

BFEC School Advisory Council (SAC)

Meeting Date: October 15, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:20 p.m.

Meeting Format: Virtual

Attendance

School Administration

- **Jarrett Feeney – Principal**
- **Victoria White – Vice-Principal**
- **Elizabeth Sheridan – Vice-Principal**

Staff Representatives

- **Kathy Howes**
- **Leah Bacich**
- **Megan Paris**
- **Lisa Pierce**
- **Heather Hughes**

SAC Chair

- **Lucia Andrea**

Parent Representatives

- **Mel Quigg**
- **Tiffany Wightman**

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Principal welcomed members to the first School Advisory Council meeting of the 2026–27 school year and thanked them for their commitment to supporting BFEC.
- Members were invited to introduce themselves and share their connection to the school community.
- Lucia Andrea was identified as having expressed interest in serving as SAC Chair.

- The need to identify a Vice-Chair and Secretary was discussed. The Vice-Chair must be a parent/guardian representative, while the Secretary may be any SAC member.
- Interested members were encouraged to contact the Principal.

2. SAC Purpose and Responsibilities

- The Principal provided an overview of the SAC's advisory role in supporting student achievement, well-being, and school improvement.
- The council will meet six times throughout the school year, generally from 3:20–4:00 p.m.
- Meetings will include school updates, Student Success Plan progress, opportunities for member input, and consideration of SAC funding priorities

3. Principal's Report

Student Enrollment

- Bedford Campus: 80 regular diploma students and 38 adult diploma students.
- Dartmouth Campus: 61 regular diploma students and 44 adult diploma students.
- Additional students are enrolled in academic upgrading courses at both campuses.
- BFEC currently supports 50 Indigenous students and 51 African Nova Scotian students across the school community.

Staff Professional Development

- Staff participated in professional learning focused on student well-being, inclusive education, and instructional practices.

- Dr. Sherry Abidi (IWK/Dalhousie University) presented on adolescent cannabis use and its effects on brain development and mental health.
- Afternoon sessions focused on Behaviour Intervention Pathways, Getting to Know Our Learners, and the development of Cycle 1 strategies for literacy, mathematics, and well-being.

Field Trips and Experiential Learning

- PAL students participated in outdoor activities at Dingle Park, Halifax Commons, and Albro Lake, supporting teamwork, physical activity, and positive relationships.
- Oceans 11 students participated in field experiences at Halifax Harbour, Alderney Library, and Lawrencetown Beach, exploring marine ecosystems, water quality, kelp health, and Mi'kmaq perspectives.
- Mi'kmaw Studies 11 Outreach students visited the Bedford Barrens National Historic Site to connect classroom learning with local Indigenous history and culture.

NSCC Mathematics Admission Requirements

- The Principal shared upcoming changes to mathematics admission requirements for selected NSCC programs, particularly in the skilled trades.
- For 2027–28, Math at Work 12 or equivalent will be recommended for relevant programs, with existing admission requirements remaining unchanged.
- Beginning in 2028–29, Math at Work 12 or equivalent will become the minimum mathematics admission requirement for these programs.
- BFEC will support students in understanding these changes and selecting courses aligned with their post-secondary goals.

High School Lunch Program

- BFEC launched its daily high school lunch program at both campuses in September.
- The program supports food security, student well-being, and readiness to learn.
- Student feedback regarding meal quality and menu options has been very positive.

NSCC Campus Support

- Meghan MacDonald, NSCC Student Recruitment Coordinator, continues to provide on-site support at both campuses.

- Services include application assistance, fee waivers, applicant portal setup, and guidance regarding admissions and program options.
- This partnership supports students in navigating the transition to post-secondary education.

Community Partnerships and Student Programming

ReachAbility – One Step Closer

- BFEC is partnering with ReachAbility to offer small-group workshops focused on confidence, personal strengths, wellness, conflict management, and employment readiness.

The Consent Project

- BFEC is offering legal education workshops through the Dalhousie Youth Legal Education Society.
- Sessions address consent, legal rights and responsibilities, healthy decision-making, and relevant Canadian laws.

YMCA Youth Educational Support Program (YESP)

- YESP has returned to both campuses to provide individualized guidance and workshops.
- Programming includes post-secondary planning, career exploration, financial literacy, academic success, and wellness.

Provincial Conference Day

- October 23 was identified as the annual NSTU Provincial Conference Day.
- Staff will participate in professional learning related to curriculum, instructional practice, inclusion, technology, and student well-being.

AARAO Post-Secondary Fair

- Bedford Campus was scheduled to host the AARAO Post-Secondary Fair on October 16.
- Approximately 25–30 post-secondary institutions and organizations were expected to participate, including colleges, universities, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

- Staff developed interactive activities and curriculum-connected assignments to encourage student engagement with representatives and exploration of future pathways.

Dartmouth Campus Community Safety

- The Principal shared ongoing concerns regarding increased drug paraphernalia and open drug use by community members near the Dartmouth campus.
- Discussions have taken place with Dartmouth North MLA Susan Leblanc, Nova Scotia Power representatives, and neighbouring school principals.
- BFEC will continue collaborating with community partners to identify practical measures to improve student and staff safety.

HRCE Youth Summit

- Ten students from the BFEC Student Success Team are scheduled to attend the second annual HRCE Youth Summit on November 17.
- The event will focus on student leadership, voice, inclusion, engagement, and well-being.
- Students will be encouraged to bring ideas and learning back to the BFEC community.

Truth and Reconciliation

- Staff and students were encouraged to wear orange on September 29 in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- The school continues to promote learning about residential schools, Indigenous history, culture, and reconciliation.
- Related learning opportunities will continue throughout Mi'kmaw History Month in October.

Curriculum Nights

- Both campuses hosted successful Curriculum Night events.
- Bedford hosted its Sweets and Greet, while Dartmouth held its Family & Friends Night.

- Increased family participation was reported, providing opportunities to strengthen school-home relationships and share information about programming.

4. Student Success Plan (SSP) Update

The Principal provided an overview of BFEC's Student Success Plan, emphasizing its alignment with HRCE priorities and the use of short improvement cycles to monitor student progress and adjust instructional practices.

Literacy – Cycle 1

- Focus: Strengthening inferencing and critical-thinking skills.
- Strategies include explicit instruction, modelling, think-alouds, conferencing, and small-group support.
- Intended outcome: Improved student confidence and ability to interpret texts, consider perspectives, and support ideas with evidence.

Mathematics – Cycle 1

- Focus: Providing multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mathematical understanding.
- Teachers will use conversations, observations, and products as complementary assessment approaches.
- Intended outcome: Increased student confidence in communicating mathematical thinking and a more comprehensive understanding of student achievement.

Well-Being – Cycle 1

- Focus: Strengthening student voice, leadership, engagement, and belonging.
- BFEC is developing its Student Success Team to provide meaningful opportunities for student participation in school planning and initiatives.
- Leadership development opportunities are being explored, including potential involvement with George Woodhouse from the Howl Experience.
- Intended outcome: Increased student ownership, connection, and participation in the school community.

Post-Secondary and Career Readiness

- An additional emphasis within the well-being goal is increasing student exposure to post-secondary education, skilled trades, and employment pathways.

- BFEC is expanding partnerships and bringing more representatives and organizations directly to students.
- The goal is to ensure students leave BFEC with not only the credits required for graduation, but also greater confidence, direction, and awareness of future opportunities.

5. SAC Agreement and By-Laws

- The Principal reviewed the purpose of the SAC Agreement and By-Laws and their role in establishing membership, operating procedures, and responsibilities.
- Members were advised that BFEC's quarterly enrollment model and varying student graduation timelines create unique considerations for SAC membership.
- Student representation will rotate throughout the year to reflect the school's changing enrollment.
- Efforts to secure community representation are ongoing.
- Parent members were asked to review the circulated Agreement and By-Laws and provide feedback or proposed revisions before the next meeting.

6. Follow-Up Items

Item	Responsibility
Confirm SAC Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary roles	SAC membership / Principal
Continue recruitment of community representatives	School administration
Review SAC Agreement and By-Laws and submit feedback	Parent SAC members
Continue developing Student Success Team and leadership opportunities	School administration / Staff
Monitor implementation of SSP Cycle 1 strategies	SSP teams

Continue collaboration regarding Dartmouth campus safety

School administration /
Community partners

7. Upcoming SAC Meetings

- November 19, 2026
- December 15, 2026
- February 18, 2027
- April 8, 2027
- May 27, 2027

Note: These minutes summarize the information presented and matters discussed. Formal motions, approvals, attendance, and adjournment details were not recorded in the source notes and should be added if applicable.