

Bicentennial SAC Meeting

February 17, 2026

In attendance

Bryony, Brianne, Ed, Principal Hartlen, Ms. Webber, Pastor Mutale, Ingram

Called to order at 6 PM

Agenda

Principal's Report

- Request to change the school's bell time is ready to be sent to HRCE for approval
- Grade 9 students have had presentations from Dartmouth High Guidance team on things like:
 - Course selection
 - O2 program
 - IB programs (family's have been notified and are welcome to attend)

Events

- Trips to the oval
- Spirit week will be pre march break
- School dance is scheduled for March 5 (Junior High)
- BINGO coming up in the spring

School climate

- Number of suspensions has decreased (though it was already low)
 - Attributed partly to students settling in over the course of the year
 - Students report a more positive environment in the school this year centred around respect
 - Majority of suspensions are in grade 9
- Newer teachers have been making great improvements
- Supporting classroom practices to decrease student anxiety and promote productivity and learning
 - e.g. consistent visual schedules and other aids in all grades/classrooms
 - setting expectations of classroom set up from year to year

Building school culture

- School adults (teachers, etc) will be engaging in professional development on cultural safety led by cultural response team (name TBC)
- Beginning of a long process of engagement. Cultural safety will be built in to all meetings with teachers.

- This is a province-wide initiative, but we're trying to get things kicked off early
- African NS motivational speaker coming in Feb 27 for Grades 3/4+
- Q: Is cultural education included in classes?
 - Not in the curriculum, but some teachers incorporate it through universal design projects
- Q: Aside from acknowledgement in the newsletter, does the school celebrate events like Filipino Heritage Month?
 - Not officially, though we would like to expand the scope of cultural celebrations
 - There have been celebrations around events like Lunar New Year in the past, but always organized by specific teachers
- Sports
 - Basketball teams starting playoffs
 - Badminton completed tryouts

Budget

- Only two requests for funding from staff
- \$1000 for school supplies
 - Approved
- New Chromebook cart to hold/charge 30 chromebooks
 - Will attempt to get one supplied by HRCE
 - If we can't get one from HRCE, SAC approves purchasing one
 - Cost TBC, but likely in the \$2-3k range
- We should have some money remaining in the budget, so we will continue canvassing for ideas/projects
- Money needs to be spent by end of March for bookkeeping reasons

Additional notes

- We receive a PC food security grant and are looking at establishing a school pantry which families can use.
- Q: Is it possible to issue grocery gift cards in addition to having the pantry?
 - It's complicated, but we are trying to figure out if it can be done. If so, it would be managed through SchoolsPlus

SAC Meeting dates for 2025/2026

- We will continue with Mondays at 6 PM
- ~~Oct 20~~
- ~~Nov 17~~
- ~~Jan 12~~
- ~~Feb 9~~

- March 9
- April 13
- May 11

Next meeting is March 9 at 6 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.