

DHS School Council Meeting--SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
September 19, 2017

Attendance:

Council: Bruce Kaminsky, Kevin Dankosky, Kim Weatherly, Mary K Morris, Randi Siegel, Dave Levy, Tom McFerrin

Guest: Libba Morris, Pam Tallmadge, Kelly Clinch, Elizabeth Julian

Bruce opens meeting at 4:04pm.

Welcome

- Approved August Minutes

Teachers' Report

- Kevin Dankosky gave update on the success of the mentor program for new teachers. The group meets once a month. This is the time for new teachers to ask questions. They have asked local restaurants to sponsor a breakfast for their meetings. They are also starting an after school social for all teachers to meet once a month.
- It was asked if the head of each department give the council feedback. Kevin will collect this information and give report each month to the School Council.
- Mr. McFerrin conducts teacher meetings once a month for the first 30 minutes of each group of teacher's planning period. It's a great way for a smaller group of teachers to get together and meet as a group to collaborate and ask questions.

Principal's Report

- Attendance-Currently DHS is at 1965 students which is 50 more than the projected number. This allowed DHS to gain an extra point which means McFerrin can hire one more staff member and is weighing out the options in which area has the greatest need.
FTE-Mr. Jameson is working on these numbers. This is the system on how we code students (ESOL, Gifted, and Regular Ed Classes). This evaluation will lets us know how much funding DHS will receive for next year. The goal is to help reduce class sizes.
It was suggested we keep having an ongoing conversation with County as DHS is seeing a major increase in enrollment than the county's projections. Investigate if construction for DHS can start sooner. Bruce will talk to Josh about this. DHS has an existing enrollment issue while the other schools don't have the problem to date.
- School Safety and Security-All doors are now on lockdown until lunch, but front door is always open. All visitors who enter the building must use the new scanner system.
Safe School came on Friday to check security measures at DHS. DHS has a full time Dekalb Police officer on site.
- Teachers-hired new interrelated Teacher who will start in October. Hired new Counselor who has high school and college experience and will also start in October. Mr. McFerrin is interviewing a Math ESOL teacher and will make a decision by Wednesday. At that point, the school is fully staffed. PTO has grant money that teachers can apply for.
- Student Parking- All seniors have a spot and juniors who are taking college classes were also given a spot. All others are taking advantage of the parking at St. Lukes Church. No complaints this year from homeowners in the area about parking on their street.

- Other current issues-Laptops were-given out to all teachers. County is coming out to DHS next week to discuss student distribution of laptops.
Writing Center-Students are taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity with Ms. Carter and it is running smoothly. M/W/F anyone can stop in for tutorial session during their lunch period. A suggestion was made to have a Sign Up Genius for parents to help stock the room with snacks for the kids since it is during their lunch period.
DHS has 7 National Merit Semi Finalist! Governor's Honors applications are due October 25th.
- Principal Selection- Resume Review is completed and narrowed down to 6 candidates. Professional Interview Panel met and narrowed it down to the top 3 candidates. Focus Group is meeting this Thursday, Sept 21st, and will ask 5 questions that DHS School Council has agreed upon. Each candidate will answer the questions and give their 90 day plan. The Focus Group will then write a letter to Dr. Green with their recommendation.

New Business/Unfinished Business

- Mr. McFerrin will hand over key contacts to the new Principal (PTSO, School Council, County info), forms, etc. and-will make himself available to help transition the new Principal with goal of making-it a smooth and easy transition.
- Discussed School Council's role in helping the new Principal immerse into the community. Discussed submitting articles to The Crier, Dunwoody Reporter in addition to introductions to the Dunwoody Police, Chamber of Commerce, Mayor, Rotary Club, meet and greets with parents, community, and teachers and staff.
- 1/3 of students are on reduced or free lunch. Dekalb County head of nutrition came out to review our cafeteria line/layout. We will now be able to offer 4 new lunch entree choices, and extra line will be created to help reduce the wait. Mr. McFerrin will follow up with County to make sure this is happening.
- Wildcat Fund-After raising \$400,000 DHS was able to clear out the old sheds at the practice field, purchase new storage facilities for each sport, cleared out trees, grating for new slab, and new bleachers will be coming very soon. With all these great renovations and purchases, DHS can now host 9th grade and JV games for Football, soccer, and lacrosse. In the next few weeks the track will be redone that will have fencing around it. DHS hopes to raise another \$500,000 to complete the project so they can purchase new lighting, concession stand, and build bathrooms. A 100 day challenge is starting now. New turf will be put in by the county by 2020 if not sooner. Bruce will check with county to discuss time line.

Adjournment at 5:35pm