

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School  
School Council Meeting  
February 9, 2016**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 from 4:00-5:00pm 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.  
CATS member present: Kayla Lucas

**Welcome and Housekeeping Issues**

Chairperson, Ashley Doolittle called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. Ashley welcomed the council members and introduced the Principal's Student Advisory Council member, Kayla Lucas. January council minutes were approved as they stand.

**Guest Speaker – Kayla Lucas, CATS**

Kayla said the 16 member student advisory council meets once a month to provide student feedback to Mr. McFerrin, School Council, and the administration. She said last month they discussed the need to repair some restroom issues and the issues with the heating system. She said the students like the "branding" of the school this year (Wildcat Way) and the safety the new security guards bring to the campus. She says pep rallies have improved this year and students are enjoying them. The CATS students want to take a field trip to observe another school so they can compare climates and see how DHS can improve even more. Kayla also shared that new counselor Mr. Hughes has been very effective in helping students apply for college and scholarships and they like having an extra counselor available to them. CATS also suggested a new parking pass distribution based on GPA and advised that numbering parking spaces could be more effective in monitoring parking. Council discussed the pros and cons of a GPA based system.

**Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin**

Attendance – Presently there are 104 students at DHS with 6 or more unexcused absences. Mr. Johnson is following up with these families. There are 652 students with 5 or more absences, both excused and unexcused. Mr. McFerrin thinks the numbers increase when the weather is colder and there are more illnesses.

School Safety – The school is due another safety audit and hopes to maintain the score of 100 they received last time.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Mr. McFerrin has his points meeting tomorrow to find out possibilities for adding staff/faculty. The projected enrollment next year is 1815 so we may need to add positions. Once he knows our hiring points, the counselors and administration will start building next year's class schedule. Mr. McFerrin can start posting jobs March 1.

Teachers/Staff Issues – Many teachers requested grants from the PTSO; however, Mr. McFerrin was able to use some of his funds to fill those requests, leaving more money for PTSO to use for more teacher grants. The Ipads and carts have arrived and are in use. The MassComm Academy also received 8 new Macs. The county is beginning a series of meetings in March to address overcrowding in our cluster. Mr. McFerrin encouraged council and DHS parents to attend.

Construction and Plant – The County sent out people to measure for the sign that should be on front of the school and it should be installed before spring break.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – Mr. McFerrin met with Ms. Jester to review expenditures and the budget is in good shape.

School Improvement Plan – Math Bootcamp is going well, but attendance is down slightly. STAR Math testing is finished and data is being analyzed to look for needed remediation.

Intercom/Refrigerator Status – Still working on obtaining an extra refrigerator case for the cafeteria. Mr. McFerrin is hoping the county will provide one since our cafeteria space/lunch line has been identified as below standard. If needed, Council will write a letter to the county with data collected about the need for an extra lunch line.

Current Issues – Mr. McFerrin says we are in full swing with sports, the spring musical. He plans to get students their fall schedules by May.

### **Teacher's Report – Heather Carter and Mike Berry**

Mr. Berry and Ms. Carter said they didn't really have any issues to report from the faculty. Room temps were an issue, especially on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, but Mr. McFerrin has resolved that.

### **Unfinished Business**

Supporting Faculty -- Ashley asked if teachers responded well to the report council shared with them regarding the faculty survey at the beginning of the year and our achievements. Mr. Berry and Ms. Carter said teachers were very happy with that and the Chicfila coupons.

Student Achievement – Ann is working on gathering more data about the cafeteria and student nutrition. She suggested AP Stat could do a project gathering data on purchased lunches vs bring from home. She also asked council to work on establishing a Wellness Committee and Mr. McFerrin said he is working on that to have in place by fall. Kelly reported her findings about SAT prep classes in other schools. She said that Fulton County has a contract with Princeton Review and they provide teacher training. FCS teachers were trained on prep for the new SAT last semester. She also said that she found the new SAT training will actually hit much of the same skills needed for the ACT, so we could easily create a class that preps students for both tests. Mr. McFerrin asked her to look at possible SAT prep training for DHS teachers. We tabled the discussion of a future DHS Writing Center due to lack of time.

### **New Business**

SPACES Report -- Ashley presented the results from our SPACES audit. We were found deficient in our lack of performing arts space (no chorus room, drama classes taught in the auditorium lobby, etc), our lack of gym space and athletic facilities for a school this size, and our lack of space in the cafeteria. We were also found deficient in the Media Center since we need two specialists based on our enrollment. We also have no clinic and were marked unsatisfactory in that area as well. The audit also noted a lack of fencing for security of the school. This report goes back to Joshua Williams and will be considered when SPLOST funds are distributed if voted for. (The vote for SPLOST takes place in May.) The county will hold meetings in March to discuss overcrowding in specific clusters, including the Dunwoody cluster.

Priorities – Council decided these deficiencies would be our top issues going forward and we will work for temporary solutions until the county can build an addition to the school and improve our facilities. Kelly asked for a portable classroom for performing arts and Mr. McFerrin said he is already working on this. We discussed the possibilities of using

other fields off-campus for sports practices. We also will continue to work to alleviate the long wait times in the cafeteria by pursuing the fridge for a new Grab and Go line.

**Public Comment** – None

Ashley adjourned the meeting at 5:04pm so Council members could attend the presentation by Dr. Green in the DHS cafeteria at 5:30. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held in March in the Media Center.

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