



Dartmouth South Academy

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principals: Ashley Grant & Sarah Petrie

Administrative Assistants: Amanda Drake & Doug Jarvis

SAC Meeting Minutes - September 22, 2026

Present: Jacquelyn Reid, Annika Pike, Lilah Watt, Emma Bouchard (Student Reps), Danielle Brilhante, Ryan Bucci, Ashley Grant, Olivia Henley, Amanda Gibson, Danielle DeBay, Shellene Sparks, Jacqueline Grant, Noelle England, Kate Sinclair Sorby, Sarah Derochers, Pierre LeFalher, Katie Curwin, Janelle Duguay, Brittany Chernecki-Scott, Jennifer Hall

Regrets: Sarah Petrie, Nicole Brooks

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Review the Role of the SAC:

- Letter of Agreement
- Reviewed by-laws
- Set the dates for remaining meetings

Dartmouth South Academy Vision and Values:

Our Vision:

At Dartmouth South Academy, we are committed to fostering an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment where students and staff feel valued, respected, and empowered. Together we embrace diversity, take pride in our identities, and cultivate connection, collaboration, resiliency, and growth. We believe lifelong learning, emotional well-being, and social responsibility are fundamental building blocks for our community to thrive.

Our Core Values: will be updated and shared with SAC in October for feedback

Student Success Plan:

The Student Success Planning (SSP) framework is developed to guide school communities in using an equitable and systematic way of planning school improvement by identifying measurable goals that are rigorous yet attainable. Below you will find a sample of the goals and objectives Dartmouth South Academy has worked on over the course of the past year. The SSP goals are directly used to enhance student learning and achievement; the development and growth of SSP goals are based on student needs. SSP goals are also deeply rooted in the inclusion policy and culturally responsive teaching practices.

Student Success Plan Cycle 1 Goals & Strategies

Literacy Goal: We will improve achievement in literacy for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

Cycle 1

High Impact Strategies:

Grades P-2

- ★ Teachers will provide explicit, systematic, and targeted instruction in phonological awareness and phonics, using student assessment data to respond to individual learning needs
- ★ Teachers will explicitly connect phonological awareness and phonics instruction to writing, supporting students to apply these skills in their spelling and written expression.

Grades 3-6

- ★ Teachers will provide explicit, systematic instruction in morphology and word analysis, using assessment data to respond to student needs.
- ★ Teachers will connect reading instruction to writing by explicitly teaching students to apply word knowledge and analysis strategies in spelling and written expression.

Grades 7-8

- ★ Teachers will provide explicit, systematic, and targeted instruction in reading fluency and morphology, using assessment data to respond to student needs.
- ★ Teachers will explicitly teach and model reading comprehension strategies, providing regular opportunities for students to apply these strategies when reading and analyzing a range of texts.

Mathematics Goal: We will improve achievement in mathematics for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

Cycle 1

High Impact Strategies:

Grades P-6

- ★ Teachers will implement a daily 30-minute fact fluency block focused on developing computational fluency.
- ★ Teachers will gather solid evidence of learning to decide next steps of instruction and support the needs of all learners.

Grades 7-8

- ★ Teachers will use short, purposeful learning tasks and hands-on problem-solving experiences to increase student engagement, stamina, and purposeful use of instructional time
- ★ Teachers will intentionally use flexible small-group learning to create low-risk opportunities for students to take academic risks, persevere through challenges, and explain their thinking.

Well-Being Goal: We will improve well-being at our school for each of our students, with a specific focus on our students of African and/or Mi'kmaw/Indigenous ancestry.

Cycle 1

High Impact Strategy:

- ★ We will cultivate a school-wide culture of respect by teaching, modeling, and celebrating respectful behaviours in all areas of school life- toward ourselves, others, adults, learning, and the environment- supporting a safe and inclusive school community

Principal's Report:

School Opening:

- In the last five years, enrollment in HRCE has increased by almost 10 000 students. As our region's population expands, new families register within our system on an ongoing basis. Current enrollment is 635 students
- HRCE continues to experience significant growth, with more than 60 000 students now enrolled across 136 schools
- DSA is a Pre-Primary through Grade 8 school, including our Grade 7–8 French Immersion program. We are also proud to have 31 different languages represented among our students and families.

Configuration & Staffing:

- 1 Pre-Primary class
- 16 Elementary Classes in P-6
- 10 Junior High Classes in 7-8 (4 of which are French Immersion)
- Many new team members including: Teachers, EPAs, Administrative Assistant, School Counsellor, Vice Principal and Principal

Instructional Focus:

- HRCE P–3 Literacy Initiative: strengthening early literacy instruction and supporting students in developing strong foundational skills.
- Revised Curriculum, Grades 3-6: continuing to support teachers as they implement revised curriculum outcomes and approaches to learning.
- Renewed Curriculum, Grades 7-8
- Computational Fluency: building students' confidence and flexibility with numbers and mathematical thinking.
- Wellbeing and Equity: continuing to create classrooms and school experiences where students feel known, included, safe, and ready to learn.
- Grade 6 Provincial Assessment in Literacy and Mathematics: October 20, 21, 27, 28

September & Fall Events:

- Stand Up Against Bullying Day- Sept. 10
- School Pictures: Photomaster took our school pictures again this year. Retakes: Oct 26
- Celebrating Students: Fantastic Friday Phone Calls
- Terry Fox Run: September 18
- SAC/PTO Meeting: September 22 at 6:00 p.m.
- Professional Learning Day: September 25
- Orange Shirt Day: September 29 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: September 30
- Our Grade 7–8: HRM Student Transit Pass Program, which provides eligible students with a free Halifax Transit pass for the 2026–27 school year.
- Breakfast Program and Provincial Lunch Program are both up and running (Website: <https://nslunch.ca/>)
- Halloween Howl: October 22 for all students

Safety & Security:

- Building Security: fire drills, lockdown drills, and hold and secure drills, will take place throughout the year (3 in the fall/ 3 in the spring).
- Our table top relocation drill: Hawthorn School or Regency Church
- Significant challenge is parking lot safety, primarily during drop off and pickup. SAC will prioritize seeking a solution to this.

Provincial Policies & School Expectations:

Our goal is always to make expectations clear, consistent, and supportive so that students understand what it means to be safe, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. We are continuing to implement provincial expectations related to:

- Provincial School Code of Conduct
- Student Attendance and Engagement Policy
- Provincial Cell Phone Policy
- School-wide expectations and our DSA matrix

Athletics

- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Kids Run Club

School Advisory Council Members:

Chair: Olivia Henley has volunteered to fulfill this role.

3 Parents/Guardians: Nicole Brooks (2nd year), Samantha Stephan (new), Brittany Scott (new)

2 Teachers: Ryan Bucci, Danielle Brilhante

1 Support Staff Member: unfilled (will work on recruiting)

3 Students: Annika Pike, Lilah Watt, Emma Bouchard

3 Community Members: unfilled (will work on recruiting)

Principal: Jacquelyn Reid (non-voting member)

Vice Principals: Ashley Grant & Sarah Petrie (non-voting members)

Members at Large: Pierre Le Falher, TBD

SAC Grant:

- It is noted that each school is given \$5,000.00 plus a dollar for every student within the school yearly, which is approximately \$5635 for the SAC at Dartmouth South Academy.
- This year's funding plus the carry-over from last year of \$6711 gives us approximately \$12,346
- SAC Members will vote for the use of funds for the 2026-27 school year.

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

- Oct 20
- Nov 17
- Jan 19
- Feb 23
- Apr 13
- May 11
- June 15

PTO Meeting Minutes - September 22, 2026

PTO: (Parent-Teacher Organization)

- PTO will meet in October to discuss & organize the Halloween Howl
- PTO members are encouraged to think of ideas for school events

Brainstorming for Upcoming School Year

1. School Events (building bookings) 6:30 start time instead of 6pm.
 - a. October 22- Halloween Howl (send out info to get station suggestions. Donation based money or breakfast options. Meeting just around this event around the 15th of October to discuss before the next meeting. Classic station ideas)
 - b. November 26- Trivia Night
 - c. Bingo Night
 - d. Glow Dance
 - e. Spring Fling
 - f. Popcorn Machine
 - g. Ice cream socials (older students help support running)
 - h. Separate 7-8 events? Helping with events? The student council is interested in being in younger events if they are more inclusive to older students. Dances aren't as engaging but a good chance to social
2. Outdoor Grounds (repairs and maintenance): \$6295 in Playground fund
3. Interest in library investments
4. Planning in future months after the Halloween event for goals for what the teachers want to see, things for the grade 8s, what the students want.
5. Ideas for breakfast program: more student helpers and organizing the line better. Excited for grilled cheese.
6. Bus changes
7. Parking lot issues, how to solve it and make it safer. Reach out to city planning to try and change how it functions.
8. Bus loop winter safety. Snow clearing and proper salting.
9. Management of the speed limit and expanding the area.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 PM

Minutes Submitted By: Danielle Brilhante