Dartmouth South Academy

111 Prince Arthur Avenue - Dartmouth, NS - B2Y 0C5

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Principal: Jacqulyn Reid **Vice Principals:** Ashley Grant & Sarah Petrie

Administrative Assistants: Amanda Drake & Doug Jarvis

SAC Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2026

Present: Jacqulyn Reid, Annika Pike, Emma Bouchard (Student Reps), Danielle Brilhante, Ryan Bucci, Amanda Gibson, Danielle DeBay, Kate Sinclair Sorby, Sarah DesRochers, Pierre LeFalher, Samantha Stephan

Regrets: Jacqueline Grant, Olivia Henley, Ashley Grant, Sarah Petrie, Nicole Brooks, Lilah Watt, Noelle England, Katie Curwin, Janelle Duguay, Brittany Scott, Jennifer Hall

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

Approval of Agenda and October 2026 Minutes

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
    - Literacy: all students receiving phonics/phonological/morphological instruction
    - Mathematics: fact fluency
    - Well-Being: matrix of expectations
- Grade 6 Provincial Assessment postponed indefinitely
- Report Cards and Individual Program Plans will be emailed home electronically to families
- Progress Conferences: will be held Thursday. Dec 3 (evening) and Friday Dec 4 (afternoon)
- School Interviews online booking portal will be sent to families soon
- Documented Adaptations will be emailed home electronically to families
- Tech Ed Wood Lab- dust collector now fixed, materials purchased, Tech Ed. teacher Ms. Prathaban has been trained to use the lab
- Mi'kmaq Heritage Month (trivia contest hosted by Mr. Watt)- questions read daily on the announcements for students to solve
- Halloween Howl brought in approximately $1500 from donations and canteen- feedback from families was very positive; enjoyed the variety of activities in the cafeteria and the Haunted House in the library
- Take Your Kid to Work Day (grade 9 visitors): many DSA alumni joined for the day
- Pre-Service Teachers- 5 student teachers completing their practicums with DSA
- Remembrance Day Ceremony- extremely proud of the student audience, Student Council reps and readers, and grade 6 students who shared poetry. Students were respectful and silent. It was our first in-person whole school assembly. Wall of Heroes, Ms. Brilhante compiled all photos in a video. Will be shared with families.
- Future Assemblies- we want to incorporate more assemblies, bring guest speakers in. Students are showing they are very capable of meeting expectations in the whole group format.
- Athletics- volleyball underway, and basketball tryouts currently underway
- School Trips- 1/2C, 2S and 2F will visit Alderney Landing for puppet show, and 3M, 3/4R and 5P will be seeing the Nutcracker at Alderney Landing
- Holiday Concerts: Dec 14-16. Mr. Jack is busy planning for the concert. This year we will be holding afternoon and evening concerts.
- School Musical: Frozen. Rehearsals underway. Mr. Jack and several staff members are working hard to make this a great success!
- Fluoride Varnish Program- this week.
- Grade 7 Immunizations- this week
- School Wide Matrix of Expectations finalized, printed and being explicitly taught in classrooms P-8. We have one for our elementary and one for the junior high.
- Incident Tracking- 118 behavioural incidents in Sept-Nov with most falling into the categories of insubordination, interruption to the learning environment, and physical aggression and/or

violence. Staff are diligent in tracking these incidents so we can appropriately respond and follow up.
- Building Safety- fire drills complete until Spring, fire marshall visits resuming in schools)
- School Traffic and Parking: cross walk causing issues and then also parking in the firelane and parking blocking entrances and parked cars. 311 has been contacted. HRCE Operations team will be in to assist with problem-solving.
- CUPE: contract has been rejected by membership. No further information has been provided about job action.
- Student Council & Food Drive- a December food drive will be held to support Margaret's House.
- Pleasant Woodside Neighbourhood Association meeting- Jacqulyn attended the community meeting. It was a great opportunity to meet members of our community, introduce herself as the new principal of DSA. We are hoping to recruit a community member from this group for our SAC.

New Business:

- Indigo Love of Reading application: Jacqulyn will begin the process. It will be important to capture student, family, staff and community voice for the application.
- SAC Funds
    - Class Request Mr. Wood ✔️
- Guest Speaker Session for Families: should try as parents on committee thought families would be interested

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.
- Chairs, flexible seating, tables, desks: Jacqulyn securing quotes from Echoic, Ven Rez and Natural Pod.
- Rainy Day Bins were an idea from last meeting

Upcoming SAC Meeting Dates:

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

PTO Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2026

PTO: (Parent-Teacher Organization)

1. School Events (building bookings) 6:30 start time instead of 6:00 PM
    a. November 26: Junior High Dance (more opportunities to socialize and dress up but doesn't necessarily a dance. Maybe a planned hangout instead, music and then maybe some more older kid games, colouring, photo booth, canteen, candy bar). The canteen needs a line to keep it organized. Tables for breaks to sit. Games like cards or board games. Alternative options: Board game cafe night, Glow game night (volleyball, dodgeball, music playing, neon and glow sticks), Movie night?, craft/stem night, escape rooms.
    b. Bingo Night
    c. Glow Dance
    d. Spring Fling

2. Popcorn Machine purchased

Meeting Adjourned:
Minutes Submitted By: Danielle Brilhante