

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
May 10, 2016**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

Attendance

School Council Members present: Mr. McFerrin, Heather Carter, Mike Berry, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle, Ann O'Connor, and Renate Herod. Council members absent: Chad Griffith and Grant Wells. Newly elected council members present: Bruce Kaminsky and Kim Weatherly. Community members present: Libba Morris, Melanie King and Allyson Gevertz

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Ashley Doolittle called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. Ashley welcomed the newly elected council members and explained a little about council and how we set our initiatives and priorities for this year. March council minutes were approved as they stand.

Guest Speaker –

No CATS member present for this meeting. Ashley also introduced Allyson Gevertz, the Chair of SPLOST for Schools who spoke during the “New Business” portion of the meeting

Principal’s Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – Enrollment is down slightly at 1655. Projected enrollment for next year is 1815. We have 1043 total absences (excused and unexcused). The school is encouraging consistent attendance through the end of the school year.

School Safety – We hired a new security officer since Ms. Rogers retired recently.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Mr. Jameson is almost finished with the Master Schedule for next year.

Teachers/Staff Issues – Mr. McFerrin says he has hired seven new teachers already for next year and hopes to have the school fully staffed for 2016-2017 before June. He still has a few more faculty to hire.

Construction and Plant – He says they are making progress with the Wildcat Fund Capital Campaign and they are now talking directly to potential donors. The video for the presentation is complete and awaiting voice over (potentially from Ryan Seacrest). Bruce Kaminsky asked when the community will be invited to see the video and participate in the campaign and Mr. McFerrin said probably this fall. The money from this campaign is earmarked for improving our athletic field and facility and they have been told the county will match whatever we raise.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – No report

School Improvement Plan – Mr. McFerrin reported that our state CCRPI score went from a 73.6 in 2013-2014 to an 86.1 for 2014-2015. He hopes this score will improve even more for this school year. The Math Bootcamp is going well, especially in the weeks leading up to EOCs. The last two Saturdays, they had 80-100 students present for extra help prepping for EOCs. Grant Wells provided chicken sandwiches from CFA. They are seeing improvement in the students’ math grades and plan to continue the boot camp for next year.

Signage and Intercom – New sign for front of school is in place! We are still working toward updating the intercom system.

Current Issues – Mr. McFerrin says it has been a good year!

Teacher's Report – Heather Carter and Mike Berry

Mr. Berry and Ms. Carter said the teachers have been so appreciative of the new copier in the teacher's lounge. They really felt the survey council did at the beginning of the year effectively pinpointed issues and gave teachers a voice. They also appreciated how responsive council was to their needs. Ms. Carter also expressed appreciation from the faculty for the PTSO Teacher Appreciation Week festivities. They were well attended and much enjoyed! She also said the teachers are working hard to wind down the school year and prepare students for their AP exams, EOCs and finals.

New Business

ESPLOST -- Ashley introduced Allyson Gevertz, Chair of SPLOST for Schools, a special interest group working to inform DeKalb residents about ESPLOST and to encourage them to vote YES on May 24. She says the general mood in the county is that people want school construction and improved safety for our schools. She says the new DCSS administration has been very transparent and the county has clearly and effectively addressed any constitutionality concerns brought up by state representatives. There are no issues with the constitutionality of the program. Kelly asked her to clarify how the tax works. Allyson responded by saying that the 1% sales tax would be a continuation of the current 1% tax for schools. If EPLOST does not pass, it is unlikely that the overall sales tax would be reduced. Other entities/projects (such as transportation) would be vying to fill that gap. ESPLOST designates that 1% of our 7% sales tax must be used for education. If ESPLOST V doesn't pass, the money for schools would have to come from another source—most likely an increase in property tax. She says the approach of the new DCSS administration has made the process of building planning more objective and transparent. The county has already completed an independent audit of all school facilities with these assessments going back to the schools for their feedback and input. The county has used clear data on enrollment projections and existing capacity to assess what we need in the future. Based on these assessments, Region 1 and 2 (this includes DHS) are priorities for building and receiving future SPLOST funds. She encouraged council to attend the DCSS meeting tonight about ESPLOST to provide feedback on what we need and where new construction/additions should go in the county. Dr. Green is very open to and encourages community input and feedback. Allyson also shared with council ways to get involved and encourage our community to vote. Ashley shared a letter from council (attached to these minutes) that she, Kelly and Ms. King worked on last week to send to local papers with information about ESPLOST, how it has benefitted DHS in the past, and encouraging Dunwoody residents to vote on May 24. She asked council to review the letter and reminded them that we cannot specifically encourage the community to vote YES or NO, only inform them about the vote on May 24.

Parking – Mr. McFerrin says seniors will get priority for parking next year. We will have very few spaces for juniors and underclassmen. He has a committee working on parking issues for next year.

Unfinished Business

Student Achievement and Nutrition – Mr. McFerrin says that Ms. Pressley is transferring so he is looking to hire another cafeteria manager. The Wellness Committee has met and has some great ideas for next year, including providing healthy snacks for the faculty and maybe yoga/meditation classes.

Facility Improvement – We are getting a new refrigerator case for next year to create a new grab and go line for sandwiches and salads. We are also getting a smoothie machine for the cafeteria. New water bottle stations are also being installed in the school as a gift from the senior class this year.

Public Comment – None

Ashley adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm and thanked council members for their service this year. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held in September in the Media Center.

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Letter from School Council, Dunwoody High School

Reminder to Vote May 24

Many of us have experienced firsthand the DeKalb County School District's new approach, as well as the commitment and investment the new administration has shown toward Dunwoody High School. They have listened to our needs in community meetings and directly addressed concerns presented to them.

Recent feasibility studies have confirmed it is now a priority to address overcrowding in the Dunwoody/Region 1 area. In light of this, E-SPLOST is a critical resource for Dunwoody High School.

E-SPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) provides funding for schools, with no added tax increase. It is funding that has been approved by DeKalb County voters since its inception in 1997. The 7% sales tax we pay now will remain the same, with 1% continuing to be used ONLY for educational purposes. **The current tax allotment (E-SPLOST) will expire on June 30, 2017 unless it is continued by the voters of DeKalb County on May 24.**

E-SPLOST money can be used to improve current facility conditions, build new additions to relieve overcrowding, upgrade school safety, security, and technology, add buses, and fund other capital equipment needs. More information is available here: <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/e-splost/>

Dunwoody High School has benefited from past SPLOST monies with a 2011 major renovation, and most recently with the installation of new lockers throughout the school. There is much more to be done.

Since Dr. Stephen Green has become our superintendent, with Mr. Joshua Williams working alongside him as his Chief Operating Officer, we have seen a different and better DeKalb County School District. They seek input from our local schools. At DHS, we have witnessed responsive follow up. We need to encourage this pattern of responsiveness with the overcrowding issues we now face.

E-SPLOST can benefit our children and the entire community, as we all work to keep Dunwoody the special place it is to live, work, and raise our families. We remind and encourage you to cast your VOTE on May 24!

Thank you,

Dunwoody High School Council