

# Sir John A Macdonald School Council

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 25, 2025

### Attendees:

Jennifer Razzo - Treasurer  
Laurie Leier - Secretary  
Michelle Hornby - Principal  
Lee Jensen - Assistant Principal  
Bart Kwiatkowski - Assistant Principal  
Dwayne Thiessen - Parent  
Shannon Mick - Parent  
Elyse and Brianna - Students

### Regrets:

Michelle Wood - Chair  
Hope Lewis - Volunteer Coordinator

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.
2. The students delivered the Acknowledgement of the Land.

### 3. Approval of the agenda and past minutes:

*Laurie moved to accept the November 25, 2025 agenda. Seconded by Dwayne*

*Jennifer moved by email, prior to the meeting, to accept the minutes of September 16, 2025. Seconded by Michelle and approved by email*

### 4. Student Council Report – Brianna and Elyse

#### Coming Events

- Nov. 27 + 28: Parent Teacher Conferences (Thursday – in person; Friday – online)
- IPPs will have been sent home to parents by November 28
- Dec. 3: Door decorating begins  
Lifetouch Retakes
- Dec. 4: Winter Culture Dance tickets start being sold (\$3 first week...\$4 next week)
- Dec. 8: Spirit Week (flannel, Red & Green, Festive hair/hat/ugly sweater, Culture SWAG, PJ day)
- Dec. 11: Winter Culture Dance (5:00 - 7:30PM)
- Dec. 17 end of day: Homeroom door decorating judged / recognized by administration

- Dec. 18: Locker cleanout and PEP Rally to recognize and celebrate student involvement in teams and clubs

### Past Events

- Nov. 6: Remembrance Day assembly
- Nov. 7: Clubs / TEAMS are back
- Nov. 8-12: Fall break
- Nov. 13: Basketball games resume... "exhibition" schedule (to be completed by Nov. 26)
- Nov. 17: Food drive starts for SJAM families (ends Dec. 9): Education Matters (financial) and food (HUM classrooms)
- RESTART: finishing for Grade 7s (Nov 26)
- Nov. 20: Students & Schools | [Leo Barbe](#): "It starts within." and "I can and I will."

### **5. Administration Report**

- a) Principal Ms. Michelle Hornby presented the CBE Strategic Framework with the vision that all students in Alberta are equitably supported by a trusted education system that prepares them for successful futures.

### Numbers

- 632 students currently enrolled
- 66% fall under a special learning code; 27 students awaiting an assessment
- English as an additional language students have increased to 17% of the student population
- 20% of students are absent more than 20% of the time; this is down from 32% in 2022-23
- In September there were 38 severe CBE code of conduct infractions and 75 challenging behaviours reported.

### New at SJAM since September

- Part-time Psychologist for school-based mental health and assessments
- \$5,000 Education Matters Grant: Equipping Students for Learning
- University of Florida Literacy Intervention – language introduction program
- YMCA Homework Helpers – free tutors at school focussing on math and science

### Continuing with

- Compassion activities
- Breakfast and lunch program, mainly thanks to Brown Bagging It
- Flexible groupings in HUM and SMATH
- Literacy specialist (Cotterill) and Math Coach (Else)
- Five Education Assistants in special learning programs (includes one extra EA)

- EA (Bartley): full schedule in the standard classes
- School Development Plan: literacy and promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion. How do we support people's ways of being in the world?
- EAL 1 and 2 Sheltered classes: team of teachers
- Hiring 2 (two) full time teachers for semester 2; offering Power Up and Pull Out classes (an option for homework time) as well as flexible groupings, but not changing homerooms

b) Assistant Principal: Mr. Lee Jensen

***Action: Council to remove these items from the 2024-25 Casino Wish List:***

- APTN Subscription : \$270 (not needed)
- Video Cameras: \$3,000 (not needed, teacher has left)
- Literacy Kits: \$225 (not needed, found alternate resource)
- Basketball Improvements:\$1,000 (paid for by CBE)

**Casino Fund Requests:**

**Whole School**

2025-11-25-1S	Reading Pens (\$400 each: 20 or 10?)	\$8,000
2025-11-25-2S	More pedal bikes for classrooms \$600-\$1000	\$1,000
2025-11-25-3S	D&D Books (club, ongoing ---maybe library special interest shelf)	\$400
2025-11-25-4S	Guest Speaker: Leo Barbe - mental health, resiliency, empowerment (cost for 3 presentations)	\$2,400
2025-11-25-5S	Guest Speaker: Paul Davis - Social media: student+parent presentation	\$1,838

**Science**

2025-11-25-6S	Graduated cylinders	\$100
2025-11-25-7S	Hot plates	\$750
2025-11-25-8S	Force meters - 30-50 N	\$600
2025-11-25-9S	Beakers - 1000mL	\$250
2025-11-25-10S	Gimkit online learning membership	\$650
2025-11-25-11S	Owl Pellets \$90-\$140 / bag x 5	\$800

## Fine Arts/CTF/PE

2025-11-25-12S	Music Scores	\$1,500
2025-11-25-13S	Jazz Electric guitar	\$750
2025-11-25-14S	Rock Electric Guitar	\$650
2025-11-25-15S	Jointer (King Industrial KC-85FX) (Approved by CBE - link in original document)	\$2,500
2025-11-25-16S	Wired Apple Keyboard for Mac Mini USB-A (15 Apple keyboards at \$66.15 per)	\$992
2025-11-25-17S	Camp Stove burners & butane for outdoor education class (\$40x10 burners, \$10x12 can of Isobutane)	\$520
2025-11-25-18S	Wireless Mic for PE (Headset)	\$300

***Action: Fundraising Society will vote on the Casino funding requests via email, as quorum is not present.***

***Action: Admin will supply receipts by the end of February to help with the casino report timing as the cheque needs to be cashed by the end of March.***

c) Assistant Principal: Mr. Bart Kwiatkowski

- Student Teacher Parent Conferences are in-person on Thursday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm and on Friday from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm virtually on Microsoft Teams
- Parents can book additional spots for specific students if necessary.
- Thanks to Council for providing dinner for the teachers on Thursday evening.
- The Digital Citizenship Plan added using AI tools responsibly, ethically and safely.

**6. Questions, Concerns, Compliments:** None presented

**7. Old Business:** Vacant Council roles include the Fun Lunch coordinator, and Vice-Chairperson.

***Action: Ms. Hornby will check with Jodi Campbell about supporting the Fun Lunches along with leadership students.***

Council insurance has now been paid.

**8. New Business:** Council received a Parent Engagement Grant for \$1,283 (prepaid Mastercard). Uses could include another speaker related to behaviour, emotions, or compassion. Sam Demma was suggested.

**9. Treasurer's Report:**

- Balances as of September 30, 2025:
  - \$2,696 general account
  - \$107,012 casino account
- Dec 11 Connect First branch closing so new "home branch" is needed

**10. Volunteer Coordinator:** The winter dance is coming and volunteers will be needed.

**11.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

- January 20, 2026
- February 17, 2026
- March 17, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- May 19, 2026 (AGM)