

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
April 14, 2015**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

Attendance:

School Council Members present: Tom McFerrin, Michael Berry, Pam Melton, Adrienne Bashuk, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle and Allyson Wagner. Community members present: Peggy Stecker, Pam Tallmadge. School Council Members absent: Lisa Victory, Allison Ingram.

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the March 10th meeting of the council. The minutes and agenda were approved by motions from Pam Melton. Ashley Doolittle and Adrienne Bashuk seconded the motions.

Guest Speakers – There were no guest speakers at the meeting.

Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – Attendance report is good. Mr. Johnson has made significant progress in following up with students with chronic absences and absences are down. The administrators are also doing random hallway sweeps to reduce the number of tardies. This strategy is working well.

School Safety – The school participated in a recent “level 3” lockdown drill and received a failing score but has clear instructions on how to improve. These guidelines were communicated to the faculty and another drill will take place this year. DHS now will have two trainers from Emory on site for first aid and athletic training during some school hours and athletic practices and events. We have a price quote for more on-site AEDs for the school and possible funding for the devices.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Students will receive new schedules for the fall in early May to allow time for counselors to address any issues or changes before the summer break. Discipline issues remain minimal school wide.

Teachers/Staff Issues–The new football coach, Mr. Bach, resigned unexpectedly last month. Mr. McFerrin has now hired another coach from Shiloh High. He is finishing out the year in his present school, but coming to DHS a few days a week to acclimate. Mr. McFerrin is also planning to hire 10 additional teachers for next year and is presently interviewing. He is also planning to hire a new counselor and graduation coach. He says that four teachers are presently signed up for summer College Board AP training in their fields, and he thinks that number will increase. Right now 90% of the faculty is gifted certified with a goal of 100%.

Construction and Plant/ School Site Budget and Expenditures –The concession stand renovation is on target and underway.

Current Issues – Honors Day is being re-worked this year due to problems with its length and student absences during the event. It will now be Honors Night and just for senior awards. This change prompted some discussion from council about how best to

honor students in front of their peers. Many council members feel that it is important for underclassmen to see what honors are possible as that can be a motivator. We discussed the possibility of a separate honors night for underclassmen as well as VIP awards given out by teachers in their individual classes. We tabled the discussion for another time but said it was an issue that needs to be addressed for next year.

Teacher's Report –Michael Berry

Mr. Berry reported that faculty is feeling refreshed after their break and are excited about the last few weeks of school. They are also excited about the potential 4% raise for teachers. This is coming after seven years of no pay increases, so it is much needed and anticipated. We discussed how the lack of salary increase has impacted our retention of quality teachers over the years and expressed concern about DeKalb County being not being competitive with salaries. We are losing many excellent teachers and administrators to Fulton and Gwinnett because they offer higher pay. The board still needs to approve the raise and that vote will happen in June.

Unfinished Business

Courage to Speak: Adrienne updated us on the progress with the Courage to Speak program. We received the Rotary check for \$1500 for a drug prevention program for the community. Adrienne shared the fund-raising flyer with Ginger Katz who had some major objections to the wording and transparency. Council felt very uncomfortable with her requests and feels strongly that her program may not be a good fit under these circumstances. Pam M. made a motion to let the Courage to Speak program go and to begin the search for a local speaker who is just as effective. Allyson W. seconded it. Pam Tallmadge offered to help with the search for a better program for Red Ribbon Week in October. We also discussed some ways to promote an anti-drug campaign beyond just one week. Allyson suggested doing a “Red-Out” at a football game in October, perhaps getting SGA involved.

Locker Update: Mr. McFerrin is still working to get 125 broken lockers repaired by the county. He considers this a security issue and has contacted the county several times with requests. He will continue to follow up on this and will let council know if he needs our help. He wants this issue resolved before school opens in August.

New Business

School Council Elections: We discussed the timeline for electing new council members. Four council members are rolling off this year. Pam M. passed out the information being sent to the community regarding council nominations and elections. She reviewed the process with us. Nomination forms will be sent out this week, bios are due by April 24 and posted on April 26. Elections will be held May 8 and new parent representatives announced on May 11. They will attend the last council meeting of the year on May 12.

Ms. Ingram Update: Faculty council member Ms. Ingram's husband passed away recently and Mr. McFerrin says she is doing well and plans to return to school in a few weeks. Many of the faculty attended the funeral and are supporting her.

Other Business: Allyson W. read an inspirational Facebook post from an alumni from the class of 1980 about the value of her time at DHS. Pam M. distributed pinwheel pins for National Child Abuse Prevention month and shared some information about the program.

Public Comment– None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held on May 12, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center.

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