

Stanley Jones & Alice Jamieson School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2025

Time: 6:30pm to 7:21pm

Location: Stanley Jones School Learning Commons

Attendees: Krista Bartless (Principal), Anna Johnstone (Vice Principal), Kristen Holm (Chair), Lisa Range, Christina van der Lugt, Megan Waldie, Maureen Souply, Michelle Speta, Maddie Bemrose, Heather Smith, Meghan Boyd, Melissa Murray, Aleisha Adsett, Samantha Ryogokn, Laura Schmitt, Mauri Oldford (recorder/secretary)

Quorum (attendees outnumber staff): attained - evidenced via attendance form.

1. Call to Order, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement

- Kristen (Chair) introduced herself, welcomed all and provided a Land Acknowledgement
 - **Introduction of Executive members for the year:** Kristen Holm (Chair), Jake Smith (Vice-Chair), Mauri Oldford (Secretary), Krista Bartlett (Principal), Anna Johnston (Vice Principal), Christina van der Lugt (Movie Nights Coordinator), Maureen Souply (Healthy Hunger Coordinator), Lisa Range and Cate Hydeman (Leaders for learning grounds initiative), Maddie Bemrose (Leader for traffic committee)
 - Round-table introductions of participants joining the meeting
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2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Today's Agenda

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by	Vote Passed or Not Passed
To approve the May 27, 2024 meeting minutes without amendments and approve today's agenda.	Heather Smith	Christina Van der Lugt	None opposed. Motion to approve the minutes and agenda have passed.

3. Principles Update

Staffing: Excited for the year, have a great staff. New staff include: Ms. Hill - learning leader for Grade 3/4, Ms. Beard - learning leader Grade 5/6, Ms. Taylor hired full time this year for Grade 3/4.

School Student numbers: End of last year projected 507 students for 2025-2026 school year but staffed conservatively for 485 students. Started the year with 443 students with reasoning attributed to: transitions to private Charter schools, higher cost of living in the community, less people from the

welcome center (new immigrants), bussing changes. The majority were lost in kindergarten (was 65 and now 42), as a result had to decrease from 3 to 2 kindergarten classes.

- Stanley Jones has 331 students with two kindergarten classes, five Grade 1/2, five Grade 3/4, and 3 Grade 5/6 classes
- Alice Jameison has 154 students with one Grade 4/5 class, one grade 6/7 class and two grade 8/9 classes.

Budget: The final school budget will be based on the number of students attending by a specific date this fall, many changes in student number still occurring. Currently posting a part-time office assistant position to help Ms. Sarah. For budget planning, expect that the area office will provide EA time to help with students.

Music program: Last year's music teacher resigned from the CBE. We had to choose to not hire a full time music teacher to keep more teachers in the classrooms as a priority. Plan to address music gap through music residencies and use of current teachers with music backgrounds to help out. There is no AJA band this year due to lack of band teacher and decreased interest (20 people insufficient to run full band).

School Vision (Vice Principal): With only two new staff, there is good continuation on what the team was building on over the last couple of years for school vision.

This year's vision is based on call to action #63, land based learning (LBL) in line with truth and reconciliation. The plan is to continue a strong connection with LBL and start building more focus on international perspectives. As a result, all classes working this year on "Noticing", based on the book of the same title by Kobi Yamada. Students are asked to look carefully to notice big and little things, strengths, differences, etc. in the world around them.

Teacher's Report: none at this time.

4. Updates on Established/ Ongoing Initiatives:

No decisions taken, introduction to the various initiatives and associated updates provided below:

1. **BBQ and Meet the teacher night (Sept 25th):** Kristen provided explanations of the event including \$5 food truck vouchers, lawn games, school council table, students to hand in summer reading bingo cards to receive prizes and enter a draw to win 1 of 4 gift cards.
2. **Learning Grounds Report (Lisa):** this project was initiated 4 years ago and aims to transform our school yard to a great modern space. It has been built on student/teacher/community input and is for the good of the school but also the community and surrounding area.
 - **Status:** Attained CBE approval for the plan. Next steps include further grant writing. Need a few more grants and community donations to start creating enough momentum to hopefully break ground next spring..
 - **Action:** Parents, please check your employee matching systems including corporate matching. Learning Grounds committee is also looking for grant writers, graphic designer

and events coordinator. Please reach out to sj.learning.grounds@gmail.com if interested in helping.

3. **Healthy Hunger (Maureen):** an ongoing fundraiser raising ~\$1800/yr with proceeds going directly to the school. Aiming for 2 fun lunches / month. Unfortunately, this is not open to Kindergarten students due to scheduling conflicts.
 - a. **To order :** See healthy hunger emails in your inbox.
 - b. **Action:** Volunteer opportunities available to help distribute lunches (~30 minutes of your time). To get involved, email maureensouply@gmail.com
 - c. **New:** trialing “Snack Day” one Friday per month with vendors such as Jelly Modern donuts. Aim to be as inclusive as possible with ingredients. Snack Days will be available to Kindergarten.

Note: As a result of numerous questions and complaints, please note for future that MacDonald’s meals do not come with fries because they get too soggy by the time they get to the students :-)

4. **Traffic Committee (Maddie):** looks to make safe, fun ways for kids to independently commute to and from school and ease traffic congestion around the school. One main initiative is organizing a bike to school day held in the spring. If interested in getting involved let us know.
5. **Fundraising Associations (for information):** SJ and AJA have two separate fundraising committees, one for each school, that are separate from the School Council. They have their own meetings with SJ meeting right after this meeting and AJA meeting virtually - see school calendar for dates. It is in this meeting where it is decided how to use the Casino Money each year (~\$80K) and Parent association money. If you want to have a say, please join us - you do not have to attend both meetings and all are welcome.

5. New Initiatives / Business

1. **Community Events/Family Movie Night (Christina):** Working on hosting two SJ/AJA family movie nights in the gym this fall/spring to help progress our school council goal this year which is:

“Focus on community building and school spirit through fun, engaging, family-friendly events.”

Currently working to choose a final date, attain movie license, choose movie (likely geared to younger group to ensure it is an inclusive event).

Action: If there is an event you are interested in leading, coordinating to build on the School Council goal please reach out to us and join Christina in this great new initiative.

2. **Explanation of how Council used the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant received in 2024/2025 (\$1000):**
 - a. Creation of the postcard communication sent out in the welcome back to school packages that had all the QR codes to key info to help parents get involved.

- b. **Created a parent resource free little library** full of resources that parents can borrow for free. Books focus on mental health, self esteem, digital safety,etc.). Currently working on logistics on how to efficiently provide access to them.
 - i. **Action:** Looking for a parent volunteer to coordinate a sign-out sheet.
 - c. **Next Steps:** Decide what to do with this year's Grant money next meeting. Funds must be used on parent education and enhancing the mission of the School Council. If you have any ideas, let us know!
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6. Announcements / Next Meeting / Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: October 28, 2025 (subsequently cancelled due to teachers strike)

Motion to Adjourn moved by: Maureen Souply, Seconded by: Megan Waldie, Vote: in favour, Meeting Adjourned at 7:21pm

Meeting Minutes Prepared by: Mauri Oldford