

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
May 12, 2015**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

Attendance:

School Council Members present: Tom McFerrin, Michael Berry, Pam Melton, Adrienne Bashuk, Kelly Clinch, and Ashley Doolittle. Council Members absent: Allyson Wagner and Allison Ingram. New Council Members present: Ann O'Connor, Chad Griffith, and Renate Hood. Community members present: Peggy Stecker

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:12pm. We began by welcoming the new council members and introducing ourselves. Then, Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the April 12th meeting of the council. Adrienne made a motion to approve the agenda and Pam seconded it. Pam then motioned to approve the April minutes and Ashley seconded it.

Guest Speakers – There were no guest speakers at the meeting.

Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – Hallway sweeps continue to be effective in getting students to class on time and cutting down on tardiness. More students have been leaving campus early, most likely due to AP exams. Mr. McFerrin said the administration is working on curtailing that and reminded us that students always need a check out note to leave campus, even after AP exams.

School Safety – We have not had the follow up lockdown drill and Mr. McFerrin is thinking it may happen next week. These drills are unannounced. Council expressed concern that having a drill the last week of school could be disruptive to final exams and/or review sessions in class. All the new AEDs for the school have been fully funded and will be installed over the summer.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Students will receive new schedules for the fall next week. Pam asked about the deadlines for GPC and said that had not been clearly communicated. Students need to know so they can plan their schedules. Mr. McFerrin said if students need to make changes to their schedules at this point, they will be handled on a case by case basis and parents/students should work through Mr. Jameson.

Teachers/Staff Issues – Mr. McFerrin has hired 10 new faculty. We are fully staffed for next year and didn't have much teacher turnover this year. A few teachers retired and a few are moving to new schools for personal reasons (closer to home, spouse's job moving, etc). All the newly hired teachers had to teach classes with administration observing as part of the interview process. Mr. McFerrin is excited about the new faculty joining our school. Several council members asked about the SAT prep class having more of a focus on math next year. They feel it is needed, especially with the block schedule. Kelly asked about adding ACT prep as well since many students are choosing to take that test over the SAT.

Construction and Plant –The concession stand renovation is on target and underway. The PTSO added some plants to the site during their beautification campaign. We asked for an update on the marquee and Mr. McFerrin said we have the three required bids for

the sign. He is hopeful this project will be completed during the summer and the Dunwoody Homeowners Association has approved the project. He has also contacted the county again about no “Dunwoody High School” signage on the building. He is working to get this added, as it should have been when the addition was built. The original contractor should do the work.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – Kelly asked for an update on the Capital Campaign and Mr. McFerrin said he should get a report from the feasibility study in a few weeks. The goal is to raise several million for the school. Council asked what the funds would be used for specifically and Mr. McFerrin reported mainly athletic facilities like a turf field, lights, and expanded viewing stands. Chad also mentioned needing benches for teams to sit on during games. The funds will probably not be used for academics or the arts at this time.

Current Issues – Mr. McFerrin reported that Senior Honors Night was a great success. It was well attended and only lasted two hours (as opposed to four in the old format). He said the school held a separate assembly for yearbook dedication and teacher of the year awards. He also reported that prom went well and was without incident. He said the venue made it easy for chaperones to monitor the students and the dance was well attended. Pam asked about the criteria for selecting prom king and queen. Mr. McFerrin reported that nominees must be in good academic standing and have no discipline infractions. Adrienne brought up some communication issues during the AP Spanish trip. She emphasized the need for parents to have a clear understanding of who to call when issues arise. Although the trip went well, next year we need a clearer phone tree (or something to improve communication).

Teacher’s Report –Michael Berry

Mr. Berry reported that AP and EOC testing is going on now. Having all this testing going on simultaneously is challenging, but the school is limited by state requirements and College Board testing dates. He said many teachers are reviewing for AP exams and finals. Mr. McFerrin said they are considering some options for off-site AP testing next year to avoid as many disruptions as possible during tests.

Unfinished Business

Drug Prevention: Adrienne updated us on the progress with the drug prevention program. A group of school council members, administration, and PTO from PCMS and DHS met last week with the Council for the Prevention of Drug Abuse to hear a presentation on their school program. After that meeting, it was decided to move forward with their program and curriculum and are now working on gathering information for them about the school and the teachers to be trained so they can order needed workbooks and supplies. We have \$5400 raised so far for this program and need about \$3000-4000 more. Ann asked about a follow up evaluation of the program after DHS participates so we can see if it is effective. Adrienne said the program uses a department at KSU to evaluate afterwards. However, we may consider doing it in house to save money.

Locker Update: Ms. King called the county about the lockers and Mr. McFerrin sent in the required information and is waiting on the county to follow up--again. Chad suggested getting a private contractor to bid on the job so we know the cost involved.

CATS – Still working on developing a student advisory group to work with School Council. We are hoping they can work on Red Ribbon Week and the Drug Prevention Program so it is student lead and supported.

Superintendent Search – We discussed the firing of PROACT by the county and expressed frustration with the hiring process. Mr. McFerrin says Michael Thurmond will stay until a new superintendent is hired.

New Business

School Council Business Representative: We reached out to State Farm for a potential council business representative but they declined. We need to find someone by August and council brainstormed possible candidates. The role of this representative would be to bring a community perspective to the school and council. Ann and Chad are the new parent business representatives, but per our bylaws, we also need a business rep who is not a parent.

Public Comment– None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held in September in the Media Center.

Dunwoody High School
5035 Vermack Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
<http://www.dunwoodyhs.dekalb.k12.ga.us/>
Main Office: 678-874-8502
Tom McFerrin, Principal