

Sir John A Macdonald School Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 15, 2026

Attendance

Chairperson: Michelle Wood

Vice Chairperson: Brooklyn Shill

Secretary: Bridget Hartney

Treasurer: Jennifer Razzo

Volunteer Coordinator: Hope Lewis

Casino Coordinator: Michelle Wood

Key Communicator: Jennifer Razzo

Principal: Andie Shaffer

Assistant Principal: Lee Jensen

Student Services: Michelle Billeck

Parent: Phillip Newton

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

2. Agenda

Jenn moved to approve the Sept 15, 2026 agenda. Seconded by Brooklyn. Carried.

3. Minutes

Bridget moved to accept the minutes AGM of May 19, 2026. Seconded by Brooklyn. Carried.

4. Attendance was taken. Group Introductions.

5. Department Report

Ms. Michelle Billeck and Assistant Principal: Mr. Lee Jensen (L-Z)

Overview of Wellness initiatives including Monday Homeroom Wellness focus.

Intro by Andie Shaffer: Funding: Four main areas: Literacy, numeracy, wellness and Indigenous. Getting extra funding for Wellness. Wellness and mental health needs to reside in all the work done at the school.

Michelle Billeck:

1. Part of her role is to support all of the learners. Can see a student for one or two interactions to give resources, check in etc. Sometimes see them all throughout Jr. High, sometimes just once or twice.

2. Sees students with complex needs. Students with IPP's, learning goals.
3. Helps with transitions. Coming into Jr. High and moving on to High School
4. Coordinates with CBE supports (area strategist, psychology, school based mental health sports, occupational therapy, etc) and community supports (Summit mental health, MASST, Woods Homes, pediatricians, etc)
5. Social Emotional Lead Teacher:

Part of a system wide group to learn and bring back learnings to the school.

- Importance of wellness and wellbeing in schools
- Building capacity of teachers in our school to support our students, wellness and wellbeing
- Equip students with core competencies for wellbeing
- Wellbeing and mental health are key components of student academic and school success
- Weekly Homerooms

Setting up students for success when life is challenging. Learning how to navigate challenging situations. Examples of in-class activities: Goal setting, executive functioning, time management, test prep/anxiety. Done through brainstorming, sharing with a partner, sharing with the group.

Shared language with all the teachers, students and school community.

Andie: Want to build out the website with some information to help with wellness. New wellness framework to be released soon.

6. Administration Report - Andie Schaffer:

Number of Students: 660 (above what they budgeted for)

Grade 7 Homerooms 23-26 per class

Grade 8 Homerooms 27-29 per class

Grade 9 Homerooms 27-28

Got government funding to offset larger class sizes

Creating opportunities for learning time for teachers

Teachers:

- Addition of Paced Learning Program (PLP)/ Adapted Learning Program (ALP) Class (Ms. Bowser) & Learning Leader (Ms. Barley)
- New teachers joining the school:
 - Ms. Houghton (replacing Ms. Claremont's maternity leave), has drama and performing arts background,
 - Mr. McNeely (Learning Leader in Literacy),
 - Mr. O'Reilly (grade 7 HUM, was probationary teacher surplus from Thirsk, was hired right at the beginning of the year, coaching basketball)
 - Mr. Le (Math/Science, was Learning Leader at Higgins)
- Student Teacher (U of L): Ms. Amy Rizkalla (in with Ms. Roston)

- Ms. Shaffer (New Principal)

Support Staff:

Main Office: Ms. Reynolds, Ms. McMurtry, Ms. Ibrahim

Library: Ms. Campbell

Whole School EA: Ms Bartley

ALP: Ms. Hussain, Ms. Persaud

PLP: Ms. Phillips

PLP/ALP: Ms. Ogilvie, Ms. Castle

Behaviour Support Worker: Ms. Gabriel

Psychologist (0.5) Tues/Thurs every other Friday: Ms. Bonnie Heidebrecht

School Wide Events

- Sports: Soccer, Cross Country and Basketball
- Sept 10 Assembly "Gratitude" is the mental health theme of the year. (previous years were Empathy, compassion)
- Terry Fox Run: Fri Sept 18
- Tug of War at lunch: Gr 7,8,9
- Welcome Back Dance: Mustang Colours Theme, Thurs Sept 24 from 2:30-5:00
- Grade 7s: Restart Program (Building leadership skills) - all grade 7s.
- Students Council: First meeting next Monday

(New Leadership Teacher: Ms. Ralph)

Initiatives at SJAM:

- Clubs
- Breakfast Program (Run by Dagne. McMurtry). Funding given to the school to have someone coordinate it. (7:55-8:05, decreased from 8:45, don't want students missing class to get food. Food is provided for hungry kids at all times if needed)
- Fit Club
- Intramurals
- Sports Teams
- 4S interviews - Sparks, strengths, struggles, supports. Used to use it with only Indigenous students. Now they do it with all students starting new to the school and then will use with grade 9's when they leave

- Student Voice (Student Council)
- Student Leadership Class

7. Questions, Concerns, Compliments

Q: Where are the books that were ordered last year for the parent resource center/parent talk?

Three Titles (six copies of each):

The Whole Brain Child

The Highly Sensitive Parent

Hold Onto Your Kids

Q: What time does the door open? 7:55 AM. School starts at 8:03 AM

Q: How is the student who was hit by a car?

- Two students of SJAM. They are back at school.
- No Concussion
- Was at the crosswalk going across 64th ave, they activated the lights,
- Driver was inebriated, was caught and charged
- First Aid Trainer was on her way to work and saw the accident. She started performing first aid
- CBE was responsive and representative from CBE Transportation came to do a report and start an investigation.
- School Resource Officer: Suggested parents call and complain to the City about the intersection being dangerous. Could we get a reduced speed limit?

8. Old Business (Ms. Michelle Wood):

Waiting for the CBE Grant money for Parent Engagement. When we get the money we can book a speaker.

Gmail account was not accessed for 10 months, could not get password. Michelle and Jennifer were able to get back in this spring.

****Action:** Jennifer and Michelle will upload the previous few year's minutes to the google drive. Or once they have cleaned up the drive, Laurie Leier will transfer previous minutes to the drive.

9. New Business (Ms. Michelle Wood):

Teacher wishlist

10. Treasurer's Balance (Ms. Jennifer Razzo)

The account balances are:

General Account (Aug 1, 2026): \$ 2,585.98 (not including Healthy Hunger May/June below which as deposited after Aug 1)

Healthy Hunger May: \$298.59

Healthy Hunger June: \$458.66

New General Total (including Healthy Hunger): \$3,343.23

Casino balance as of Aug 31, 2026 : \$ 76,454.47

Estimated available balance after previous year's expenses come out: \$50,681.97. Still need receipts from the school.

- This Casino Balance needs to be spent by Feb 2028. Next Casino is in Dec 2026. We anticipate getting approx. \$80,000 at the next Casino as well.

Teacher Wish List (approx \$42,000)

- Andie Believes strongly in Construction (CTF) and the arts. Wants to inspire student's interests.
- Andie will send the spreadsheet to Jennifer. 32 requests.
- Fundraising Society will vote on these at the next meeting after they have been organized and questioned answered.

2026-09-15 1s	100x All The Right Type licenses	\$350	
2026-09-15 2s	8x DJI Osmo Pocket 4 Standard Combo (\$649 per camera)	\$5,192	
2026-09-15 3s	3x Canon EOS R50 Mirrorless Cameras with 4 SD cards and 3 cases, and 1 Zoom Lens	\$3,919	
2026-09-15 4s	20x Over-Ear Headsets with Mic USB connection	\$601	Same as from spring?
2026-09-15 5s	FitSet Ninja Obstacle Course \$22/student or \$1875 (full day x 2 days = \$3800 for 600 kids	\$3,800	
2026-09-15 6s	Field Trip Bussing - Outdoor Ed Canoeing	\$415	
2026-09-15 7s	Field Trip Bussing - Outdoor Ed Climbing (2 days)	\$830	
2026-09-15 8s	Golf Turf Squares	\$100	
2026-09-15 9s	High Jump Mat (\$3500-\$4500)	\$4,500	
2026-09-15 10s	Music scores for Band 7, 8/9 and Jazz Band	\$2,400	
2026-09-15 11s	Field Trip Bussing - Band Camp April 2027 (50% of cost)	\$2,500	
2026-09-15 12s	Digital Scales - 500g/0.01g accuracy	\$729	
2026-09-15 13s	Stopwatches	\$129	
2026-09-15 14s	Black and Blue Expo Markers - Chisel tip	\$648	
2026-09-15 15s	Skin tone pencil crayons	\$113	

2026-09-15 16s	Mathbits Membership - individual 39.95 (US, so about \$50CAD?)	\$50	per kid?
2026-09-15 17s	Small whiteboard erasers - class sets	\$180	
2026-09-15 18s	Periodic Table Posters 1 large (278.59), 2 medium(115.09))	\$509	
2026-09-15 19s	Linking cubes -Math manipulatives (3 x 45.99)	\$138	
2026-09-15 20s	Nail art tools (13.29 x 5)	\$66	
2026-09-15 21s	Allergy safe gel nail polish (17.99 x 3)	\$54	
2026-09-15 22s	Kalyn Kodiak Sessions/Residency (estimate)	\$2,500	
2026-09-15 23s	Calgary Zoo Field Trip (May/June)	\$4,723	
2026-09-15 24s	TELUS Spark Field Trip (April)	\$3,720	
2026-09-15 25s	Update Text Sets & Literary Resources (7-9) - main focus on short stories	\$3,000	
2026-09-15 26s	Beading supplies for club	\$500	
2026-09-15 27s	Beading Lessons with Pearl White Quills	\$1,100	
2026-09-15 28s	Coloured Markers -	\$284	
2026-09-15 29s	Crayola Scissors that only cut paper	\$26	
2026-09-15 30s	Safety knives		price?
2026-09-15 31s	Shaker Eggs (6 pack)	\$44	
2026-09-15 32s	Claves (16 pack)	\$31	
2026-09-15 33s	Individual dry erase boards (doublesided) with markers & erasers	\$102	
2026-09-15 34s	Bean bag chairs - stain resistant/water resistant	\$360	
2026-09-15 35s	New set of chairs for the Art room. Or a partial set. (tall to suit tables)	\$1,016	
2026-09-15 36s	Pencil Crayons	\$56	

11. Key Communicator (Jennifer Razzo)

- Key communicator attends the Community of School Councils (COSC) meetings (Oct 22, April, January, and June)
- Trustees attend the meetings

12. Volunteer Coordinator (Ms. Hope Lewis)

- Need volunteers for upcoming dance
- Ms. Saker - Field Trip: STEM for young women in Kananaskis

13. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

This year's meetings on 3rd Tuesday of the month, except December and June:

- October 20, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- January 19, 2027
- February 16, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- April 20, 2027
- May 18, 2027