

DHS School Council Meeting-Minutes
December 12, 2017

Attendance:

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

Guest: Elizabeth Julian

Bruce opens meeting at 4:10pm.

Minutes approved from October 10, 2017 meeting.

Teachers' Report

- Ebony Greene updated us on her meeting with the county's visit of DHS's cafeteria issues with alleviating long lines and adding a grab and go station.
- Ms. Greene looked into the possibility of sending out a survey monkey to the entire school to get input on school lunches. A free survey will only go out to 100 students and cost to have unlimited surveys for a year would be \$288. We are investigating to see if Dekalb county has an account.
- Right now we are waiting on electrical outlet to be put in for the grab and go line. Right now we are still on hold until the Plant Engineer from the county can put this in. We hope to have this up and running when the students return back from winter break. Nothing new has happened since Thanksgiving. Ms. Greene will be sending out an email to the county and will CC Sherry Johnson to see if she can help move the process along.
- Ms. Cole and her AP's are looking into staggering out lunches and have 6 lunch periods versus 4 for next year.
- Ms. Greene will be asking cafeteria manager for updated numbers to see if there has been an increase in students eating since new food has been added to the menu.
- Kevin Dankosky gave update from his survey monkey to teachers. He received an email thanking PTSO for the literary magazines that are being used in the classroom. Another teacher suggested an online calendar for all functions/events/meetings. School Council and Ms. Cole are hearing, in some instances, that teachers are not even showing the morning announcements and that is a concern as students and teachers are not informed. Ms. Cole will address this issue and investigate the best way to make sure announcements are relayed out to the school and what is the best platform to do this. Lastly, teachers are asking for a workroom to work at during their breaks especially since some of their rooms are being shared. This issue is being addressed and Ms. Cole and her staff will look into finding space.

Principal's Report

- Ms. Cole has seamlessly transitioned into her role as Principal and has received great feedback from staff, parents, and students.
- Ms. Cole has been attending lots of meetings with different groups (teachers, community, parents) and most importantly one on one with the staff. She also met with a group of 12 students to hear what they had to say. She is also attending training sessions. She realizes she hasn't had time to be in the classroom to observe. Her goal for second semester is giving teachers support in their classroom. She has been spending a lot of time with mandatory

meetings with DCSD. These meetings should slow down next semester which will allow her to spend more time in the school.

- Attendance-Currently DHS is at 1974 students which is down 16 students from October.
- A new AP has been hired, Maria Jarim from Centennial High School. An advantage to DHS is she is bilingual. DHS only has a part time person to help translate so this will be beneficial to our school.
- Ms. Cole is looking into whether the Chromebooks will have internet access outside of Dekalb County borders. There will be a \$20 fee for chromebook insurance. Sponsorships for students who cannot afford this fee will be offered. The plan is to roll this out on January 16th.
- School Safety and Security-DHS is ready for a level 3 lock down once the county comes to do the drill.
- Teachers-a new science teacher has been hired. Currently need a new math teacher that will be hired and start date will be January 3rd. Right now DHS will keep the long term sub for Chorus and will hire new teacher for next school year.
- MAPS-will receive results soon
This test serves two purposes. The first shows where students are on an academic level. The test is a screening to access who's a gifted student. The second purpose is to evaluate what to do if a child is struggling. Looking into to getting teachers professional development to help with those students and this will help drive instruction in the classroom.
- DHS Council asked how can we vertically align with the teachers from the lower grades within DHS and even at PCMS and the elementary schools to make sure the students are prepared in the classroom? It was also asked to also see how we can align within the athletic programs with the middle and elementary schools-establish feeder programs.

New Business/Unfinished Business

- Bruce read us an update from Pam Tallmadge on the 100 Day Challenge. Bleachers have arrived. Need to continue to fundraise to implement the remainder of the Game On Campaign goals.
- PTO talked about the upcoming Wildcat Fund-Event -where raised funds help support academics, Special Ed, and ESOL. The event will take place at Villa Christina.
- Cycle Bar is also hosting a fundraising event for the Wildcat Fund.
- Construction Update- Dr. Green, Dekalb County Superintendent, and Joshua Williams, COO were in attendance at the meeting held at DHS. They came to see what DHS needs and what is being planned and accomplished by the Game On Campaign. Ms. Cole stated it was a very productive meeting. A feasibility study is taking place to determine if there are any drainage issues associated with the upcoming school construction on the activities put forth by the Game On Campaign. Ms. Cole's plans are to put all of fine arts in the same area. For example, move band room to make more room for athletics.
- Question about why is Chamblee getting renovations before DHS. Chamblee High School has a larger projection of students coming to their school than DHS according to DCSD.
- Ms. Cole expects the first design meeting for DHS plans to begin January 2019.
- School Council member asked if we could receive some educational sessions to our students and parents on vaping. It seems to be a growing epidemic with high school students and additional education on the topic could be very beneficial.
- Another member of the council asked if there was a way to post a description online of all the DHS clubs. Also looking into how the academic clubs inform students who applied as to whether they were invited to be a member of the organization.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 pm.