

Highland Park Junior High School

School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – Date: February 10th, 2026

- Meeting was called to order at 6:12pm
- Mr. Sarka reported that the current student enrolment stands at 150 students, with two homeroom classes per grade level.
- Discussion was held regarding transition planning for:
 - **Outgoing Grade 9 students**, including preparation for high school.
 - **Incoming Grade 7 students**, including orientation and integration supports
- Mr. Sarka reviewed upcoming African Heritage Month activities, including:
 - DBDL Initiative
 - Pancake Breakfast
 - African Heritage Drummers
 - African Heritage Month programming in partnership with Halifax Public Library

These initiatives aim to celebrate culture, promote inclusion, and enhance student engagement.
- Mr. Sarka provided a summary review regarding the ANS Achievement Grant.
- Updates were also provided regarding our Literacy and Numeracy support (UFLI),
- Mr. Sarka shared information regarding the upcoming field trips for 2026 (Africville, Skating at the Oval – *Cancelled Due to Weather forecast*, Ski Trip *Pending Due to weather forecast*)
- The school continues to provide:
 - A Hot Breakfast Program
 - A Snack Bin Program.

These programs support student well-being and readiness to learn.
- HPJH has introduced several new extracurricular programs, including:
 - The Kitchen Brigade, led by a professional chef and the implementation of A Babysitting Course.

These initiatives aim to enhance student engagement and skill development.
- Student representatives reported noticeable improvements in student and teacher morale, reflecting a positive shift in school culture.
- Preliminary discussions were held regarding tentative plans for Grade 9 year-end celebrations.
- Mr. Sarka led the discussion on financial requests and offsetting funds for 2026
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm
- Next meeting scheduled for March 10th 2026.