

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
November 11, 2014**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

Attendance:

School Council Members present: Tom McFerrin, Allison Ingram, Pam Melton, Adrienne Bashuk, Lisa Victory, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle and Allyson Wagner. School Council Members absent: none. Eight members were present, representing a quorum. The following visitors attended the meeting: Peggy Stecker

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:07pm. Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the October 14th meeting of the council. The minutes and agenda were approved by motions from Pam Melton and Lisa Victory. Ashley Doolittle seconded both motions.

Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – Attendance is still high among students. The process the school is using to follow up with students who are chronically absent is working well to prevent more absenteeism. Only 23 students have been given ISS for skipping class and only 23 students have served ISS for tardies. Mr. McFerrin and administrators are doing a “tardy warning” tomorrow—teachers will close/lock their doors at the bell and students not in class will be brought to the cafeteria for a discussion about why they are late for class—the idea is to be proactive with students to encourage them to get to class on time. Discipline referrals are down as well. Only 28 students have been written up for disruptive behavior and only three students have been written up for dress code violations. The council generally expressed some concerns about how dress code is enforced—maybe less stringent measures are needed. Mr. McFerrin acknowledged these concerns.

School Safety – The dryer fire a few weeks ago was contained and handled well. We were lucky that administrators and custodians were in the building. No one was hurt and damage was minimal because it was caught so quickly.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Mr. Jameson is working on spring semester student schedules. Pam Melton asked about when and how parents will be able to view these in Infinite Campus. Mr. McFerrin says we should be able to see them and has put in a work order to correct the issue. The first week of December students will receive a print out of their schedules for next semester.

Teachers/Staff Issues – Mr. McFerrin is in the process of hiring a new math teacher and will be interviewing for the position in December. He is still working on helping with a smooth transition between teachers in the Science Department, especially in Physics. The council expressed some concerns about the science department in general and would like for the school to make attracting and hiring good science teachers a priority. Pam M. confirmed the time for teachers to take the Project SAVE training as January 5 at 9:00am. Mr. McFerrin also informed the council of a new initiative by the county involving clearing “drop-out” records. DHS is now following up with students who leave the school to see if they dropped out or just relocated/transferred. In the past, when a student left for any reason—even no-shows at the beginning of the year--it was often counted against our graduation rate. The staff is now working to clear our record for the

last few years and with these efforts, our graduation rate jumped up by 5 points. Mr. McFerrin now has new process in place to follow up with students who withdraw from the school to make sure they are not counted as “drop-outs.”

Construction and Plant – The Dunwoody Homeowners Assoc. has approved keeping the marquee where it is, saving DHS the cost of moving electrical connections and the project can move forward. Ashley D. also brought up the issues caused by the trees cut down by Georgia Power in the last few weeks—the stumps still need to be ground. It doesn't look like Georgia Power is prepared to do this, however.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – The Capital Campaign is looking into feasibility studies for our fundraising campaign and comparing the costs of different consultants. One estimate was as high as \$18,000. They are looking into other vendors for this because that price seemed very high.

Current Issues – The girls' XC team won the state championship. The girls' volleyball team made it to the final four with a great student turnout for the playoff game. The girls swim team broke a record from 1992 in their first meet. School spirit is high. Allyson W. noted that there was a good turnout for the last football game, even though it was an away game. The senior football players were very appreciative of the support.

Teacher's Report – Allison Ingram

Progress reports are coming out soon and teachers are working on preparing them. Coach Berry has been nominated to fill the empty faculty school council position. The faculty will “vote” before the end of the semester, and he will most likely join school council in January. Ms. Ingram informed the council about her initiative to create a STEM Academy at DHS. She is visiting model schools in Gwinnet and Forsyth counties to research their programs. Her long term goal in offering the STEM Pathway is to get students interested in science early so they will consider possible science/math/technology careers. She wants to offer internships and two new AP courses as part of the Pathway: AP Seminar and AP Research. DHS already offers many of the courses required, so the creation of the Pathway should be fairly straightforward and easy to implement. The STEM program could also provide training for science teachers. The hope is to get this STEM Academy in place for 2016. The council was very excited about this idea and very supportive.

Unfinished Business

Expansion of Council – We voted to extend the council positions in our last meeting. We decided to add these new council members next spring during our already scheduled election cycle.

Red Ribbon Week – The program went well and we got some good feedback from students and teachers. Pam M. said we need to work on a better, more effective social media component. The council hopes to do more next year and turn the program over to CATS or Interact eventually.

Drug Intervention Program – Pam M. passed out the Rotary grant she wrote to possibly fund the Courage to Speak program proposed for the spring. She asked council to review the grant and let her know their thoughts, edits, and corrections. Nancy Jester will also review it before we officially submit it to Rotary. Pam M. said she feels strongly that this program offers longevity for our community and can positively affect many students and their families. It will be a nice addition to the anti-drug campaign during Red Ribbon Week. The Courage to Speak program is still scheduled for March 23 with presentations planned for 9th/10th grade, 11th/12th grade, PCMS 8th graders, and a parents night which will be opened up to the wider Dunwoody community.

New Business

Dunwoody Cluster Meeting – Pam M. is attending the cluster meeting tonight and will take notes and report back.

Public Comment – Peggy Stecker thanked the council for their work to bring the Courage to Speak program to the DHS community and noted that the date of the program is also during tech week for the school musical. The council then brainstormed ideas for other venues for the evening parent program so as not to double-book the auditorium. Allyson Wagner will follow up on other possible venues. Peggy also asked the council to look at the updated DHS website as Ms. Hawk has been working hard to make it more user friendly.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held on January 13, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center.

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