

## Sir John A Macdonald Junior High – School Council

### Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2026

#### Attendees:

Michelle Wood - Chair  
Hope Lewis - Volunteer Coordinator  
Jennifer Razzo - Treasurer  
Laurie Leier - Secretary  
Michelle Hornby - Principal  
Lee Jensen - Assistant Principal  
Bart Kwiatkowski - Assistant Principal  
Mr. Hoblak - Teacher  
Ms. Billeck - Student Services

Kristine Hunt - Parent  
Wayne Diesel - Parent  
Bridget Hartney - Parent  
Elvira Sinchuk - Parent  
Ramakanth Deepak Gandepalli - Parent  
Mariya Lysechko - Aunt  
George Swiatylo - Uncle  
Shelagh McConnell - Parent

Brianna and Elyse - Students

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:**

*Jennifer moved to accept the agenda. Seconded by Hope. Carried*

*Jennifer moved to accept the minutes of November 25, 2025. Seconded by Laurie. Carried*

#### 4. **SJAM Student Presentation**

##### Past Events:

- Food Drive: supported 16 SJAM families (rooms 9-1, 8-7, 7-3 won the competition)
- SWAT: Mount Royal Symposium
- Dec. 8-12: Spirit Week and Door Decorating (celebrating Cultural Diversity at SJAM)
- Dec. 19: PEP Rally – recognition of teams, clubs + celebration of SJAM culture
- Dec. 19: end of 2025 at SJAM

- Jan. 5: Volleyball tryouts began. Teams are selected and games start next week
- Jan. 5-23: SJAM's famous lunch-time DANCES

#### Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 23: Dance-a-thon 2026
- Jan. 26: Finale to the Dance Unit – Grade Assemblies featuring Pearl (Indigenous Dancer)
- Jan. 27: LAST day of semester 1 and Options classes
- Jan. 28: 1st day of semester 2 (new options begin!)
- Jan. 29: Rothney Field Trip for the Grade 9s plus Diefenbaker HS Open House
- Jan. 30: Non-Instructional Day
- Feb. 12-13: Teacher's Convention (no school for CBE & Catholic school students)
  - o Ms. Hopley and Ms. McLellan are making a presentation during the Convention
- Feb. 16: Family Day (holiday Monday)
- Feb 18: 6:00pm Paul Davis Parent Night
- Feb. 23 – 26: Spirit Week (Neon Day, Rainbow Day, Pink T-Shirt Day, Mustang Day)
- Feb. 26: Grade 6 Open House (5:30 – 7:00 pm)

### 5. Learning Leader Presentation

Ms. Michelle Billeck, Student Services

Mr. Michael Hoblak, Grade 9 Team Lead

Presentation: [High School Presentation 2025-2026.pdf](#)

School Messenger was sent on January 13th to Grade 9 families with high school information

#### High School Transitions:

- **High School Designation:** Which High School will my student attend?  
High School Designation is determined by student address (remember to update yours):  
<https://cbe.ab.ca/schools/find-a-school/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Registration Process Overview**
  - Many High Schools will have their open houses in January. All students and families are welcome to attend.
  - John G. Diefenbaker High School Transition Visit  
Open House: January 29th  
IB Presentation 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Welcome 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
  - Course registration packages will be sent home to families in late February  
Core Teachers will provide parents with course registration recommendations at this time
- **High School Transfer Process**
  - High School Transfer applications open February 9th and closes March 15th.

Transfer requests can be made to another high school when a program or sequence of courses is not offered at the student's designated school.

<https://cbe.ab.ca/registration/transfers/high-school-transfers/Pages/default.aspx>

-Students have been encouraged to email Ms. Billeck to book appointments should they be interested in the High School transfer process: [mibilleck@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:mibilleck@cbe.ab.ca)

-AP program is not available at Diefenbaker

-Students should not transfer for courses that they can't commit to for all 3 years.

-Each high school website has a Teaching and Learning Tab / Complementary Subjects

### • **Finish School Your Way**

-There are many possibilities for students to complete their high school career:

<https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/high-school/Pages/default.aspx>

-Examples:

- Alternative High School (Alternate Learning Experience)

- CBe-learn (Virtual)

- Discovering Choices (Outreach)

- Jack James High School (Hands-on)

-Unique Pathways and Off-Campus Education:

<https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/high-school/unique-pathways-and-off-campus-education/Pages/default.aspx>

### • **Resources to Help Prepare for High School**

Get Ready-Get Set-Go For It:

<https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/high-school/Documents/Get-Ready-Get-Set-Go-For-It-Short.pdf>

Detailed High School Course Guide:

<https://cbe.ab.ca/programs/high-school/Documents/Detailed-High-School-Course-Guide.pdf>

UofC Admission Requirements

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/admissions/requirements>

### • **Resources to Help Your Child with Career Planning**

myBlueprint - An interactive education, career, pathways and life planner (7-12). The tool can help students to explore and build their high school course plan and inform their course choices.

ALIS CAREERinsite - A one-stop guide to career planning for Albertans. Create your career plan, get to know yourself with quizzes and exercises, explore options, get ready and take action.

Calgary Public Library - Job & Career Accelerator Library Card Required.  
An interactive career selection and job search system, including: occupation profiles, resume building, cover letter writing, interview skills and more.

High Schools are listed as Open to transfers, Limited Access or Closed (even if it contains a specialized course).

Unique Pathways and FREE Dual Credit options (grade 11 and 12) count toward post-secondary credits.

**Action: Ms. Billeck will email the slide presentation to all parents.**

## **6. Administration Report:**

Principal: Ms. Michelle Hornby

School Based Mental Health:

- 0.5 psychologist Ms. Angela Ribout (started already)

Educational Assistant (PLP): Ms. Dawn Phillips (starts Jan. 26)

Two teaching positions added: HUM and SMATH (Semester 2)

- Goal: benefit Grade 7, 8, 9 students (no new homerooms)
- Increased number of 'Power Up' classes
- Ms. Else (flexible groupings for math) will continue
- Ms. Cotterill (UFLI – literacy support) will continue

Math 15 is the only class that grade 9s can take over summer (check with Ms. Hornby about this).

Grade 6 visits at elementary schools are next week.

New class next year: Cosmetology 7, 8, 9

Assistant Principal: Mr. Lee Jensen

Report Card Changes this year due to the strike:

- Report Cards will be viewable in PowerSchool on February 24th
- Teachers will start working on them on January 29th

Open House for Grade 6's is February 26th from 5:30-7:00pm.

Homework Helpers - room for more participants to meet with free tutors every Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in from 3:15 - 5:15; don't need to stay the full time. Sign up in advance.

Assistant Principal: Mr. Bart Kwiatkowski

Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Presentation by Paul Davis: Internet and Social Media Safety expert. Student presentation at school during the day and 6:00 pm parent presentation. Parents from other schools are welcome.

Assessment, Reporting and No Evidence Recorded (NERs).

- This reporting period one of our goals was to reduce the number of NERs. This is to help us program for and put students in placements that best suit them.
- The teachers and admin created plans to give students more opportunities to demonstrate their learning.
- Plans included working with them one-on-one in Mustang Station, providing adapted and modified work and using universal and individual screeners.

#### **7. Questions, Concerns, Compliments**

Fun Lunches are back!

#### **8. Old Business**

Fun Lunch Distributor/Assistant required - distribute lunches on Wednesdays and maybe help book future lunches.

Vice Chair and Key Communicator positions are required on School Council.

#### **9. New Business**

Last Year's School Council bought parent resource books that can be signed out from Ms. Campbell (jmcampbell@cbe.ab.ca) in the library (the list on the [website](#)).

**Action: Ms. Hornby will add a resource reminder to the next Week at a Glance.**

The CBE grant to engage parents (e.g. speakers, resources, courses) needs to be used by June 12/26. Possibly virtual presentations include ADHD, mental health/wellness, parenting students through competitive activities.

#### **10. Treasurer's Report**

The balances as per the bank statements as of December 31st, 2025:

- Casino balance: \$105,077.98 to be spent over 2 years
- General account: \$2,447.01

Council adds only a minimal markup to the Fun Lunch prices and raises approx \$200 lunch.

### **11. Volunteer Coordinator**

1 - 2 Fun lunch volunteers are needed each Wednesday from 12 - 12:45 to hand out lunches.

Dance a thon - Hope will check with Mr. Jones regarding replies and volunteer needs.

### **12. Key Communicator**

Jennifer is going to the The Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting, with all the school trustees and CBE chief superintendent.

The 2026-27 school year calendar is finalized by the CBE.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Next meetings:

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