michelle Wood, Jennifer Razzo, Laurie Leier

School Members: Dwayne Thiessen, Wayne Diesel, Brooklyn Shill, Shelagh McConnell

Administration/Faculty: Michelle Hornby (Principal), Lee Jensen (AP), Bart Kwiatkowski (AP), Stephanie Howe (Gr. 7 Learning Leader)

Students: Amy L. and Miranda J.

**1. Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.**

Land Acknowledgement completed by Amy and Miranda

**2. Approval of agenda/minutes**

- Motion to accept September 16, 2025 Agenda  
Moved by Michelle, Seconded by Jennifer
- Motion to accept May 20, 2025 AGM Minutes  
Moved by Michelle, Seconded by Jennifer

**3. Student Council (STUCO) Updates**

**Past Events:**

- Assemblies: September 2 = Compassion and September 8 = SJAM Clubs
- Upcoming Events:
  - Thursday September 18: Welcome Back Dance: 'I am Canadian' on Thursday: teachers have volunteered for the dance, no parents needed. Wear red and white!
  - Terry Fox Run: Friday September 19
  - September 23, 24, 25: Tug of War at lunches: Grade 7, 8, 9
  - Wisdom Wednesday homeroom (indigenous teachings) + Together Thursday (beading art at lunch with Ms. Bethany)
  - Orange T-Shirt Day (Truth and Reconciliation): school wide event
  - Grade 7s: Restart Program (Building Leadership Skills)
  - Student Council: first meeting this past Monday. Council has approximately 20 students from grade 8 and 9
  - New Leadership teachers: Mr. Manery and Mr. Shelestynsky

**4. Department Report: Ms. Stephanie Howe**

- Restart Program for grade 7s: 10-week program through McMann during Humanities. Building connections is the preliminary theme. Other topics such as social media, substance use, sleep will be addressed.
- Growth mindset (challenges help me grow) vs. a fixed mindset (failure is the limit of my abilities)
- First month is helping students get organized: they want independence but parents and teachers help set routines and check ins.

**5. Administration Report: Ms. Michelle Hornby, Mr. Lee Jensen, Mr. Bart Kwiatkowski**

**Ms. Hornby**

- Number of students: 642, down from the high 600s last year (we are the overflow school for Nose Creek).
- Students/homeroom: Grade 7: 26 – 30; Grade 8: 28 – 30; Grade 9: 30 - 33

- Number of teachers: reduced by 4.0 teaching positions
- One job share: Bower/Ralph (Grade 7 SMATH)
- Support staff increased:
  - Main Office: Ms. Reynolds, Ms. McMurtry, Ms. Ibrahim
  - Library: Ms. Campbell
  - Ms. Barkley: Whole School EA
  - ALP: Ms. Hussein, Ms. Persaud, TBA (Sept – December)
  - PLP: Ms. Castle, Ms. Doiron (on leave)
  - *Breakfast Supervisor: Ms. Arkley*
  - *Braille Assistant: Ms. Bont*
- High level of learning needs: 68% of students

### **Learning Initiatives for 2025-26:**

- School Development Plan:
  - Writing (new addition: Neuro-linguistic Approach)
  - Diversity, equity, inclusion
- EAL (English as an Additional Language) Support Model
  - Whole school
  - EAL Strategist + Grade 8 HUM team + EAL teachers + Mr. Bart Kwiatkowski
- Truth and Reconciliation Commitment:
  - Spirit and Heart: Create opportunities for students, staff, and families to build and nurture learning relationships with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers that fosters a spirit of reciprocity.
  - Body: Plan with intention to build and nurture relationships and gather voices from Indigenous students and families through hosting events such as a Communi-I-Tea.
  - Mind: With intention, we will use authentic Indigenous resources and involve Indigenous educators to support rich and respectful learning. Staff will engage in ongoing professional learning, to increase understanding of Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

### **Mr. Jensen**

- Added Grade 9 Environmental Stewardship CTF Course: fun hands-on science; it replaces one of the 4 options
- Collaborative Response Model: Student data will support interventions
  - Tier 1: Universal Classroom Instruction: (Professional Learning Communities)  
What should we see in every classroom to support students?
  - Tier 2: Targeted Classroom Supports: (Collaborative Team Meetings)  
What supports should we see for some students?
  - Tier 3: Targeted School Supports: (School Learning Teams)  
What supports can be coordinated and/or supported by someone in the school?
  - Tier 4: Individualized Intensive Supports: (Area Learning Teams)  
What supports for students are available through referral?

**New AP Mr. Bart Kwiatkowski** introduced himself and shared his first impressions (good!). He appreciates the vast range of [clubs](#), Mustang Station (a thoughtful environment in the Learning Commons allowing students a place to pause), sports, intramurals, the culture of student leadership and how the school infuses the student voice in decisions.

## 6. Questions, Concerns, Compliments

None

## 7. Old Business

- Parent Engagement Grant – Michelle and Jennifer will look into whether it was fully spent.
- Council Vice Chair and Healthy Hunger coordinator volunteers are required. Healthy Hunger is a fun lunch program where families can order lunches from set restaurants who deliver the food to the school. The volunteer is required to book the restaurants and help distribute the food.

## 8. New Business

None

## 9. Treasurer's Report

- Current Casino Account Balance = \$109,174.61
- General Account Balance = \$1,983.89 + \$712.50 Healthy Hunger to be deposited
- Outstanding approved requests (these items were previously approved but have not had receipts submitted for payment yet):
  - Deluxe literacy kit
  - Headphones
  - Lava Lamps
  - Video Cameras
  - APTN
- We have \$26,218 to be spent by April 2026 from April 2023 casino.
- From the November 2024 casino we have to spend \$82,956 before November 2028.
- AGLC expanded eligible expenses: can use casino proceeds for guest speakers, transportation, field trips, promo materials, uniforms, awards, resource materials, subscriptions, and the breakfast program.
- The next casino is in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2026.

## 10. Volunteer Coordinator

Admin reported that lots of volunteer forms were received by the office and are being processed. Names will be passed on to Hope by Secretary Sherry Reynolds.

## 11. Key Communicator

CBE Communications – back to school planning, measles update, labour action update. CBE Connections – parents can sign up for the newsletter.

## 12. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

### Next Meetings:

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ October 21, 2025  | ➤ March 17, 2026     |
| ➤ November 18, 2025 | ➤ April 21, 2026     |
| ➤ January 20, 2026  | ➤ May 19, 2026 (AGM) |
| ➤ February 17, 2026 |                      |