

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School  
School Council Meeting  
September 8, 2015**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

**Attendance**

School Council Members present: Tom McFerrin, Michael Berry, Heather Carter, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle, Ann O'Connor, Chad Griffith, Grant Wells, and Renate Herod. Community members present: Libba Morris, Adrienne Bashuk, Lynn Deutsch

**Welcome and Housekeeping Issues**

Chairperson, Ashley Doolittle called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. We began by welcoming the new council members and introducing ourselves. Then, Ashley distributed the agenda for the council. Ashley made a motion to approve the agenda and Renate seconded it. The council voted and approved the agenda unanimously. Chad then motioned to approve the May minutes and Renate seconded it. The council voted and approved the minutes unanimously. Ashley motioned for the council to approve the new council members, Heather Carter (faculty rep) and Grant Wells (community business rep), as well as Chad Griffith as new co-chair. The motion was seconded by Kelly and voted for unanimously by the council.

**Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin**

Attendance – Enrollment so far is up to 1707. The county predicted 1695, so we are close to their projections. Mr. Johnson is tracking student attendance and contacting families of students with six or more absences. So far, chronic absences are down significantly.

School Safety – DHS had a safety audit this week and passed with a perfect score of 100. The reviewer was impressed by the faculty presence in the halls between classes. We have two new campus security personnel who are very visible and effective at monitoring the building and students.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – The FTE count is on October 6. This count will dictate our funding for next year so it is very important that students attend on that day. Student scheduling is complete for this semester.

Teachers/Staff Issues – The school is fully staffed minus one math teacher. There is a certified sub teaching that math class now and Mr. McFerrin is working on hiring a permanent teacher by the end of this week. The faculty received some training last week during break-out sessions after school focused on the flipped classroom, co-teaching and technology training. The subjects of the sessions were chosen based on feedback provided by the council's faculty survey and was well-received.

Construction and Plant –The meeting with Josh Williams, the COO of DCS, has been postponed and will hopefully be rescheduled soon to discuss SPLOST funds. The school is in the process of getting three bids for the new locker installation and hopes to have lockers in place by the end of the semester. The concession stand and painting jobs have been completed. Mr. McFerrin is waiting to move forward with the marquee to get more information about the source of funding for this. Ashley asked about replacing the lockers in the boys' locker room; Mr. McFerrin says it may depend on the meeting with the COO and funding. He is following up on the signage on the front of the school and

the county knows it is missing and incomplete. Tomorrow a rep from DCS is coming to audit the school site to record our needs and any issues with our facilities. She is meeting with students, faculty, administration and some council members. Ashley asked about wifi in the building. Mr. McFerrin explained that it provides distractions in the classroom, so the school does not provide it. Students and teachers both have access to the internet via login through the county. The county also installed new routers in the classrooms to increase internet speed.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – Mr. McFerrin says they have gotten quotes on two iPad and laptop carts. He is determining instructional needs and funding sources before moving forward with the purchase. He wants at least one of each.

School Improvement Plan – Ashley explained to the council that per our bylaws, council should be involved in the creating and implementing of the SIP. Mr. McFerrin passed out two of the four performance objectives for this year for the council to review. Both involve remediation for struggling students – in ELA and math. He will share the other two performance objectives at our next council meeting. In math, DHS is working on continuing a Math Boot Camp on Saturdays. The council discussed ways we can support that, including providing breakfast for the students coming in for extra help. Grant, Chad and Ann agreed to work on this and coordinate with the PTSO partners in education if possible. We also discussed the need to coordinate with PCMS to collect data on incoming freshmen to target potential need for remediation and extra help. Kelly mentioned a model Writing Center being created at Riverwood HS as a possible means to reach struggling students in ELA—she will follow up with Mr. McFerrin directly. Mr. McFerrin said he hired Mr. Hughes as a Student Support Specialist in the counseling office. He is now targeting 9<sup>th</sup> grade students failing one or more classes so the school can provide support.

Current Issues – Mr. McFerrin says overall they've had a great start to the school year. Renate asked about parking issues at the school. Some neighbors are complaining about the number of students parked on the streets when spots in the school lot are empty. Lynn D. said the city of Dunwoody is planning to stripe parking spaces on the street to help with this. She also confirmed that the city would put up appropriate signs according to the new parking spaces and that they would take down the old signs that no longer apply. Mr. McFerrin said the county dictates how many parking passes they can sell on campus. Many spaces are empty during the day due to students going to GHP or internships, as well as absences. Parking will need to be addressed again as larger enrollment happens in future years. Renate also mentioned the need for teachers to grade assessments in a timely manner to provide valuable feedback for students. Mr. McFerrin said teachers are encouraged to grade assignments in 48 hours if possible.

### **Teacher's Report –Michael Berry and Heather Carter**

Teachers are working hard to get grades posted for the grading period. Both said the feedback about the recent faculty meeting/training was very positive. Many teachers are already trying some of the new practices in their classrooms this week. Kelly asked how grades are calculated and how much of that is dictated by the county. Both said the county dictates the percentages used for weighting assignments. We discussed the concerns of possibly having formative assessments weigh more than summative assessments and some teachers not having enough assignments in each category. They encourage parents to speak directly to teachers with any concerns.

## **Unfinished Business**

SAT Class: The class is being offered this semester but enrollment is down, probably because the SAT is changing this spring. The class covers mainly verbal prep and we discussed the need to add math prep as well as prep for the ACT since many students are choosing that test over the SAT in recent years. Kelly suggested that perhaps the entire course needs to be revamped for next year once we see what the new SAT looks like this spring.

Capital Campaign: Mr. McFerrin updated the new council members on the campaign and the feasibility study done last year. The study shows we can expect 1 – 1.3 million in donations from the campaign. The funds for a Capital Campaign are primarily for the building and site improvements. There are two main donors so far who have designated their gifts for improvements to the field, track and bleachers on the school property. The hope is to have a field so DHS can host home soccer games, track meets, etc. The donors are waiting on some assurances from the county before donating. We are hoping SPLOST funds will cover improvements to the arts facilities and more classroom space.

AED – The AEDs were installed this summer and are protected by security cameras. In addition, the Dunwoody Women’s Club donated a portable AED kept in the front office. Ashley reminded council that teachers and staff were trained to use AEDs last year.

Drug Prevention Program – Adrienne spoke to the council to update them on the progress of this program. She said the agency working on the curriculum is developing something just for DHS and PCMS. They are using feedback from a student forum from this summer. Teachers from both schools will be trained on September 22. The students will be in the program in PE/Health and Science classes in October leading up to Red Ribbon Week. They are still working out the speakers who will address the students during assemblies in October and parents during Parents Night. Adrienne also shared a t-shirt design with council that she is hoping to use to promote the program.

CATS – Mr. McFerrin has chosen the potential two students from each grade for the new student advisory council. He is meeting with them on Sept 24 for lunch. He hopes to have regular lunch meetings with the group for “Pizza with the Principal.” The group will offer feedback from the student perspective and will be shared with council.

## **New Business**

PTSO Meetings – Ashley asked the council to sign up to attend PTSO meetings. It could be very beneficial for a council member to be in attendance at every meeting so we know how best to work with PTSO. We now have a council member planning to attend every meeting this year.

AP Scores: Ashley shared the AP scores for our school with the council and asked Mr. McFerrin about how those scores are used and evaluated. He said they review the scores and examine any major drops or gains and analyze the data.

Faculty Survey Initiatives – We tabled this discussion for next month since we were running out of time. Kelly mentioned that we need to continue the conversation about how to best support faculty.

School Nutrition – Ann started a conversation about how DHS is doing with student nutrition and exercise programs to see where we can improve. Based on many studies, proper nutrition and exercise support and increase learning. She has several meetings set up to get more information and will share more at next month’s council meeting.

**Public Comment**– None

Ann made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Heather seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held in October in the Media Center.

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