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 December 1st, 2025 - 5:15pm

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1. Present

- Melanie Rozee, Phillip MacEachern, Robyn Brown, Mallory Borden, Sandy Gillis, Eartha Monard, Jillian Ross, Shirlene Dancouse, Tom Unwin, Denise Chiasson, Terri-Lynn Rapitta

Regrets: Krista Boychuk, Melanie Ellis, Paul Black

2. Call to Order

- Teri-Lynn called the meeting to order.

3. Agenda – was approved as circulated.

4. Minutes – Minutes of the October meeting were approved with minor edits/spelling corrections. Approved by Shirlene Dancouse.

5. Student Council Report (Manuella Roemer, Aleeza Ali)

- October:
  - Halloween Spirit Week report
    - Mon - Fall Fashion & Karaoke
    - Tue - Throwback Costume Day - Guess the Lyrics
    - Wed - The Shining/Twin Day - Pumpkin Carving Contest
    - Thu - Traditional Halloween Day
    - Fri - Halloween contest - staff judged. Was a very good turnout this year.
  - Teachers volunteered to hand out candy on Thursday
  - October 15th - pep rally - multiple rounds or relay race
  - Boo Grams - sold 43 and raised $83
  - Planning to do a candy cane gram for Christmas
  - Oct. 17th - Humans vs Zombies - over 200 students participated and raised over $2300. It was difficult to accommodate everyone who showed up to participate. Discussed a possible first come/first serve for the next time.
- November:
  - Remembrance Day ceremony - lots of time to rehearse so it went really well.
  - Semi-Formal - cancelled because not enough purchased tickets
  - November 28th - Family Feud with teachers and students in Keating Hall.

Hoping to make some changes next time.
    - Student Council is also planning a December Spirit week.
    - Winter Activity - afternoon on the last day of school before Christmas
    - Elf on the Shelf activity with a draw for students to win prizes (3)

6. Correspondence (Paul)

- Paul was absent. Saved correspondence for next meeting.

7. Principal's Report (Eartha)

- Exam Schedule - reduced to 2 days. Looking at doing more process exams and shorter exams (1.5-2 hours). We will be focusing more on Math, ELA, FLA. Language has changed to "final assessment" vs. exam. We will be working with staff to organize the assessments. We may look at students writing exams in the gymnasium.
- Oral French Immersion proficiency interviews - Dec 15, 16, 17, 18th. Only for grade 12 French Language Arts students.
- AI in the classroom (Sandy) - HRCE is encouraging students to use AI from a safe and responsible standpoint. All PD for staff is presented outside of working hours and focuses on developing AI literacy programs for the classroom.
- Gemini 13+ - has been opened up to students through Google by HRCE. Its knowledge base is restricted to what the teacher allows it to access (i.e. could be from notes the teacher provided to students). This AI tool is provincially approved for use in the classroom and can create video/audio summaries of items covered in the classroom.
- Robyn Brown - Discussed her trip to Manitoba with two students to the Youth Nuclear Peace Summit.
    - As a result of this trip, may lead to DHS becoming a UNESCO school

- Eartha - YMCA Peace Medal Award Breakfast:
    - 17 students with 3 chaperones attended the awards breakfast in Halifax at Pier 21
    - This was a good opportunity for students to learn about peace initiatives happening throughout HRM.
    - Students felt it was inspiring to see other high school students and how they are inspiring peace.

- November 26th - National Association (Universite Saint Anne) - wanted DHS input into the realities of the French Immersion program.
- Zero to Sixty - season 2 of first black sitcom. Invited and paid 4 DHS students to be extras in the filming. The main character is a former DHS student.
- Genevieve Sherlock - DHS student who has been invited to play on the U16 Rest of Canada against Ontario NDC and CF Montreal. She will be playing in front of the entire Women's National Team coaching staff and against the majority of the current U15 and U17 national players.
- Several field trips are planned: law courts, museums, alderney landing play,
- Credit Recovery: in process

- Sewing Club - in progress - several community members supporting. Sewing projects are well under way.
- Halos & 360 cameras - have been installed and are up and running. One of the challenges is that the code of conduct does not permit administrators to apply consequences if we don't see students vaping or with a vape.
- Dec 17th - Oceans 11 - students have the opportunity to attend an event on the Dartmouth waterfront to learn about the Ocean Technology Sector. Lunch is not provided so asking if SAC will provide money for lunch for students. All were in favor of spending this money.

8. New Business:

- **YHC Co-ordinator (Mallory)**
    - 22 colleagues in the HRCE region
    - Spent some time last year learning about DHS
    - Focus on growth and progress for the YHC initiatives at DHS
    - Trying to align with the new code of conduct and cell phone policy in the YHC space
    - Students are not permitted to complete academic work in YHC
    - Working on inspiring respect and accountability in all students accessing the YHC
    - Mallory is supporting GSA bi-weekly with Jamie Bent & Allison Bolton - 10-15 students attending - provides a safe space to connect with peers, eat lunch, and advisors are beginning to encourage a more formal structure for the group
    - Gardening Club - Tue/Thu at lunch with 8-20 students - they are eager to work hard and put the memory garden back together as well as the greenhouse
        - Home Depot - donated 2 pallets of soil
        - Community donor - supported with buying gardening cloth
        - Hydroponics grow tower for inside almost ready to go
        - Mallory applied for a native seed sharing grant worth $1500
        - Halifax Seed - rounding up a donation of seeds for DHS
    - MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning - 3 lunch time drop ins to complete arts/crafts (i.e. Zynz, water colour painting, buttons). This will continue into December and January and term 2.
    - Pantry Club - Mallory and Jamie Bent - have had 2 sessions so far where students create food from scratch. In the first session students made granola, and in the second session they made cheeze-its crackers. Students get to try and take a bit home while the rest goes to SchoolsPlus pantry.
    - Guys/Girls Work (3 sessions so far) - Grade 9 HL classes in small group circle settings meet twice a month and have conversations around seeking help, risk assessment, adolescent pressures and expectations.
    - Free food Friday - 5 sessions so far. 8-12 students preparing food. 30-50 students eating. Future plan is to continue to collaborate with students on meal selection, pooling funds and increasing the capability to offer as many Fridays as we can.
    - Up and Coming:
        - Immunizations drop ins(drop ins for students 16+ to provide info on publicly funded vaccinations.

        - Our IWK Mental Health Clinician and Mallory have been invited to a meeting with the jack.org's Regional Program coordinator. The goal will be to start our own chapter of young people supporting young people.
        - Guys Group (Inspired by the grade 9 healthy living curriculum) - The ANS student support worker and Mallory to start this group at DHS.

9. SAC Conference (Phillip)

- Welcome session
- Student Safety & Wellness - reviewed the new Code of Conduct but didn't ask for SAC feedback. These are examples of the items we would like to be able to share:
    - We are finding that feedback from parents/students is that consequences seem more strict
    - There appears to be some categories that don't cover all areas of concern in school (i.e. harassment vs sexual harassment)
    - There were fewer sessions compared to last year.
        - Community Projects 101 session: There were some grants that we could look into from Community Projects 101.
        - Health Promoting Schools Approach - Attended this session. It was confirmed that our YHC, Mallory, is connected to our wellness goal in our school.
        - Afternoon session - There were 5 principals who shared their experiences. They spoke about considering local culture, physical spaces, and how to make connections with outside resources, ie. SMU, DAL, local businesses.
    - Terri-Lynn suggested we wait until the next meeting to discuss the four recommendations Paul made as a result of attending the SAC conference.

10. Prom Update (Teri-Lynn):

- Prom will take place on June 27th at GLOW.
- Fundraising is well underway with lots of help from parents and students.
- Students are selling gift basket raffle tickets. Received over $1400 worth of gift cards and there has been well over $4000 in ticket sales so far this year. Hoping to make at least $20,000.
- Bake sale is the next fundraiser coming up (December 13th at Alderney Landing). Accepting donations for baked goods on the 12th.
- New year - another raffle closer to Easter.
- Dance at Brightwood - April 8th, 2025 - Silent auction & dance.
- 280 students in graduating class this year.

11. SchoolsPlus (Shirlene) - reported that she spent time in the SchoolsPlus space which motivated her to support their initiatives. She will begin working on it after Christmas. She has connections who she feels will support the pantry.

12. Social Studies Dept (Robyn Brown - Department Head):

- Travelling presentation for the Holocaust will take place at DHS from December 9th-12th plus two evening sessions which will be opened to the community

- There will be two sessions provided each day and teachers will be invited to bring their classes
- New ACS curriculum coming.

10. NEXT MEETING

- January 19th
- March 19th
- April 27th
- June 8th

11. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Approved: _____ **Date: _____**

Paul Black, Chairperson