

Sir John A Macdonald School Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Attendance

Chairperson: Michelle Wood

Treasurer: Jennifer Razzo

Secretary: Laurie Leier

Volunteer Coordinator: Hope Lewis

Parent: Wayne Diesel

Admin: Michelle Hornby, Bart Kwiatkowski, Lee Jensen, Natasha MacLennan

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

2. Approvals:

Jennifer moved to accept the March 17, 2026 agenda. Seconded by Hope. Carried

Jennifer moved to accept the minutes of February 24, 2026. Seconded by Hope. Carried

3. Attendance was taken.

4. Student Leadership Presentation: Ryan

Past highlights:

- Feb. 23 - Mar. 6...Spirit Days

- Feb. 25...Grade 9 Immunizations

- Feb 26...Open House 2026...Chapters/Indigo Draw (\$20)

- Mar. 5...Retro Day and Dance

- Mar. 2-12...Volleyball playoffs! Our teams represented SJAM with great effort and skill!

Our stands were the fullest and had the most cheering of any of the junior highs in our division.

- Current Grade 7 and 8s selected options and homeroom buddies for next year

- Mar. 11...MADD Grade 9 Presentation

- Intramurals are ongoing: MHL (Mustang Hockey League)

Upcoming:

- Mar. 19...SJAM's World Down Syndrome Day ~ wear bright / mismatched socks

- Mar. 20...Virtual P-T Interviews ~ no school

- Mar. 21-29...Spring Break

- Mar. 30 - April 10...Badminton tryouts

- April 3...Good Friday (no school for students or staff)

- Week of April 6...Talent Show

- Tuesday April 14 @ 6:30: John Diefenbaker High School presentation and conversation with CBE School Trustee, Laura Hack. SJAM parents are welcome. There's a link to ask questions in the weekly newsletter.

5. SJAM Learning Leader Presentation

Ms. Natasha MacLennan: Complementary Courses for 2026-27

The presentation can be found [here](#).

Notes:

- 18% of SJAM students are in one of the music options.
- Power Up Your Learning - 20% of the student population takes this class focused on organization skills and homework completion. Staff place students in the class first, then additional spots are opened to other students.
- Next year Cosmetology will be added. New classes are driven by staff interest/aptitude as well as student interest.

6. Administrative Report

Assistant Principal: Mr. Lee Jensen followed up on questions raised at the last meeting. What are ethical spaces?

- Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems are woven together to create a space where we can "step out of our allegiances". Allows us to share assumptions, values and interests we each hold while allowing us to learn from one another.

How do teachers do all of this work?

It is a difficult job to balance the needs of many. They do have structures in place to support this work. Teachers work in Professional Learning Communities and share the planning with each other including planning for students who are struggling. One of the Teaching Quality Standard competencies is Applying Foundational Knowledge about First Nations, Metis and Inuit for the benefit of all students.

Are kids concerned to come forward with concerns about fellow students?

Administration tries to be as discrete as possible. They empower students who come forward, and try to bust the myth of retribution always happening.

Formative feedback loops: can all students and teachers do them?

Teachers are expected to use Formative Feedback Loops (providing feedback prior to marking the assignment). This provides an idea of where the student is at and what support is needed.

Do you agree that school fees are reasonable and activities and field trips etc. are important for your child's learning?

Yes, and could we do more field trips?

- Admin would like to see more field trips as well. Some barriers we are seeing:

- Lack of substitute teachers
- Amount of planning involved
- Field trip fees not being paid

Principal: Ms. Michelle Hornby

Casino Requests:

To be removed from approvals as no longer required:

1. Reading pens (don't need as many as requested)
2. Gimkit - not purchased

New Requests:

New Podium: \$2,500

Bussing

'Be Well' Game at Winsport (Le): \$299.25 (7, 8, 9)

Outdoor Ed (Saker)

Climbing Field Trips:

\$498.75+ \$299.25 = \$700 (7, 8, 9)

Jumping Pound: \$500 – Gr 8

Riverwatch (Else): \$1200 – Gr 9

Electronics: Mr. Le

20 Mouse and Keyboard Bundle: \$1880

5 Updated DSLR/Mirrorless Cameras: \$1279/camera x 5=\$6,395

50 Headsets with microphones (class set + extras: \$1570

Dawson: Foods

6 waffle irons: \$350

Composter: \$350

Science Wish List

Hot plates: 14 x \$300 = \$4,200

Headphones: \$600

Timers: \$170

Cosmetology Course: \$5,000 start up

- Mannequin heads
- Gel nail UV lamps
- Hair styling tools
- Large sink bowls
- Double boilers and induction hot plates
- Guest speakers

Regulation in Classrooms: sensory tools

- Top up existing supplies: \$2,000 (Billeck)
- Including noise Cancelling headphones

Library Books: \$1500: Campbell

Drama: Costumes \$500 for Value Village

Past approvals such as Pedal bikes, DnD, music scores, guitars, aerobic mic, and books are still in the works to be spent by the end of March.

7. Questions, Concerns, Compliments

- Compliments to library staff, leadership students and new parent volunteers helping with Healthy Hunger
- Compliments to Michelle Wood for coordinating a huge variety of food suppliers for Healthy Hunger
- Thanks to staff for the table at grade 6 orientation; new parents signed up and will be invited to AGM

8. Old Business

- A parent presentation is planned at 6:30 in late April or May. Send information on the session and speaker to staff with date options
- Looking to fill Council roles next year. Vice Chair, Secretary

9. New Business: None

10. Treasurer's Report

Casino balance \$92,227.48
General account balance \$2,997.01

11. Volunteer Coordinator

- April 21-23: band camp parent volunteers are needed. Hope will connect with Ms. Armstrong.
- Outdoor Ed: Ms. Saker needs volunteers as well.

12. Key Communicator: CBE Connections content shared.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next meetings:

- April 21, 2026
- May 19, 2026 (AGM)