

BFEC School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026

Virtual (Google Meet) – 3:20 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m.

2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

No outstanding items requiring further discussion.

3. Principal's Report

Enrollment Update

BFEC currently serves approximately 400 students:

- 225 students – Bedford campus
- 150 students – Dartmouth campus
- Approximately 25 students active in Outreach
- 89 adult learners
- Approximately 180 potential graduates

Interprovincial Collaboration – Alternative Education

BFEC leadership has been engaged in ongoing collaboration with the New Brunswick Alternative Education Program and Safe Schools consultants from the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), who are reviewing and redesigning their alternative education delivery model.

These discussions have focused on best practices in re-engagement programming, inclusive approaches, flexible scheduling, and student support structures.

Intramurals (Student Voice Initiative)

In response to feedback from the Student Voice Committee, BFEC launched intramurals during Quarter 3. Activities run Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch to promote connection and positive engagement.

Activities to date:

- Pickleball
- Frisbee Golf

Upcoming:

- 4 Square
- Arcade Day (air hockey, basketball, cornhole)
- Ping Pong Tournament
- Soccer (pending work order completion)

## Student Achievement – Quarter 2

Academic recognition included:

- 29 students – Principal’s List (90%+)
- 21 students – High Honours (85%+)
- 28 students – Honours (80%+)

## Curriculum Night

Both campuses hosted family engagement evenings (5:00–6:00 p.m.):

- Bedford: “Sweets & Greet”
- Dartmouth: “Friends & Family Night”

The events were designed to strengthen home–school partnerships and increase transparency around programming and pathways.

## YMCA YESP Partnership

BFEC has re-engaged with the YMCA Youth Educational Support Program (YESP). The program provides weekly support (11:00–1:00) focused on post-secondary planning, career exploration, financial literacy, and wellness.

## Co-operative Education – Quarter 3

Fifteen students have secured placements following completion of the 25-hour classroom component. Students refined résumés, cover letters, and certifications (First Aid, WHMIS, OHS).

Placements include:

- Aerotech Engines Ltd.
- True North Diner
- One Bite at a Time (Speech Pathology Clinic)
- The Sagewood (Continuing Care Facility)
- Discovery Centre

## African Heritage Month

The Principal acknowledged African Heritage Month and the provincial theme: “Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress.” Staff were thanked for their ongoing commitment to supporting Black excellence and inclusive practices.

## Talk About It Tuesdays

A new lunch-hour initiative launched to respond to student interests and emerging topics (beginning with Prom Committee planning).

Upcoming guest speaker: Tiffani Young, Director of the “Uncover Your Essence” Youth Conference (Halifax Convention Centre – April 18).

### Trades Exhibition Hall

Approximately 30 students attended the Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council Trades Exhibition Hall, engaging with 14 interactive trade booths and industry professionals to explore skilled trades pathways.

### Junior High Re-Engagement (JHR)

Creative Arts groups continue to support social engagement for junior high students experiencing anxiety or barriers to participation. The model includes collaboration between outreach teachers and the CYCP to build confidence and belonging.

### Pre-Service Teachers

BFEC welcomed two Cape Breton University practicum students for Quarter 3:

- Finlay Nearing (Mentor: Sophia Humber)
- Nicole Cox (Mentor: Derrick Hennessey)

### Student Success Planning

#### Math

Focus on building confidence and ownership through relevant problem-solving, reflection, and one-on-one conferencing. Continued emphasis on self-assessment and instructional adjustment based on growth patterns.

#### Literacy

Focus on foundational technology and communication skills, including document formatting, research skills, plagiarism awareness, and professional communication. Increased modelling and guided practice to build independence and critical thinking.

#### Well-Being

Student micro-survey feedback identified the need for increased connection and engagement opportunities. In response:

- Intramurals (Wednesdays & Fridays)
- Quiet space – Youth Health Centre (Mondays)
- Resource Room access daily (with added academic support Tuesdays & Thursdays)

These initiatives demonstrate direct implementation of student voice.

#### 4. BFEC Finance / Grants

##### Re-Engagement Grant

Planned purchases aligned with engagement, wellness, and experiential learning include:

- Art supplies
- Free weights and soccer net
- Stand mixers
- Bluetooth speakers
- Digital technology for student-led print shop
- Photography equipment
- Chromebooks (supporting outreach and community-based learners)

These investments aim to enhance creativity, wellness, entrepreneurship, digital access, and real-world learning pathways.

#### 5. Other Business

No additional business was raised.

#### 6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.