

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School  
School Council Meeting  
October 14, 2014**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 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, Pam Tallmadge, Leslie Bauman and Heyward Wescott, Guest Speakers

**Welcome and Housekeeping Issues**

Chairperson, Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:09pm. Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the September 9th meeting of the council. The minutes and agenda were approved by motions from Lisa Victory and Allyson Wagner. The council also reviewed and sign-off on the school improvement plan. Kelly Clinch will submit the documents to Paula Cadien in November.

**Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin**

Attendance – As of today, school enrollment is 1685 according to Infinite Campus. The senior class is the smallest and the freshman class is the largest.

School Safety – We received a 98 on our county safety and security inspection. This is a big improvement from the failing score received last year. Teachers standing outside their doors during class changes has helped significantly.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – New ESOL teacher for Social Studies has been hired. Mr. McFerrin also hired a new AP in charge of testing, Ms. Harris, who comes to DHS with a great deal of experience in testing. Mr. McFerrin also says he wants to encourage more teachers to take the College Board AP training in their disciplines. We discussed finding funds for this since the courses can be expensive. He also wants his staff 100% gift certified.

Teachers/Staff Issues – There have been some staffing changes in the Science Department—two teachers left. AP Chemistry is being covered by Mr. Hendricks now and all seems to be going well. Mr. McFerrin is also interviewing some good candidates for the other position and is working on strategies to help the transition between teachers, especially in Chemistry and Physics. There was some concern about long-term subs putting in grades incorrectly or inconsistently. Mr. McFerrin says he's working with department chairs to monitor this. Some concern was also expressed about teachers putting in grades in a timely manner to provide students and parents with more consistent feedback in a course.

Construction and Plant – The marquee project has been approved by the county. Construction should take 4-6 weeks once bids are approved. However, the City of Dunwoody is requesting the sign be moved back by 10 feet. This will increase the cost of the project by an estimated \$12,000 since the electrical will have to be re-routed. Mr. McFerrin says they have a meeting scheduled next week to work out the differences and hopes we can move forward. The school received the last estimate on the concession stand renovations, but needs to allocate funds. We will most likely have to wait until after the marquee is built to see what funds are left over.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – See later discussion of the Wildcat Fund from Pam Melton and our guest speakers.

Current Issues – NBC Nightly News came to DHS today to shoot a package on the Wildcat Café and Hannah Keen and Gus Asbury being elected Homecoming Queen and King. The council was excited for our school to have such national attention over such a positive story. We also noted how positive the momentum is in our school at the moment as evidenced by the attendance and spirit at the Homecoming game. Mr. McFerrin will notify the community when the package is schedule to air on the news. He also said teachers/students will wear college wear tomorrow and the school is providing a tailgate lunch for the teachers' tomorrow to celebrate PSAT testing and encourage kids to think about college.

### **Teacher's Report – Allison Ingram**

Ms. Ingram gave an update on the election of a new faculty member for council. She says that interested teachers will be asked to submit a bio, then the faculty will vote at the next faculty meeting. We should have someone in place by our November meeting.

### **Unfinished Business**

CATS – Mr. McFerrin and Pam Melton met earlier to discuss this further and suggested creating a “seed team” comprised of students who will do some research on creating an advisory student council. They are considering inviting 4 seniors, 3 juniors, 2 sophomores and 2 freshman to participate. The “seed team” would present its findings to the council and the goal would be to have CATS in place for the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. McFerrin is still considering the best way to choose students for the “seed team” and the council decided it was best for him to make that call. Pam made a motion that we go forward with the “seed team” plan, Adrienne seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Project SAVE – Teachers will be trained in CPR and AED use during their workday on January 5 through the Project SAVE program. We will also looked at ways students could also be trained.

Expansion of Council – We further discussed adding another business member to the DHS School Council, preferably someone from the Dunwoody Chamber. We would then need to add two more parents per our bylaws, with the plan to look for parents who can help with PR and fundraising. Pam made a motion to expand the council in this way. Allyson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Drug Intervention Program – Adrienne shared that we have set a date for Ginger Katz and The Courage to Speak presentation at DHS for March 23-25. This is just before spring break and prom season, so the timing works well. She also met with Mr. Heptinstall at PCMS to encourage PCMS to participate in a presentation at their school as well. He was receptive. The total amount for the presentation is \$6500 plus expenses. PTO is giving \$1500 and we are hoping the PCMS Foundation will give another \$1700. The rest of the funds will hopefully be covered by the Rotary Grant, which Pam Melton is writing and submitting.

Dual Accreditation – The County says we are on track with dual accreditation applications.

### **New Business**

Red Ribbon Week – DHS has not really participated in recent years, but the council feels it's important, especially in conjunction with the anti-drug speaker coming in the spring. Pam Melton created a plan for the week (October 23 – 31) that will include a Red Out, the Dunwoody Police handing out stickers on October 23, tying red ribbons on trees on

campus, using red solo cups to spell out slogan, showing an “anti-drug” video in 1<sup>st</sup> period, daily announcements about the statistics on drug abuse, and encouraging parents/students to fill out pledge cards. Pam got some posters, stickers and buttons for the teachers to wear from the Red Ribbon organization. In future, we hope the CATS would take over this event.

### **Guest Speakers**

Pam Tallmadge/Wildcat Fund – Pam T. explained a little of the history of the Wildcat Fund and offered more information about the fundraiser “The Wildcat Royale” – a Casino Night at Dunwoody Country Club on January 31. In past years, this has been a very successful fundraiser. It will include a food, live auction and casino. They are getting the word out now, but tickets are not on sale yet. All funds raised will be incorporated into the capital campaign for the school. She explained that there are many fund donors who choose to remain anonymous and many alumni who participate in the fund. She also explained that the organization tries to streamline funds for best use by organizing and discussing with the Dunwoody feeder schools as well. Allyson asked if they have a bank of alumni to pull from and Pam said they have a large bank of alumni names and contact info.

Heyward Wescott and Leslie Bauman – Pam M. introduced the two speakers by first recapping the fundraising meeting held at DHS a few weeks ago. She said that they plan to form an exploratory committee to examine the need and process of a capital campaign for DHS. They want the campaign to support the school in a balanced way, including funds for academics, the arts, and athletics. They also discussed how to best appeal to businesses and sponsors. They recommended a feasibility study first to best know how to proceed and measure the potential level of success with the campaign. Most campaigns take 3-5 years. Aaron Stecker is creating a video to show potential donors. Mr. McFerrin emphasized a need to separate this campaign from the PTSO Enrichment Fund, to make sure parents understand what they are giving to as two separate funds. We could possibly change the PTSO name from Enrichment Fund to Annual Fund as a clarification. There is a strong need to organize our fundraising more specifically. Ashley emphasized that we need to make sure parents understand the Wildcat Fund is not just for athletics since there has been some misunderstanding in the past. Pam said a possible name for the campaign discussed was “Paws for the Cause; Pride for the Future.” Guest speaker, Mr. Wescott offered some comments from Chamber. They have developed an Education Committee and a “12 for 12” round table discussion. They hope to have a business leader shadow a principal for a day (maybe on Groundhog Day) to see what a day in the life is like and to show the needs of the schools and to build relationships between businesses and education. They hope they can help with the campaign.

**Public Comment** -- No public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held on November 11 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center.

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