

DUNWOODY HIGH SCHOOL
PAC Meeting - Minutes
January 19, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

Attendance - Allegra Johnson, Priscilla Cole, Kevin Travis, John Nash, Maria Jiram, Davina Profit, Dave Levy, Yolanda Parker-Smith, Bob Fiscella, Katie Scharf, Fran Bartel (PTSO), Julia LeDoyen (PTSO), Andrea Jameson, Kimberly Wiles, Amirant Lester, Lisa Beiger & Todd Beiger

Meeting Called to order at 4:00pm Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Motion to amend agenda by Allegra Johnson & Priscilla Cole

Approval of Minutes from last meeting by Allegra Johnson & John Nash

Teachers Report/Teacher & Staff Issues/Needs

Kevin Travis - Concerns & Thoughts from Teachers about Virtual Learning and Potential Reopening

- Teachers are very busy preparing for the potential reopening and anticipating as many changes as possible. They have a lot of questions about returning and are very concerned about how the county will be able to meet the expectations.
- Teachers biggest concern is the technology used for concurrent instruction for hybrid learning.
- Allegra asked if the teachers are concerned for their safety and the amount of cleaning supplies. Kevin Travis - Yes, they are concerned. They understand that there will be initial supplies, but what will happen over time.

John Nash - teachers have the same concerns over amounts of cleaning supplies and the ability of the county to keep up with the demand. There are also concerns over sufficient technology and wifi for the return of students to the classroom. There are plans for a new wifi in the building for the students to use as a guest.

Principal's Report - Ms Cole

- *Enrollment* - the same previous meeting and 2019-20 school year - 2142.
- *Chromebook Distribution* - all students at DHS have a device (Chromebook or home computer) and the school has extras for exchanges and other needs.
- *Technology* - P. Cole - most employees use the safe network by district, guests and non-employees use the guest network. The new guest network has not been tested with all of the users in the building, so there is no way to know its functionality. The district has let go most of the ITT Tech support staff over the covid pandemic. Currently our school shares our IT support staff person with 5 other schools. Teachers and staff will have to fill out a support request ticket. There are no plans or money to outsource IT assistance.

- Status of Virtual Learning/Reopening Plans*- today (1/19/2021) was the first day with the full bell schedule. Travis felt like it was a very long day, while we know it is a normal bell schedule, it was long because it is all virtual. It was a lot of screen time for teachers and students. Today included 'on boarding' for classes. Teachers need to involve 'non-virtual' time into their block. There is concern for burnout. P.Cole explained teachers are only required for 30 minutes of lecture and encouraged a break from the computers for other work through breakouts or individual learning. Allegra asked if there is a way for DHS to break from the county to adjust the block schedule times this semester. P.Cole said no changes are allowed in the current year, but could be addressed for further years. The longer bell schedule was requested by parents for longer days to reflect the potential return to hybrid learning.
- Reopening Plans/Status* - no new information, no updated date for student return, staff plans to return to the building Feb 3rd. Subs have been contacted about intent to return, waiting on staff commitment on FMLA to see the number of subs needed. Due to the incomplete numbers of Intent to Return survey, the staff plan for the first week of hybrid learning to be very fluid. There is no way of knowing exact numbers of students returning until the first day. If classes have to change for students due to staff/student numbers, the plan is for students to be moved to a different period but keep the same teacher.
- School Safety, Security & Covid Renovations & Protocols* - The district will supply kits every 2 months to schools (including: large hand sanitizer, box of latex gloves, box of rags for wiping, disinfectant wipes, 2 spray bottles of disinfectant, 2 black masks). Our PTSO is supplying supplemental backup supplies out of our own budget (including: aerosol spray cleaner, smaller hand sanitizer bottles, gowns, cleaning supplies, wipes, picnic tables for outdoor eating, paper towels and supplies for offices not included in district kits). PTSO strongly emphasized the supplies by the PTSO is for backup needs and the district supplies are the primary use in the building and in the classrooms. Levy asked if there was a plan for a 'deep clean' at the school before return - P.Cole said staff has been in the building since May cleaning and preparing the school. There are currently no HVAC concerns or issues, but when the school is reopened some issues may arise. They have been served and filters cleaned. There are no outstanding work orders that affect the classrooms or the reopening plans. Levy asked about the 30 day leave but the district for staff - P.Cole said it was approved for Jan 4-Feb 2 and is set to expire. Staff will return Feb 3 to the classrooms. DHS is fully staffed - 2 teachers are retiring at the end of Feb and 2 staff members are leaving. There are already plans in place for these positions.
- Safety Protocols* - Teachers on the Pandemic Team started working in Nov and are revising the plans moving forward. Masks will be mandatory and properly work by all, students won't be suspended but will be sent home for virtual learning if they do not comply. A safe 6ft distance will be maintained by all to the best of their ability, there is signage around the hallways and in classrooms, all are asked to respect the space of the person in front of them in hallways and around campus. Bathrooms will be closed during class transition and only open during the class period (opening after the first 15 minutes and closing before the last 15 minutes of class), only 3 students allowed in the bathroom at a time. Every other bathroom stall will be blocked off for distancing. NO lockers will be used and students will be allowed to bring backpacks. PAC members expressed concern

over students bringing unwanted items to school in backpacks and P.Cole expressed her hope that everyone will respect the rules. No water fountains will be open, school will have some supplies of water bottles, but students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles. We are waiting for the ETA of the water filling stations by the district. The school building will open at 7:30am (normal time) with no early arrival. The cafeteria will be open from 7:30-7:45 for breakfast or students can go to the gym, at 7:45 students can go to their first period in order to reduce group sizes. Lunch time will provide more outdoor seating, cafeteria will be open and 5 unused classrooms. There will be a video provided for all DHS students and staff explaining these protocols.

- *New Modular Units* - all installation work is complete on current modulars. There will NO new modulars installed. P.Cole refuses to allow for parking spaces or the tennis courts to be used for any future modular units.

New Business/Unfinished Business

- *Numbers of students failing during SY2020-21, safeguards and processes in place to monitor class participation and performance and remediation plans and processes* - P.Cole said we have more students failing courses than previous years. We have credit recovery for students outside the typical school day, this allows a student to retake a course for a new grade. These are offered during lunches, before and after school and are currently all virtual. Hoping to move to F2F learning in order to reduce these numbers. Teachers are giving students several chances for turning in work and offering extra help. Teachers are encouraged to reach out to students and parents via email, phone calls and during classes. Assistant Principals & Principals are notified about child failing and work with teacher, parents, counselor and student on how to repair the grade or class. If a student recovers a class grade, both the failed grade and new grade will be a part of the student's GPA. The school has not seen an increase in numbers of dropouts. Assistant Principals's are reaching out to families and students if they miss more than 3 days of school.
 - How to remediate - teacher gives extra assignments to master a standard
 - How to recover - allows students to remaster a grade for a new grade
- *Possibility of expanding time allotted for lunch periods during virtual learning* - P.Cole reiterated that there are no master schedule changes for the current year
- *Artificial Turf – Track and Field* – David Levy has reached out to Noel Maloof again on Jan 14 and was told the timing of completion of the turf is now expected by June. Mike Nash updated group that he and P.Cole did a walk through with the construction company and it went well, they don't understand why it will take until June for completion. Nash mentioned that leftover money from previous projects can be used for current projects (ie: pole vault pit, netting and other track and field items) are these items included in the turf construction. D.Profit requested that these items are not just addendums to the request because they won't get done.

- *Displacement of spring sports teams and alternative venues during turf construction* - The track team is having difficulty finding a location for practice and meets. Mr Blake is working the AD at CCHS to share the track at N.Dekalb stadium. There is a disconnect on why the track was scraped before construction time was set to begin and therefore the timeline extension for completion is frustrating.
- *Tennis team displacement due to cracked court surfaces* - Previously the CAC planned to move the tennis courts for renovations, so no repairs were planned. Now that the renovations are not occurring, the repairs are needed. They have been approved by the county but have not been completed. The booster club is not happy and the repairs will probably not happen this season. Mr Blake is working on other options.
- *Dekalb County School District Survey* - Allegra - suggested that many of the issues addressed in the survey are tied directly to the over crowding of the school, which a good problem to have - our school and staff are awesome. P.Cole suggested using information submitted by the staff and other committee survey results so they are all streamlined. PAC agreed that we need to send a google document out to the team to collect our concerns to submit in the survey.
- *Wildcat Fund Update/Game On Campaign (concession stand and bathroom project)* - Nash - We have raised the money originally estimated but the county informed the group that they are required to use the districts architect and go through the bidding process. Therefore more money will need to be raised for the project. Previous money raised was for a budget of the project of \$105,000 but will probably end up being \$185,000. Nash suggested reaching out to Melissa Humphreys from the Game On Campaign for requests or questions.
- *Status of decisions on any modular units for SY2021-22* - There will NO new modulars installed. P.Cole refuses to allow for parking spaces or the tennis courts to be used for any future modular units.
- *PTSO update of reopening related expenditures* (Fran Bartel & Julia LeDoyen) - PTSO delivered 2 rounds of teacher support checks (2 amazon gift cards of \$50) for home offices and supplies. The PPE supplemental supplies for the school were about \$7-8,000. Dunwoody Dads is building the picnic tables and benches on Jan 23rd with ADA accessible options. Community has reached out to PTSO on issues that are PAC related. PTSO suggests that PAC needs to be more visible to the community. P.Cole praised the PTSO on all of their efforts and support.
 - Teacher Grant Committee - team is reviewing requests and are not receiving as many grant requests as in the past. They have \$20,000/year with a max grant of \$1,000/person. Team doesn't understand why teachers are not submitting requests. In the past teachers have used the money for conferences and travel, but there are none happening because of Covid. Nash/Travis - we will let the teachers know about the grants, but they think the problem is that teachers don't know what they need yet for the classroom or when the next phase of learning begins. They won't know until they are back in the classroom. P.Cole asked the PTSO to hold off making any changes to the grant process for another year due to Covid changes to the schedules. Budgets close for grant requests June 30, 2021

- *Other Business -*
 - *Meeting with Superintendent and Board Members - Allegra suggested setting up meetings with 1. Superintendent Harris, the COO and Mr Maloof 2. Anna Hill (new Board Member).*

Public Comment -

- Lisa Beiger - DCDS has a new Superintendent and Board Members, we need to make sure these members know that several of our concerns for DHS and involved in the survey are being repeated. We need to speak to these members specifically about our concerns. She also expressed her concern over the lack of IT support for school. One IT person for every 6 school is not sufficient when schools are using more technology.

Meeting was adjourned 5:45pm by Allegra Johnson & Katie Scharf

Next Meeting – planned for February 9, 2021 at 4pm has been **moved** to February 23, 2021 at 4:00pm

* Due to Covid-19 pandemic, meeting was held virtually. Next meeting is not scheduled until February 23, 2021 unless the school proceeds to reopening from Covid-19 pandemic closure.