

**Dunwoody High School**  
**Minutes for School Council Meeting**  
**August 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at DHS Media Center**

**School Council 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.*

*Attendees - Dave Levy, Katie Scharf, Principal Bass, Allegra Johnson, Fran Hughes, Kevin Travis, Fran Bartel (PTSO), Julia Ledoyen (PTSO), Mr. Jamieson (DHS AP of Instruction)*

**1. Welcome & Meeting called to order** by Dave Levy at 4:15pm

- Approval of Minutes from last meeting - motion to approve called by Allegra Johnson & seconded by Fran Hughes

**2. Teachers' Report** - Kevin Travis

- Faculty is very enthusiastic for the school year and being face to face, they are following the requirement for masks/pod groups/tracing, they are very excited for our new Principal Bass to be a Wildcat again, they are happy to see his presence around the campus and the energy in the school
- Students seem to be following mask requirement with a few exceptions of not covering nose
- Staff is concerned about the continuous interruptions during class time (P.Bass assured them this will stop as the chromebooks have been rolled out)
- Staff is concerned over the lower student numbers and possible reduction in staff

**3. Principal's Report** - Principal Bass

- New chromebooks have been rolled out, which caused most of the interruptions and will stop now. It was a BIG project. He assured that if there are future class time disruptions they will spread out over all class periods and not always during the same one. Distribution went well, and WiFi seems to be working well for staff and students.
- All staff received new laptops.
- One of his priorities is to build community and connectivity among the staff
- August 27 (Wednesday) will be "Club Rush" for students. 2nd period will be extended and students will be released by floors to walk by the Club Drive tables. This allows the freshmen and the sophomores to be introduced to all of the activities at DHS and rebuild some of these groups.
- Feeling very confident that DHS staff is set & in a good place in regards to staffing. If teachers are moved out of the region schools, there are several vacancies in the virtual academy.

- Mr. Andy Jamieson - Enrollment/Instructional Needs/Schedules/Staffing/Substitutes
  - a. Total Enrollment = 9th (625), 10th (506), 11th (500), 12th (500), Virtual Flex Academy (25) = TOTAL 2127 students
  - b. Administration found around 40-50 students were skipping school and calls have been made to address this concern. Some of the 9th graders are retained 10th graders.
  - c. The projected enrollment was 2,250 and we are about -130 short from that total. We do not know yet if this enrollment will change our teacher allotment, but if it does we currently are not filling vacancies in Science ESOL, Social Studies or Interrelated Special Ed positions. Staff is also looking into moving a few general ed teachers with special ed certifications to fill the vacancies in special ed.
  - d. The district as a whole is short 100 special ed teachers, this is our most critical need.
  - e. DHS is lucky to have 3 great regular subs in these classes currently (Ms Bashuh, Dr. Montgomery & Mr. Bachman). DHS has awesome subs and we currently are using around 40 subs with 100% coverage of classes. We are also waiting for a few applicants to finalize their testing and fill some of these vacancies.
  - f. DHS is also looking for an Office Admin Asst. (former was promoted to another school) & 2 Paraprofessionals.
  - g. Fall FTE #'s are not looked at until October. District as a whole is under enrolled and are several hundreds of teachers short. There are some student schedules that will need to be balanced out due to the vacancies in some classes.
  
- School Safety, Security and Covid - P. Bass expressed his approval on how Dekalb County is handling the current school year. Classes have seating charts, students are in PODs, masks are mandated, and contact tracing is being used to tract exposure. Currently students only go home if they have Covid or have symptoms and have a known exposure. Contact with a student with Covid does not require quarantining as long as masks were worn. Lunch exposure (where masks are not worn) may require quarantining for 3-5 days and can return with a negative Covid test. A letter is sent out every time a case is found in our school. Currently DHS has about 12 staff and students with Covid. Discipline issues are pretty typical right now - vaping, drug possession, weapons in bags and a small fight.
  
- Facility Issues and Repairs - P.Bass laughed that the building and facilities are exactly how it was when he left years ago. On going issues with HVAC, water leaks, mold issues & sewage issues that pop up because of the age of the building are dealt with immediately and all have been resolved currently. Custodial staff is working hard and there are currently 10 open work orders at the school. There are a few Security cameras not working and these have been pushed to a High Priority. \*\* Lack of latches in the boys bathroom (on the 2nd floor) will be addressed.
  
- Instructional Needs - VERGE is an important tool for students to stay on track if they have to be out of school for illness or quarantining. P.Bass is asking for teachers to show some grace on students growth and mastery of skills. After losing last year, students current mastery of skills are behind and it may take some time in the semester to regain the skills needed for the class.

Teachers should collaborate with their subject team on balancing their assessments and grading requirements across the team. Teachers are being asked to focus on GOAL (get obvious about learning) vs GOAT (get obvious about teaching). Teachers may want to block the semester inset smaller units to allow for several checkpoints of mastery.

- \* Kevin Travis expressed the concern many teachers have over how behind many students are currently in their subject mastery.
- \* P. Bass stated that there are significantly more students who failed 2 or more classes last year. Counseling staff and teachers are working together to identify these students and reach out to families to see what the student needs to get back on track. Teachers are being asked to look aggressively at this first grading period to address any concerns now and not let them spiral out of control. Teachers and staff need to be flexible on getting students back on task.
- \* School is currently offering Study Skills (most believe this is only offered if a student has a 504 or IEP), Writing Labs and Math Labs during 3rd period lunch for added help.
- Other Current Issues - “Breakfast with Bass” begins this Friday. Seniors will be invited in small groups to eat with Principal Bass and discuss concerns & celebrate achievements. Starting a group called “Kaleidoscope”, with selected students from each grade, student government and several clubs to be a part of his Principals Advisory Community.

#### 4. **New Business/Unfinished Business**

- Status of mold remediation/prevention in modulars - all of these cases have been addressed and repaired.
- Detention Pond - the county has dug out the dirt to repair the detention pond, even though there had been plans to remove it in the last CMP.
- Turf Field progress and timeline - The Track will be done by the end of September! DHS is planning on a BIG Community event to open the field.
- Discussion of Facility Condition Assessment report from Perkins & Will (site visit) - David Levy emailed them but hadn't heard back as of the meeting
- Discussion of Educational Suitability Assessment report from Perkins & Will (site visit) - David Levy emailed them but hadn't heard back as of the meeting
- CMP - members of the committee expressed frustration over the fact that we feel like the current CMP and assessment reports are starting this whole process over again. County is not speaking about any projects.
- New DCSD enrollment projections - P. Bass wants his kids BACK. He wants to change the climate of the school and reconnect to the community and bring the students who left back to DHS.
- Status of decisions on any modular units for SY2021-22 - no new modulars for next year.

- Wildcat fund update and concession stand and bathroom project progress - “Dunwoody Turns 50” Gala & Casino Night with alumni and community members to raise money to finish the bleachers and complete the bathroom project out at the fields. Game On Campaign is still trying to raise money since 2005.
  - Other business & concerns - Are students who lost a year of eligibility due to failing last year able to appeal? P.Bass said that GHSA is holding strong and not allowing these students to participate. EOCs will return to 20% of the final grade and AP tests will return to normal schedule.
5. **Public Comments** - PTSO Update - Fran & Julia - have supported many learning activities & socials, amazon gift cards for staff, lab supplies, auditorium materials, grant approvals, Wildcat Pride campaign rollout with t-shirts for all staff and students, fall sports support and are planning of a speaker for Social and Emotional Wellness.
  6. **Meeting adjourned unanimously - motion called by Allegra Johnson and seconded by Katie Scharf at 6:35pm**
  7. **Next meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 4:00pm**