

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)