

Dartmouth High School School Advisory Council

Chairperson: Paul Black
c/o Dartmouth High School
95 Victoria Road
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3A 1V2

Minutes for Meeting on March 30th, 2026 - 5:15pm

1. Present

- Eartha Monard, Phillip MacEachern, Manuela Roemer (Student Council), Melanie MacLean (Student Council), Aleeza Ali (Student Council), Paul Black, Terri-Lynn Rapitta, Tom Unwin, Jill Ross, MacKenzie Green, Robyn Brown, Rosella Winship, Krista Boychuk, Denise Chiasson
- **Regrets:** Jane Brison, Jaime Bent, Shirlene Dancouse

2. Call to Order

- Paul Black called the meeting to order - 5:38 PM

3. Agenda – approved as circulated.

4. Minutes

- Minutes of the February 9th, 2026 meeting were approved with minor edits/spelling corrections.
- **Correction:** It was noted that Tom's previous updates regarding Kiwanis were omitted; they are captured in the current minutes.

5. Advocacy: HRM Budget Cuts

- **Context:** Concerns were raised regarding HRM Council budget cuts affecting school librarians and approximately 17 Social Worker FTEs within the supplemental funding budget.
- **Action:** A member will draft an advocacy letter to the HRM Council focused on restoring funding for library/arts and social workers. The draft will be circulated for feedback before being sent.

6. Kiwanis Partnership & Student Leadership (Tom Unwin)

- **Food Security:** DHS and Kiwanis secured a **\$20,000 grant**, 100% of which will support student food security.
- **Leadership Programs:** Kiwanis is offering scholarships and an annual leadership camp in April.
- **Key Club:** Plans are underway to establish a Key Club for community service. This will operate independently of the student council. Its focus will be leadership development for students who want to provide a service to the community.

7. Academic & Program Updates (Mackenzie Green, Teacher)

- **AP Capstone:** The program reports an **85.9% success rate** (score 3+), exceeding global averages. Students are successfully securing research roles and presenting at conferences.
- **African Diaspora:** A specialized subset of AP Capstone focusing on African Canadian/Nova Scotian topics continues to be a highlight.

8. Student Council Report (Manuella Roemer, Aleeza Ali, Melanie MacLean)

- **Past Events:** Successes included the "Dating Game," "HVZ" (\$800 profit), and St. Patrick's Day fundraisers (75% of proceeds to SchoolsPlus).
- **Future Events:** A team will participate in the Mascot Showdown, an Easter egg hunt is planned, and Earth Week spirit days are being considered.
- **Transition:** Co-President election prep begins in late April; a transition document is being finalized.

9. Principal's Report (Eartha)

- **Prom Policy:** HRCE policy prevents the school from promoting or hosting any fundraising events for the community/parent-led prom. This has created significant communication and logistical barriers as the school is not permitted to send messages home to families about prom related events and fundraisers. The group is researching ways to work around this.
- **Travel:** The recent Europe trip (37 students) was successful. Options for the next trip include Central/Eastern Europe or a "Vimy 110" trip (approx. \$5,600).
- **Facility/Staff:** Staff completed Respectful Workplace PD. Bike maintenance for school bikes is being looked into via student/parent connections.
- **Ski Trip:** Several DHS staff members arranged and took approximately 40 students to Martock skiing on March 25th.
- **Girls' Conference:** DHS is taking 10 students to the annual MSVU Girls' Conference on April 16th. The theme for the conference this year is: *Lead to Inspire: Acts of Kindness, Moments of Courage!*
- **GSA Conference:** Jaime Bent (SchoolsPlus) and Mallory Borden (YHC Co-ordinator) took 10 GSA members to the conference on March 27th.
- **Uncover Your Essence Conference:** DHS is taking 85 students to the Uncover Your Essence Conference on April 20th. The theme this year is: *Empowering Today's Youth to be Leaders Right Now!*

10. NEXT MEETING DATES

- April 30th
- May 4th
- June 15th



11. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.