

DHS School Council
August 21, 2012

Approval of Agenda

Attendance / Introductions: Caren Morrison, Meg Firebaugh, Donna Nall, Libba Morris, Leslie Bauman, Debbie Emory, Lisa Victory, Mr. Noel Maloof, Erik Vincent, Brad Anchors, Donna Madden

Approval of May Minutes – no changes to be made

Election of Council Officers –

-Acknowledgement of outgoing members, Caren Morrison (2011 – 2012 Chair) and Meg Firebaugh (2011 – 2012 Secretary)

-Transition of Chair to Donna Nall

-Election of Libba Morris to serve as Co-Chair (to serve as 2013 – 2014 Chair)

-Election of Lisa Victory to serve as Secretary

Review of By-Laws

-Motion approved to continue schedule of meetings as 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4pm

-Compliance with Article XVI: Reports to Office of Governmental Relations:

*agendas and minutes to be submitted within 20 days following each school council meeting

*Meeting schedule submitted annually, including date, time, and location – Maloof

*Mr. Maloof will handle/submit member information template and list of officers

School Council Training by the Principal with viewing of DCSS video

Principal's Report

Community has expressed the need for stability and long-term planning

Attendance:

1526 current student enrollment

- 200 enrolled since Open House – no trend to explain number of late enrollments.

Discipline:

-56 students absent 1-5 days

-Due Process procedure being modified – students suspended up to 10 days will be handled within the school house, rather than at district level. Discipline will be at the discretion of the principal and assistant principal.

-Tardies will be handled differently – Rather than students being sent to attendance office, teacher will accept late student into class and will record the tardiness. McFerrin will implement an attendance contract with a student when their tardies are excessive.

-Truancy – skipping classes – Mr. Maloof is encouraging more “AWOL” reports by teachers, and administration will look closely at these reports and class attendance records, in efforts to identify students that are skipping.

Schedules / Instructional Needs:

-scheduling going well. Not everyone will get exactly what they want, but overall is good.

-when course requests are finalized for next year, it will be firm.

-there will be a fine tuning of course selection.

Teachers and Staff Issues / Needs

-1 position open: Technical Education teacher, will be filled shortly.

-new Mass Communications teacher, Mrs. Bryant – excellent teacher

-A 3 year emphasis will be placed on teacher quality – holding high expectations

Average class size by content area

-Still needs balancing

-General Education class size : 36

-Gifted class size: 30

-Exceptional Student Collaborative class size: 9

-Independent Living Programs: 15

-ESOL: 22

-4 Remedial Reading programs: 27

-Health class size (SAT Prep & Drama): 39

-9th grade Health / PE class size: 44

Construction / Plant Services

- Ms. Brown – new project manager, as of beginning of August
- floors being worked on at night
- Cafeteria floor looks great – all white now
- everything else is being addressed: punch list items, roof flashing, and other things that may not have been mentioned on punch list but need to be tended to.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) came to school to audit records for asbestos tests in building. NO asbestos was found, stamp of approval was given.

Testing

Deferred discussion til September meeting

School Site Budget & Expenditures

- \$124K instructional budget. We received an additional chunk of money in our budget for career tech, which is now handled locally, rather than at the district level.
- \$0 expenditures
- discussion of how booster clubs use funds
- Any facilities use – approval must go through Mr. Maloof. School house events take precedence over anything else.

Google Calendar

- streamlining – not expected to be fully implemented until probably October

Expectations for this year

Teach quality, consistency, with one vision, and one mission

Unfinished Business – none

New Business

- Discussion & review of Registration Day
- Counseling department: discussion of how to enhance their services to students (including how to disseminate information about Governor's Honors program, ability to retake AP test (parent pays), SAT II subject tests, etc.).
- teachers could be trained to fill in gaps as point of contact for students, in terms of disseminating information about post-secondary options and considerations.
- This issue will be readdressed in Oct / Nov after Maloof and staff have had time to discuss.

School Climate: Discussion of importance of helping parents understand that the most important thing they can do to improve teachers' morale and student achievement is to begin to develop relationships with their student's teachers.

- It was suggested that we encourage parents to send positive notes to thank teachers for what they're trying to do for your student.

Student Achievement: AP scores - deferred to September meeting

Community Relations: City of Dunwoody has requested a marketing piece for DHS and its feeder schools for their economic development staff. Council's goal is to have an outline and content direction for marketing piece by September's meeting.

- A motion by Donna Nall to make a proposed change to School Council bylaws was deferred until Sept meeting.

Meeting schedule for 2012 – 2013: Sept 18, Oct 9, Nov 13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 12, April 16, May 14.

Other new business:

- Two senior classes have designated that their class gifts to the school be used to pay for an electronic reader marquee, similar to the one at PCMS. Now that enough money has been raised, the process of getting this sign will begin. It was also noted that the Class of 2010's class gift to the school was money to be spent on new floor mats at the school's main entrance, as well as at the PE building entrance. Once floor finishing is completed, the mats can be ordered.
- Dress code enforcement was discussed. Administration needs to work on improved interaction with students, especially in the first few weeks of school, when honest misunderstandings of the dress code should be handled with better customer service. Discussed some kind of official "warnings" that could be issued in the first few weeks.

