



SAC MEETING MINUTES

Duc d'Anville Elementary School

12 Clayton Park Drive

Halifax NS B3M 1L3

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<http://ddv.hrce.ca>

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 4:30 pm
Room 310

ATTENDANCE

Nicholas Graham, Anne Martin, Nicole Mosher (secretary), Jane Newton (chair), Jessica DeViller, Moira Marks, Sarah Barron (acting vice principal), Nancy Taylor, Amy Weedon (principal)

REGRETS

Dave Kilgour

call to order	4:35	adjournment	5:55 pm
approval of agenda	moved: Anne Martin	seconded: Nancy Taylor	
approval of minutes	moved: Moira Marks	seconded: Nicholas Graham	

NOTES

Student Success Plan update: 520 students. Matthew Burghuis joined as Core French teacher. Ms Duplessi is going on maternity leave. Ms. Gupta left and Palak Patel has taken her place. Ms Van Buskirk (Music) is returning. Several changes to EPA and ECE staffing as well.

Principal's report (attached): Cycle 2 began in December; focused on writing and literacy. Work is being done to standardize evaluation processes among the staff. Some extra PD being provided at lunch. Teachers are introducing a post-lunch transition activity. Trauma-informed PD was provided, which focused on structure and routine. Have started allowing the older students to roam more freely during outside play, which has reduced the need to enforce and has increased students' social autonomy.

New interest-based clubs have started, including art, volleyball, sports club (grades 4-6), and a quiet lunch option (in the school counsellor's office).

Grade 6 provincial assessment results: Reading: 83 students were eligible to write, 84.3% participation, 54.3% met expectations (level 3 or 4) in reading, the region was 73.3%. 22.9% were approaching expectations.

Writing: 33% met expectations; 55.3% for region. Math: 50.7% met expectations; region was 70.6%.

Discussion about why writing scores are so low. Jane suggested students could have pen pals or write to classmates to increase writing stamina.

Mrs. Scott has been focusing on social and emotional development with her students and it is having a positive effect. She is teaching the school's behaviour matrix to her students using Curipod.

Class trips and events: Grade 5 are going to a ballet, grade 2s are going to the Museum of Natural History. A ski trip is being considered. Snowshoes have been borrowed from Lockview. Grades P-2 went to Halifax West for a sing-along at Christmastime. Grade 3 went to a curling event. Tennis NS is coming in. Owen Sound concert. Step workshop. Earth Rangers coming in March. Discovery Centre and SuperNOVA (Dal) are

possibilities as well. SAC agreed to pay \$300 to fund the Discovery Centre Planetarium to come for grade 6 classes on March 9th. African Heritage Month kickoff event in February went well. A Lunar New Year parade was held in February.

There was a discussion about the cost of school buses for class trips. SAC has paid for these buses in previous years and can do so in this year as well. Ms. Barron will send a reminder e-mail to teachers about booking year-end class trips.

Special thanks to HRM Regional Councillor Kathryn Morse for funding recess bins (indoor and outdoor toys and games).

Grade 6 closing ceremony will be held on Friday, June 26. The grade 6 class trip will be the students' choice between Hatfield Farms and Atlantic Splash Adventure.

Operations update: There was a flood near the gym entrance in December, but it has been repaired and covered by insurance. HRCE responded quickly. HRCE has also recommended the school be decluttered. A dumpster will be delivered to the school in March to facilitate this.

Mr. Colpitts has started a grade 5 and 6 co-ed basketball team that is playing other elementary schools. Jane suggested students should have team shirts like the other schools do. Jane will take on this project with help from Ms. Barron.

Update on purchases: "Everyday Speech" software will not be purchased after all. Barcode scanner for library (previously approved via e-mail) was purchased.

Discussion: Gaga ball pit and the challenges to take steps toward installation.

DUC D'ANVILLE ADMINISTRATION REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

Current Enrollment: 520 Students

SAC Grant Balance: \$11899.77

1. Provincial Assessment Analysis (Grade 6 RMW6)

Our 2025–2026 assessment results will be added as data for our current instructional cycles. We are utilizing this data to look at overall school instruction in literacy and numeracy.

Literacy	Reading	Writing
Total Enrollment (Grade 6)	83 Students	83 Students
Participation Rate	84.3%	83.1%
Level 3 & 4 (Meeting and Above Expectations)	54.3%	33.3%
Level 2 (Approaching Expectations)	22.9%	42.0%
Level 1 (Limited)	22.9%	24.6%

Key Takeaway: While 54.3% of students meet reading benchmarks, writing is a priority area. The **42% of students at Level 2 in Writing** represent a critical "moveable" group targeted through Cycle 2 interventions.

2. Staffing Updates

We would like to welcome new team members and acknowledge upcoming transitions:

- **Core French:** We welcome **Mr. Matthew Berghuis** as our new Core French teacher.
- **Grade 1 Transition:** **Ms. DuPlessi** will be going on maternity leave starting March Break. We wish her the best.
- **New Hire:** We have hired **Mrs. Palak Patel** following Deepali Gupta's move to the high school.
- **Returning Staff:** We look forward to **Ms. Van** returning to our team after March Break.

3. Student Success Plan (SSP) Cycle 2

Literacy: Moving from "Approaching" to "Meeting" in Writing

- **Data Sorting:** Teachers are analyzing classroom writing samples to identify specific student clusters needing targeted support.
- **Common Understanding:** Utilizing Provincial Exemplars to ensure classroom grading aligns with provincial Level 3/4 standards.
- **Targets:** Communicating clear "Success Criteria" so students can self-assess their writing progress.
- **Literacy Cafés:** Collaborative staff sessions to share high-impact instructional and assessment techniques.

Mathematics: Conceptual Fact Fluency

- **Fact Progression:** Using PLC time to analyze student evidence against **Fact Learning Progression Charts**.
- **Targeted Fluency:** A daily "Fact Fluency Block" focuses on **accuracy, flexibility, and efficiency** based on student strengths.
- **Actionable Feedback:** Providing immediate cues during math tasks to address misconceptions and prompt deeper thinking.
- **Leadership:** Administration provides scheduled time for teachers to discuss ongoing evidence and plan next steps.

Well-Being: Belonging & Readiness

- **Regulated Transitions:** Consistent post-lunch activities (mindfulness/quiet reading) help students settle into a "ready-to-learn" state.
- **Social Autonomy:** Allowing free movement on school grounds during recess/lunch to foster social problem-solving across our 520 students.
- **Student Voice:** Interest-based clubs including **Art, Volleyball, Sports**, and a **Quiet Lunch** option.

Monitoring Success

To measure the impact of these well-being strategies, we will look for:

1. **Reduction in Office Referrals:** Specifically, during the post-lunch transition period.
2. **Student Voice Surveys:** Increased reporting of "feeling a sense of belonging" and "having a choice in activities."

4. School Life

- **Field Trips Upcoming:**
 - **Grade 5:** Ballet (Feb 26).

- o **Grade 2:** Museum of Natural History
- o **Primary:** Shubenacadia Wildlife Park (Spring)
- o **Grade 6:** Pottery Lab
- **Athletics:**
 - o Skiing trips, Snow Shoeing, Tennis and the **Duc Basketball Team** season.
- **Presentations:**
 - o **Recent:** Owen Sound (ANSMA) and The Steppers (Feb 19).
 - o **Upcoming:** Earth Rangers (Grades 1–3, Mar 23) and Discovery Centre Planetarium.
- **Resources:** A special thank you to Ms. Morse for the donation of Recess Bins, providing indoor (board games, art) and outdoor (balls, hoops, chalk) equipment.
- **Celebrations/Events:** Successful African Heritage Month Kick-Off, Lunar New Year Parade (Feb 20), and upcoming Spirit Week before March Break.

5. Grade 6 End-of-Year Preparations

- **Closing Ceremony:** Scheduled for **June 26th**.
- **Final Trip:** Booking is in progress for either **Atlantic Splash** or **Hatfield Farms**.

6. Operations Update

- **Flood**
- **Purging/Excess Removal** – a dumpster will be delivered just prior to March Break
- **Painting**

ACTION ITEMS

- Jane to send link to provincial SAC conference materials (done)
- Jane to send November minutes to Ms. Barron for posting (done)