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 May21st, 2026

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1. Present

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

2. Call to Order

- Paul Black called the meeting to order - 5:35 PM

3. Agenda

- Chair noted that a formal agenda had not been circulated in advance but we would follow standard minutes protocol.

4. Minutes

- Minutes of the March 30th meeting were proofed, circulated, and adopted without changes.

5. Student Council Report

The student council representatives provided an update on activities and events:

- **May Events & Fundraising:**
  - Organized a "Pie a Teacher in the Face" event, raising $140 toward Earth Week initiatives.
  - Hosted an Earth Spirit Week.
  - Held the grand opening of the campus Memory Garden during lunchtime; the event featured snacks and was highly attended.
- **Free Lunch Fridays:**
  - Council reported on "Free Food Fridays" which take place in the school food lab. Students prepare meals and share any extra portions or desserts with the wider student body.
  - *Community Note:* It was highlighted that students in the class recently utilized the food lab to prepare and deliver four meals to a student's family following a medical emergency.
- **Elections & Executive Changes:**
  - Co-President elections concluded. Wyatt Cunningham and Naomi Suzuki were elected as the new Co-Presidents.
  - Vice-President interviews were completed today and will be finalized over the coming days.
- **Upcoming Dates:**
  - HVZ: Scheduled for tomorrow, May 22nd.
  - Grade 9 Orientation: Scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2026. The incoming and outgoing executive teams will co-plan the event.
  - Graduation Ceremony: Scheduled for June 29, 2026.

- The Goodbye Grads Assembly & Grad BBQ: These events will take place on Wednesday, June 17th.

6. Principal's Report

- **Student Awards & Recognitions:**
  - **Lieutenant Governor's Medals:** Grace Archibald and Mia Bowser were awarded medals at a ceremony two days prior at the Spring Garden Road Library.
  - **Grade 9 Citizenship Award:** Evelyn Best will be recognized at City Hall on May 26, 2026, alongside her family, honoring her community and school contributions.
  - **Awards & Letters Banquet:** Scheduled for the evening of June 9, 2026.
- **Guest Speaker Event:** Musician and athlete Jordan Croucher spoke to students today. The presentation tied into "cultivating peace" and overcoming adversity. The messaging and performance were exceptionally well-received by the student body.
- **Academic & Operational Approvals:**
  - **Math Boot Camp:** Officially approved for this year.
  - **Exam Schedule:** Administration is currently finalizing the upcoming schedule.
- **Costco Partnership Opportunity:** Costco reached out to expand its school support program into the high school tier. If selected, the school will receive **384 backpacks** and a **$500 grant** for the upcoming September term.
- **Year-End Events Policy Directive (Regional Centre for Education):**
  - The Principal shared a directive received from central office regarding the strict segregation of "school-based" versus "community-based" events (i.e. community prom).
  - *Policy Summary:* Events not directly organized, planned, or operated by the school (such as parent-led proms or celebrations) are classified as community-based. Schools must remain entirely separate. Staff are prohibited from assisting with planning, promoting on school grounds, distributing tickets, using school communication channels, or providing financial/resource backing. No parent committee or school council bank accounts can process funds for these events.Incidents that occur during prom are not covered under the School Insurance Program (SIP).
  - *SAC Discussion & Concerns:*
    - **Equity & Accessibility:** Members expressed deep concern that under a parent-run "community" framework, equity support is lost. Historically, the school privately sponsored 4 to 5 students who could not afford tickets. There is a strict ban on using school funds or staff facilitation. Parents on the council immediately volunteered to personally sponsor/subsidize ticket costs for students in need.
    - **Logistics & Workload:** It was noted that compiling a formal prom is akin to "planning a wedding for 500 people." Given the severe cuts to teacher prep blocks (now down to every second day), staff cannot realistically take this workload on, forcing it onto parents.
    - The registration numbers currently sit at 240 students. Ticket prices are finalized at $90 (a minor $5 increase from last year, despite a $12 cost hike per person, mitigated entirely by aggressive parent fundraising).
    - The Chair indicated an intention to escalate formal parent feedback regarding the disruptive nature of this policy overcorrection to the Minister's Office.

7. New Business: Student Code of Conduct Policy Review

Council member Tom Unwin undertook a study and completed an analysis of the recent N.S. School Code of Conduct with the intent to provide formal feedback from the SAC to the EECD in its role as an advisory body. A discussion ensued around the points Tom presented. Members were asked to give further thought to the points articulated and to come prepared to the next meeting to provide input.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Approved:_____ **Date:**_____

Paul Black, Chairperson