



Dunwoody High School  
Principal's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.  
DHS Media Center

Principal Advisory Committee Mission Statement: The purpose of the council is to bring schools and communities closer together to solve education problems, improve academics, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the decision making process.

Present: Tom Bass (Principal), Ingrid Gero (Teacher Representative), Allegra Johnson (Chair), Julia LeDoyen (Co-Chair), Megan Cann (Secretary), Jenny Shulman (Parent Representative), Daniel Almeida (Community Representative)

Absent: Mike Nash (Teacher Representative), Katie Scharf (Parent Representative)

Guests: Fran Bartel (PTO President), Nancy Jester, Despina Lamas (via phone for public comment only)

- 1) Welcome: Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Allegra Johnson.
- 2) Approval of Minutes from November, 2021
  - a. Jenny Shulman made a motion to approve the minutes. Megan Cann seconded. It passed unanimously.
- 3) Public Comment-3 min / ea
  - a. Despina Lamas requests that any communication from PACs regarding CMP is transparent and public. Schools should be right sized for the campus they serve. High schools should all be about the same size as should be the case for middle and elementary schools. She is opposed to K-8.
- 4) PTSO Update-5 min
  - a. PTSO has approved a lot of grants for lab supplies, teacher needs, and counseling supplies. A good amount of money remains in that fund for teacher use.
  - b. There was a holiday luncheon for the staff in December.
- 5) Teacher's Report-10 min
  - a. Mr. Nash sent a report via email expressing concern that DHS might be promised something that might never come to fruition.

- b. Mrs. Gero is grateful to have her POD fixed. A bathroom needs to be repaired. She has gotten questions about the 7 period day. Nothing has been resolved from the Promethean board concerns expressed to Mrs. Pearch after our last meeting. Those teachers who remain in the PODs should have the same technology as the teachers in the building. Technology upgrades should be equitable. The new block provided an opportunity to realign expectations on behavior.

6) Principal's Report-30 min

- a. Enrollment is flat at 2130.
- b. Work orders are generally getting completed. We have not had any major catastrophes. Everything is standard.
- c. Student performance virtually as compared to in person: 20-30 kids are full time virtual at this point. Student performance is hard to judge because of the small sample. Some students did well and some did not. It is easier to not be loyal to the work with virtual learning. Staff was sometimes more lenient with students during virtual school. He told teachers to do introductory lessons for this semester when students were virtual related to technology hardships. Julia LeDoyen inquired about what data is used to monitor student performance. Mr. Bass indicated that MAP, access, benchmark data is used to monitor student progress. The point was raised that data comparison from this year to last is inequitable as comparing those two sets of data are not necessarily comparable. Julia would like the data before the next meeting as she has asked for it for two months. Julia is concerned about lost education. CSIP goals tie into raising math scores, raising access levels for ELL students and building climate and culture within the school. The latter is difficult to measure. Julia wants to ruminate data from all subjects, not just math. Principal Bass will work on the CSIP over the summer. Data analysis of the CSIP goes into the State of the School address. Mr. Bass will compare the failure rate of students during the Fall 2022 semester and during virtual teaching in 2021-2022 to look for disparities.

- d. Teacher/staff update. Teachers and staff can now put in for a transfer. Four or five teachers are looking for a transfer, mostly for personal reasons. A couple of counselors have expressed the same interest. All seem to have a rational reason for the request. A total of 10 staff members have requested a transfer. Not many people like to leave Dunwoody, allowing the school to keep teachers. All of Mr. Bass's decisions involve what is best for the students. If staff does not like newly implemented ideas or techniques, they are welcome to move on. Only a couple of positions will be open. This number can easily change.
- e. Allegra Johnson asked if there has been much interest from students currently enrolled in private schools. School tours are currently not an option. Mr. Bass likes great students in the building. He recently met with families from Cornerstone upon their request. Enrollment is about 120 less than what was expected related to the flight of people to private school for fear of Covid regulations.
- f. Student/Teacher Accolades: A teacher of the month is recognized each month. The Speech and Debate team just won a big competition. Wrestling had a good season. Swim has county competition this week. Flag football made it to the Elite 8. Spring sports are having tryouts now. Sports and testing will keep DHS busy this spring.
- g. The hybrid schedule was discussed by the superintendent. Mr. Bass spoke with Ms. Love. There are pros and cons to any schedule. A pro of the hybrid is that if a student fails a class in the fall, they can repeat it the second semester. It can be difficult for transfer students who come in. He receives a lot of feedback from people disenchanted with the block schedule. Focus 40 is coming next year. Mr. Bass asked if it could be considered for the 23-24 school year. Still discussing block vs. hybrid. When this gets closer to coming to fruition, community feedback will be sought. Sentiments were shared about some of the detriments of the block schedule including limited relationship building, rushing through material, and effectively discouraging participation in the arts. Some students

are very grateful for the opportunity to take additional AP courses. Allegra asked the extent to which Dekalb County is involved with this decision. Mr. Bass senses that the superintendent will endorse the sentiment of the community. Students who struggle have less opportunity to be successful if courses are full year as they cannot retake them the latter portion of the year.

- h. Mr. Bass wanted staff to contemplate the number of assessments given to students while thinking about the number of grades students are given since some teachers have 8 grades in a semester and others have 60. He wants teachers spending more time checking comprehension and offering feedback than grading papers by allowing formative assessments to prepare for cumulative assessments. Students have been challenged to “level up” by raising 3 of 4 grades by one grade. If you have As, maintain them. He wants to give arm bands to students and offer incentives occasionally. Allegra asked if grades are going in real time. The group discussed a mandated time to enter grades. Mr. Bass indicated that the admin team could do a better job of monitoring that.
- i. Cognia Accreditation is coming up (accreditation for the county). Dunwoody HS was not chosen for the deep dive. This will take place towards the end of March and will be done virtually.
- j. State of the School, Region and County addresses are coming up. Each cluster will present a piece of Mrs. Pearch’s state of the region. Mr. Bass and Ms. Wickman will speak on behalf of the HS. This presentation will take place early February. The CSIP will be a significant portion of this address. The information will be presented to school communities in the manner of their own choosing.
- k. Curriculum night and parent conferences are coming up.
- l. Promethean boards and the tech update: We are getting a roll out of docking stations. Teachers will be told to disassemble once we are certain upgrades are coming. Fifty-eight new smart boards are coming. It is unclear if they are coming to the PODs. The group expressed concern about the disparity of technology for teachers in the building and in portable classrooms.

- m. In February, SGA will be having Wildcat Love Week as well as Black History Month and Black Lives Matter week. There will be a lot going on with culture and climate in February.
- n. Before the break, a survey went out to the staff. Mr. Bass meets with 20 seniors each Thursday morning and asks them six questions in an effort to improve the students and the school. That information was shared with the staff. Staff was asked to contemplate their relationship building with their students. He offered a steak dinner to any staff who was more relational than himself. He asked where they are and where they hope to be. He also asked for feedback about what he could do better as a principal. Staff was asked what they love about their job. He got a great sense about staff morale and feedback. Mr. Bass considers this an observation year. He really wanted to build climate and culture this year. Next year, he really wants to focus on academics, feedback, and meaningful assessment.

7) Old/New Business-20 min

- a. CMP-Joint Cluster letter
  - i. Megan Cann shared the intention of the letter, expressing concern about isolating two K-8 schools as feeders to Peachtree Middle as this seems to create a lack of equity in program offerings. While this letter is not intended to address all concerns of the CMP, it addresses a specific concern for which wide community feedback was given. Julia LeDoyen expressed concern about not being on the PAC CMP call. She is opposed to K-8; she does not like ELCs; facility needs are not adequately addressed. Julia is bothered by the facility issues at Dunwoody HS. Megan suggested that this group write a letter delineating the facilities issues at this school and requesting that those be fixed. Allegra wants to bring all PACs together to share concerns. A lot of discussion ensued about the deplorable facilities at DHS and concerns about overcrowding. Megan Cann made a motion to endorse the letter; Ingrid Gero seconded

the motion. Those in favor: Daniel, Megan, Mrs. Gero, and Allegra. Those opposed: Jenny and Julia. Allegra wanted to amend the letter to only have those in favor sign it. Julia found it a conflict of interest that Peachtree PAC members sit on this PAC as well stating that only two people should have been elected. Allegra indicated that she had looked into the number elected and discussed it with Shakina Champion as well and that DHS was indeed to have three parents elected to the PAC in the fall. Allegra made a motion that individual PAC members who support the group letter sign it. Ingrid Gero seconded the motion. Those in favor: Julia, Jenny, Mrs. Gero, and Allegra. Those opposed: Megan and Daniel. Allegra will reach out to have a PAC meeting with all members that feed to DHS.

- b. Senior Dues
  - i. Allegra met with Ms. Bilbao and Ms. Johnson to discuss senior dues and senior gift fund. A separate line will be placed on the registration form separating senior dues and senior class gift. These funds will be collected by the school.
  - c. Graduation will be 5/16 at 1130. Allegra asked about time allotment. Concerns have already been expressed about staff leaving to attend.
- 8) 3/17 All Roads Lead to Dunwoody—This event will bring camaraderie in the community. The logo for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dunwoody will be announced. There will be kick ball games, concessions, and the powder puff football game. There will be no rain date.
- 9) Daniel asked about a dial in option for future meetings.
- 10) Adjournment: at 6:00
- 11) Next Meeting Tuesday February 22, 2022