

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
September 9, 2014**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 9, 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, Diane Grant and Terry Nall, Guest Speaker

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the August 19 meeting of the council. The minutes were approved with a small change. The date for the October meeting should have been listed at October 14, not October 7. The change was made and the minutes approved. Council members reviewed the form to be submitted to Pauline Cadien and approved the contents. Kelly Clinch will submit.

NOTE: The meeting order did not follow the agenda because Mr. McFerrin's schedule changed and he had to leave the meeting at 5pm, so we began with the Principal's Report.

Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – As of today, school enrollment is up to 1696 according to Infinite Campus, although the average warm body count is 1610. So far, the building does not feel too crowded with this number of students, but McFerrin is concerned about the future and the larger numbers that are coming. He says that the county is looking at Region 1 to find ways to alleviate future over-crowding. He says he wants to avoid temporary classroom modules at all cost and believes that the school property can sustain future building/additions.

School Safety – Only 17 cases of ISS so far. Discipline issues are way down. There is lots of positive energy in the school, among students, faculty and administrators. Students are getting to class. Tardies and absences are down. McFerrin says school spirit is high. Mr. McFerrin addressed some of the behavior at the Chamblee game with the students Monday morning, specifically booing their band. He told them this kind of bad sportsmanship is not the Dunwoody way. He also emailed apologies to the band director and principal. There was an incident of graffiti on the picnic tables outside, but the tables are being repaired by parents and school is looking into AP Art students decorating the tables.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – New ESOL teacher has been approved and hired. She should start next week. School still needs a new AP to oversee testing. Mr. Blake is helping temporarily, but with all the emphasis on testing, this is an urgent need. Second semester scheduling looks good.

Teachers/Staff Issues – Teachers are working on writing grants to solicit funds for instructional needs. 9th grade math teachers have received professional learning opportunities regarding remediation and CCRPI. All the STAR testing is finished for 9th grade reading and math to provide data for teachers to track student growth. Will test

again in December. ESOL students are benefiting from cohort and smaller class sizes. International students seem more engaged in school activities and atmosphere. Pam Melton brought up some parent concerns mentioned to her about counselors being more individually involved with students, especially seniors since college applications require recommendations, etc. The council brainstormed ideas of ways to support the counselors with volunteers or programs to help with their workload, the college process, scholarship applications. Mr. McFerrin said he will discuss this with the counselors to see what they need and how we can help. Teachers really need another copy machine at the school and wifi needs to be improved.

Construction and Plant – Marquee project has been approved by the county.

Construction should take 4-6 weeks once bids are approved. Doors are in but still some issues, need keys, etc. School received an estimate on the concession stand renovations, but needs to allocate funds.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – We discussed the need to focus, centralize, and prioritize our fundraising efforts for the school to best meet the needs of the athletes, arts, teachers and classrooms. We discussed the idea of having a member of the Dunwoody Chamber join our council to represent the business community and to help us find strong partners. We also discussed putting together a committee to work on organizing fundraising.

Current Issues – McFerrin will email us a copy of the School Improvement Plan to review.

Teacher's Report – Allison Ingram

Morale is high among the faculty. Open House is on Thursday and teachers are preparing for that. Teachers are also working to get grades posted in a timely manner and are feeling pretty confident with Infinite Campus. Pam asked about the ability to see class averages on specific assignments through IC and Ms. Ingram said she would find out if that is possible. We discussed the need for the faculty to elect another teacher representative on the council to replace Mr. Wise. Ms. Ingram said she would work with Mr. McFerrin to organize the election.

Guest Speaker – Terry Nall

Mr. Nall spoke about dual accreditation through GAC. He explain the background of the decision to seek dual accreditation and showed us the presentation from the county in March about the process of seeking accreditation through GAC in addition to SACS. Nall emphasized that with DeKalb County still on probation, having a back-up accreditation is important. The school board already approved seeking dual accreditation and now they need to implement the process. Mr. Nall asked the council to help/encourage where we can and to find out more information from the county about the timeline. Application is due to GAC in November. Pam will talk to Mr. McFerrin about a plan of action and follow up.

Unfinished Business

Expansion of Council – We will find out more about adding a member from Chamber before we vote, but council seems receptive to this.

DHS Foundation – Working on more information and pulling all parties together to make sure our fundraising is focused as a school.

Project SAVE – Pam will share more information on this at a later meeting and has invited a guest speaker to speak to us in October.

Drug Intervention – Adrienne shared her research on speakers and recommended the Courage to Speak presentation. They offer an initial talk for \$3500 then charge \$1000

for each additional talk, plus expenses. We are considering writing a Rotary grant for \$5000 to cover this and deciding exactly how many presentations we need and to whom. We may include PCMS as well.

Retention Pond – Ashley contacted the county and they took action on our concerns.

CATS – Adrienne shared what she found from the head of Georgia School Councils on how to set up a student advisory council like the one we are considering. His recommendations included an application process, signatures from students and teachers, and a leadership training. He recommends a teacher sponsor for the group as well. We are still investigating this and working on policies and logistics.

New Business

No new business

Public Comment

Visitor and parent, Diane Grant said she appreciated Mr. McFerrin's handling of the Chamblee game behavior and was glad it was addressed. She also said although the reputation of the counseling office is not good, she's had a good experience as a new parent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm

The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held on October 14 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center.

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