



SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Bel Ayr Elementary School
4 Bell Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Meeting Minutes

			<u>Presenter</u>
1.	Approval of Agenda*	Agenda Approved	Strowbridge-Ford
2.	Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement	Statement Acknowledged	Strowbridge-Ford
3.	Consent Agenda: 4.1 Approval of Draft SAC Minutes of Nov 12, 2025	October Minutes Minutes are approved.	Strowbridge-Ford

5.a	Admin Report	- Thank you to our Home and School and volunteers for helping to support our holiday shopping in December. - Expenses are at \$1000.00. The Halloween dance incurred more expenses. Costs will be recouped at Bingo - Bingo Books were \$450.00 and should last for two games. - Congratulations to all students and staff for donating 471 pairs of socks for our first Socks for Shelters drive. Thank you to Ms. MacNeil for organising this initiative. She was able to use the drive for learning math and also make the connection for students so they knew why it was important. - We are also grateful for the many people who brought in food donations to support our SchoolsPlus Food Kitchen at Eric Graves Junior High and the volunteers who helped us with our concerts. - During the last week in December our grade 6s also planned a whole week of Spirit Days. - African Heritage Month is approaching quickly. Teachers have been given some resources and planning tips for designing lesson plans that relate to the 2026 theme: - <i>"Strength in Unity: Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power, and Progress.</i> - <i>We are looking at homerooms exploring the rich histories, achievements, and cultures of our Black communities in Nova Scotia with our work to be shared in the gymnasium on February 27th.</i> - There is a plan to use Feb. 27 to have a gym showcase for students so everyone can see what was made and presentations can be made. - Our milk orders are way down this year and the prices have skyrocketed. This month they also added a \$14 extra delivery charge in addition to fuel charges that went up in September. We are re-thinking our Milk Program in light of these costs and the fact that all other food services are free or "pay what you can". - Discussion was had about possibly including more dairy in the breakfast offerings and perhaps ask parents what they want to do moving forward. - On the last Friday in November we invited <i>The Domino Man</i> in as a schoolwide reward for filling our pompom cylinder. Students have also earned extra outside time and...Ms. McKenna has begun work on designing a Bel	
-----	--------------	---	--

		Ayr Olympics to coincide with the Winter Olympics this February. This could be the ultimate schoolwide reward! It will be an outdoor snow event and she will have it organized and ready to go after the first snow storm in late January or February. It's designed to run on a Tuesday with our school schedule. - HRCE Math Coach, Jill Gallant, is finishing up a round of coaching with four of our teachers who reached out to learn more about teaching computational fluency. There will be a follow-up meeting to see what was learned shortly. - Family Literacy Day is January 27th. Plans are underway to organize a "Masked Reader" whereby staff volunteers read books or passages wearing masks and students have to view the videos and guess who they are. - Mr. Marsh was recognized for his good work opening the Christmas ceremonies. It was appreciated and everyone felt included. It was good to see all of the teachers celebrating with students. There was special mention of how great the music teacher was with students. There were questions about why the students were not on the stage. Accessibility was a factor in this decision. The risers were used and some of the stage was used. It would be good to explain the use of the stage next year during the concert.	
5.b	SSP	Visual maps were explored. How to meet student needs were discussed as well as the role of differentiation and managing available resources. Teachers will sometimes use recess time to give help. Volunteers would need training. In terms of results, there have been some significant gains in recent years. Different teaching approaches have been examined and practiced in-house. Teachers have brought new strategies to their classes to teach skills as well. There is a need for more interventionists in school. We have had Math Coaching this year which has been helpful (generally in six week blocks). There is room for student support outside of school. There is also a Literacy Interventionist. There were questions around possible resources/programs for support. A plan was made to table this	Marsh/Hendren

		discussion for the next meeting. A plan was made to bring a piece of data to the next meeting. Our Cycle 2 Strategies are as follows: LITERACY Strategy -Use the reciprocal process of responding to text in writing/composing (and other ways of representing) to increase reading comprehension and fluency. MATH Strategy: Teachers will develop a consistent, school-wide approach to assessing and supporting students' computational fluency by combining high-quality evidence collection with collaborative professional judgment. WELLBEING Strategy: To continue to strengthen a positive, consistent school culture by embedding our new school-wide behaviour matrix into daily classroom practice and monthly assemblies, ensuring students understand, model, and celebrate expected behaviours.	
5.	SAC Budget Consideration- SSP Plan	We have \$5195 in our SAC budget. This should be used to support our SSP plan. Examples might include: • Purchasing learning supports or resources linked to literacy, math, mental health, etc. • Materials or resources that assist students' learning outcomes. • Programs that align with locally developed school improvement strategies. <i>The primary criterion is that the expenditure clearly supports educational improvement</i> We would like to ask the SAC if they can cover the cost of the following thus far in the year: - printing our new school-wide matrix on poster board and the costs of some health books to teach students about private parts and social skills. (~\$100 for all) - Thinking Journals to support our math strategy (\$141.32) - Mini-whiteboard set for a new classroom teacher to support Computational Fluency (\$109.41) Total = \$350.73 -There were no objections to this. Other needs are as follows:	Marsh

		- \$1000 to support school supply initiative - \$1500 for African Heritage Month and School Olympics resources and guest speakers - Cover the cost of an LCD projector replacement in Grade 6 \$800 (Two have been replaced so far) - Remaining budget could go to - Upgrading tables in classrooms - School-wide rewards - Guided reading collections The school supply initiative was discussed. Equity was examined. There are some strains in terms of meeting all expectations, especially school trips. Donations are allowed. There is \$922.44 in the current account. Class trips were discussed with a focus on safety concerns and the need to include everyone. There is parent support for the Grade 6 Graduation. This will be discussed further and to be included in costs. Networking is a possibility and can be moved to the next meeting. A draft budget can be created.	
6.	Walking Path (in back of school)	Meeting held on January 13, 2026 with Deputy Mayor Mancini, HRM staff, and HRCE Operations staff. There was a meeting concerning the back path on school property. HRCE owns the top half and HRM owns the bottom half. It has not been maintained. Improvements would mean ripping out the present path, reconnecting it, and grading it. There were a set of steps that became unsafe and were removed. There is an option to angle it but there is no plan to upgrade it at present time.	Marsh
6.	SAC Innovation Grant Update	• Anchor Texts and 2 mini STEM kits were purchased in November - \$681.28 • Ms. Cooper and Mr. Campbell from Woodlawn High were sent a copy of our SAC Innovation Grant outline on October 30th. Ms. Cooper responded indicating they were in a holding pattern with limitations placed on the IB program for off-site visits. • Ms. Hendren, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Hunter, and myself have met three times to plan mini stem challenges • Lower elementary classes were given their first “Penguin” challenge in December • This Friday, 5R and 6H will launch the first upper elementary STEM challenge. It is a challenge involving the design of a parachute to help a Yeti escape an avalanche, • Two female students from Acadia University Engineering have volunteered to come in and do a presentation on “Women in Engineering” There was discussion around honorariums and getting faculty from Dal to come in. A plan was made to have contact between	Marsh/Strowbridge-Ford

		Dal faculty and Bel Ayr Administration. A presentation would be reviewed that includes Anchor Texts so students can make connections. A suggested deadline was February so that supplies can be gathered as needed.	
7.	SAC Conference Update	SAC Conference - November 28, 2025	Marsh
8.	SAC Membership-update	Updating SAC Membership on our SAC agreement.	Marsh
9.	Other Business 9.1 Membership Updates	9.1 Membership Updates	Strowbridge-Ford/Marsh
11.	Other Business:		Strowbridge-Ford
12.	Adjournment	7:14pm	Strowbridge-Ford

Next SAC meetings:

February 11, 2026

April 15, 2026'

May 13, 2026