



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 - October 20, 2026

Present: Jacquelyn Reid, Annika Pike, Lilah Watt, Emma Bouchard (Student Reps), Danielle Brilhante, Ryan Bucci, Olivia Henley, Amanda Gibson, Danielle DeBay, Kate Sinclair Sorby, Sarah Derochers, Pierre LeFalher, Jennifer Hall, Samantha Stephan

Regrets: Ashley Grant, Sarah Petrie, Nicole Brooks, Janelle Duguay, Brittany Scott

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Approval of Agenda and September 2026 Minutes

School Advisory Council Members:

Chair: Olivia Henley has volunteered to fulfill this role

3 Parents/Guardians: Nicole Brooks (2nd year), Samantha Stephan (1st year), Brittany Scott (1st year)

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: Paula Moors (Jacquelyn to attend upcoming Pleasant Woodside Neighbourhood Association meeting)

Principal: Jacquelyn Reid (non-voting member)

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

Members at Large: Pierre Le Falher, TBD

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.

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:

- Student Success Plan
- Results of Grade 3 Provincial Assessment
- Reading: 36 of 51 students (71%) at or above Level 3 and 11 students (22%) between Levels 1 and 2
- Writing: 17 of 51 students (33%) at or above Level 3, 21 students (41%) between Levels 2 and 3, 11 students (22%) at or below Level 2
- Mathematics: 81% of students (39/48) achieved Level 3 or 4
 - 33% of students (16/48) achieved Level 4
 - 48% (23/48) achieved Level 3
 - 19% (9/48) performed below the expected level (Levels 1–2)
- Grade 6 Provincial Assessment has been postponed until further notice
- HRCE P-3 Literacy Initiative
- Revised Curriculum 3-6 Literacy
- School Pictures- Retakes Oct 26
- Orange Shirt Day
- Mi'kmaq Heritage Month
- Halloween Howl Oct 22- new addition of Witches Cave in library, canteen items for purchase, free popcorn (machine borrowed from South Woodside School)
- Provincial Conference Day (Oct. 23)- no school for students. NSTU staff participate in a conference of their choice offered around the province
- Remembrance Day Ceremony (Nov. 10)
- Flags for the school
- Building Security/Safety - fire drills, lockdown drills, and hold and secure drills, will take place throughout the year (3 in the fall/ 3 in the spring)
- School Wide Matrix of Expectations is almost ready for printing

- Class Presentations for Grades 3-5 regarding Code of Conduct: with a particular focus on insubordination and interruption to the learning environment
- Grade 7 and 8 FI students attended *French for the Future* conference
- School Grounds Fix-ups: parent in the community is going to help with this
- Parking lot issues, how to solve it and make it safer. Reach out to city planning to try and change how it functions.
- Bus loop winter safety. Snow clearing and proper salting.
- Management of the speed limit and expanding the area.
- Playground: adding to it, lack of resources for the older students. Expanding the littles playground, very small for the size of the school.
 - Play bins for recess and lunch (nets, sports balls, skipping ropes, chalk, etc.)
 - Rainy day bin
 - Playground lifetime with the city?

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.
- Some ideas: Chairs, flexible seating, tables, desks
- Jacquelyn will provide quotes for these for our next meeting

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

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

PTO Meeting Minutes - October 20, 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. November 26- junior high dance
 - b. Bingo Night or Trivia Night (January?)
 - c. Glow Dance

- d. Spring Fling
 - e. Popcorn Machine
 - f. Ice cream socials (older students help support running)
 - g. 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
 - Student Council Survey for what students would purchase at the canteen, photobooth, themes, add-ons to the events
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.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:25 PM

Minutes Submitted By: Danielle Brilhante