

DHS School Council Meeting-MINUTES
January 9, 2018

Attendance:

Council: Bruce Kaminsky, Kevin Dankosky, Kim Weatherly, Mary K Morris, Randi Siegel, Dave Levy, Ebony Greene, Ms. Cole

Guest: Pam Tallmadge and Kelly Clinch

Bruce opened meeting at 4:02pm.

Minutes approved from December 12, 2017 meeting.

Teachers' Report

- Ebony Greene updated us on the Grab and Go line installation. The electrician came out last Thursday and made a list of everything he needs to do for the installation. DHS is waiting on a confirmed date as to when the installation will take place.
- Ebony Greene talked with the county to see what it would take to add an additional hot lunch line so students can get through the line faster in order to have enough time to eat. DHS would need somewhere between 100-200 additional students to participate in the lunch program before they will consider adding an additional hot lunch line. School Council feels that soliciting additional students (those who can afford to buy school lunch) to purchase lunch as a requirement for installing another lunch line is not a satisfactory condition. These are two completely separate issues and Ebony or Bruce will talk with Connie Walker who is our county contact person further about the issue.
- DHS School Council wants to ensure that all kids, particularly our students who qualify for reduced/free lunch are able to eat a school lunch. We believe that some students, including the ones who qualify for reduced/free are not eating due to long lines. This has to be addressed as school lunch may be some students most significant meal of the day.
- Ebony Greene was told the Grab and Go line was their compromise to help students get through lunch lines faster so students have enough time to enjoy a meal.
- DHS currently has 493 students who qualify for a reduced or free lunch, but only 305 students go through the lunch line. Approximately 190 students do not utilize the free/reduced lunch.
- DHS School Council discussed options on how to most effectively survey the students for their input of the lunch currently being offered. There are a few options being considered including personal interviews and using the newly issued chrome books.
- Kevin Dankosky gave an update from his survey monkey to teachers. One email had a request to bring back the Pledge of Allegiance and also show it in Spanish on the monitors. Administrators will decide if DHS will be doing this, but will not require students to participate.
- The second email Kevin Dankosky received asked if there is enough parking spots for the increased faculty that has recently been hired. Ms. Cole confirmed there is enough for each faculty member. A suggestion was made to see if different colored parking passes could be made for next year to differentiate between faculty and students. This can help prevent students from parking in the designated faculty parking spots. A discussion took place on what the consequence would be if a student parked in a faculty spot.
- Kevin Dankosky gave an update on the Faculty get together. Approximately 40-50 attended the event that was sponsored by Dunwoody Dads and donations from Ms. Cole's fund. The faculty was very appreciative of the event.

Principal's Report

- Reported that St. Luke's has agreed to release more parking spots to DHS.
- Attendance-working with APs with students who have excessive absences.
- School Safety and Security-DHS had a drill with the faculty before students returned from winter break. Ms. Cole wanted to make sure faculty was prepared. Additional ways to exit the building were addressed and adjustments on where to stand if the students/faculty needed to exit the building in an emergency. A drill will take place next week with students. Ms. Cole also talked about how every visitor, including alumni students, must sign in at the front desk.
- Mr. Jameson and Ms. Love have finished fixing scheduling issues.
- Ms. Cole asked teachers to be present in the hallways before the start of school to make sure students are moving, for safety reasons, and to keep the climate and culture positive. For example, students not having earbuds in hallway-safety reason.

New Business/Unfinished Business

- Ms. Cole addressed a situation that took place before winter break involving an African American cheerleader that was unintentionally cropped from a team picture by the company that developed the photos. This picture was not used for the gift the team was presented to their coach. A Black Lives Matter rally was organized at the school as a result of this incident. Ms. Cole was complimented on how the situation was handled in an orderly and professional manner.
- Council would like to invite these students to speak at our next meeting to share issues which they believe need to be addressed to improve the school climate.
- Ms. Cole talked with several students to get feedback on how to improve racial relations. Some sample feedback included: (1) Students feel administration does not follow through with action when they go to their teachers to discuss racial issues. (2) Some feel that black girls cannot be voted to Homecoming Court (which is not the case).
- A discussion took place on how to give every student an opportunity to take AP classes. Certain students and their parents are not educated on this opportunity for their child. Additional interaction with our school counselors is one way that could improve the scenario.
- How can we reach out to these sub groups? First step is to go through students in order to get to their parents. Ms. Cole would like to see these groups of parents involved on the various councils. Main focus is to have our AP classes, clubs, parent involvement better reflect the diversity of our school.
- Ms. Cole also reached out to the teachers to get their feedback. There is a desire to have better interaction amongst the staff, specifically the newer members with the more senior faculty. Teachers didn't feel racial tension, but there is obviously a disconnect as some students feel differently.
- Ms. Cole is working on forming a Jr. Advisory council separate from SGA leaders. She is looking to form a more diverse group to get a broader pulse of the students.
- DHS School Council needs a business sponsor. Some businesses were indentified to reach out to.
- Pam Tallmadge gave background on the Wildcat Fund. This is an alumni association that helps support the school, fine arts, clubs, academics. It is separate from the Game On Campaign. The Game on Campaign will eventually go away. It was specifically created to help raise funds for the improvement of the athletic and field facilities. To date, the campaign has raised

approximately \$500,000. The Wildcat Fund is dwindling and a fundraising event is taking place on March 3rd. A chairperson is needed for this event.

- Ms. Cole is meeting with some Dunwoody Neighbors who reached out to her. This is a group of neighbors who live close to the school who want to have their voice heard about the construction that is to take place at DHS. DHS School Council is hearing that this group feels that the addition being built is to bring in additional students. The addition to the building is to accommodate the DCSD attendance projections. There is continued concern in the community around the decision to build an addition at DHS.
- Peachtree Gateway Meeting is taking place on January 24th. This is a meeting with all Principals from the cluster schools. Meet and Greet at 5:30 and open to public begins at 6:30.
- Construction-waiting on results from feasibility study.
- DHS School Council voted on having our own web address so students/parents/community can email us with questions or issues they would like to discuss.
- A suggestion was made to bring in past students to speak with students on their success.
- Next DHS School Council Meeting on March 13, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:53 pm.