

Bedford & Forsyth Education Centres (BFEC)

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: November 12, 2025

Time: 3:20–4:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Present:

- Jarrett Feeney – Principal
 - Victoria White- Vice Principal
 - Victoria Hughes- Vice Principal
 - Jennifer White – SAC Chair
 - Andreea Cercel – Student Representative
 - Elizabeth Sheridan- Staff member
 - Brittney Myers- Staff member
 - Kathy Howes- Staff member
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1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Feeney welcomed everyone to the first SAC meeting of the year and thanked members for their continued support in shaping the direction of BFEC.

Members introduced themselves, representing parents, staff, students, and community partners.

He reviewed the role of the SAC as a space for collaboration and advisory input that meets **six times per year** (Thursdays, 3:20–4:00 p.m.) to discuss school improvement goals and funding priorities.

2. Principal's Message and Highlights from Quarter 1

Mr. Feeney shared that BFEC has had a **strong start to the school year**, with students showing growth and engagement across both campuses. Staff have worked hard to create

welcoming, inclusive environments, and the goal moving into Quarter 2 is to maintain that positive momentum.

Quarter 1 Highlights:

- **Treaty Day Guest Speaker:**

Food Science 12 and *Netukulimk* 12 students hosted **Jenna Chisholm** (Millbrook First Nation) for a session on Mi'kmaw culture, Peace and Friendship Treaties, and traditional medicines.

- **Pre-Service Teachers:**

Four pre-service teachers are joining BFEC this year under the mentorship of **Ms. Payne, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Humber, and Mr. Hennessey**.

- **Field Trips:**

- **Physically Active Living (PAL):** Outdoor recreation at Disc Golf, Dingle Tower, and Shubie Park.
- **Oceans 11:** Visit to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.
- **Visual Arts & PAL:** Halifax mural walk exploring public art and culture.

- **Career Readiness Workshops:**

Bedford students took part in résumé and job-search workshops and explored **MyBlueprint**, a digital career-planning tool.

- **Netukulimk 12:**

New Grade 12 course integrating Mi'kmaw knowledge and Western science through a “Two-Eyed Seeing” approach. Students studied soil and water from the Sackville River to Fish Hatchery Park.

- **Public Health Pilot:**

BFEC is part of a new immunization initiative for Grade 12 students.

- **Info Sessions:** Nov 25 (Bedford) / Nov 26 (Dartmouth)
- **Clinics:** Dec 9 / Dec 10

- **Student Attendance & Engagement Policy:**

Attendance is taken **twice per class** due to extended blocks. Students reach the threshold for potential credit loss at **21 absences**. Interventions begin at **10% and 15%** absence rates. Families are encouraged to monitor attendance via PowerSchool.

- **NSCC Open House:**
On Oct 17, 22 BFEC students toured Dartmouth NSCC campuses, earning praise for their engagement and respectful participation.
 - **YMCA Youth Educational Support Program (YESP):**
Weekly sessions at Bedford campus (Wednesdays 11–1) supporting post-secondary and financial literacy planning.
 - **Safe Schools Strategy:**
HRCE’s initiative focuses on inclusion, relationship building, and student well-being. BFEC created a **Vision and Values Statement** and a **Matrix of Expectations**, now displayed at both campus entrances and featured in the upcoming newsletter.
 - **Girls’ Work Group:**
Dartmouth campus launched its first Girls’ Group this fall—providing a safe, supportive space for female-identifying students to discuss health, identity, and empowerment.
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3. Student Success Plan (SSP) Focus Areas

Mr. Feeney reviewed the SSP process and current goals in **Math, Literacy, and Well-Being**:

- **Literacy:** Strengthening students’ basic digital skills—formatting documents, attaching files, and communicating through email—to build confidence as independent digital learners.
 - **Math:** Fostering student agency and problem-solving confidence by connecting math concepts to real-life experiences and tracking progress through surveys and classroom assessments.
 - **Well-Being:** Elevating student voice and belonging through a *BFEC-specific Well-Being Survey*, co-created with students and staff, aiming to ensure every student feels seen, heard, and valued.
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4. Sharing from Jennifer White (Parent Representative)

Jennifer expressed appreciation for the information shared and echoed student representative comments about the welcoming and supportive environment at BFEC.

5. Sharing from Andreea Cercel (Student Representative)

Andreea shared results and observations from the **Student Well-Being Survey**:

- Students feel comfortable seeking help and trust staff, contributing to a strong sense of belonging.
 - Students know where to access supports and appreciate staff approachability.
 - Students are eager for more **extra-curricular options**, such as peer tutoring, a relaxed study space with snacks, and more movement or wellness breaks during the day.
 - Students suggested a **greater variety of food options** (gluten-free, vegetarian, and cultural choices).
 - Interest was expressed in more opportunities for **conflict-resolution supports**, such as an anonymous concern box.
 - Engagement ideas included **lunchtime walks, tutoring corners, and expanded lunch activities**.
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6. Next Steps

- **SAC Agreement and Bylaws:**
Mr. Feeney will send draft versions to **Jennifer White** for review and signature prior to HRCE submission.
 - **Continue Student Engagement Efforts:**
Feedback from the student survey will guide actions to enhance well-being, food options, and extracurricular opportunities.
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7. Future SAC Meeting Dates

- **December 17, 2025**
- **February 18, 2026**
- **April 8, 2026**
- **May 6, 2026**
- **June 3, 2026**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: *Jarrett Feeney*