

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
January 13, 2015**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

Attendance:

School Council Members present: Tom McFerrin, Allison Ingram, Michael Berry, Pam Melton, Adrienne Bashuk, Lisa Victory, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle and Allyson Wagner. School Council Members absent: none. Eight members were present, representing a quorum.

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:13pm. The council welcomed newly-elected faculty member, Michael Berry. Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the November 11th meeting of the council. The minutes and agenda were approved by motions from Pam Melton and Lisa Victory. Ashley Doolittle seconded both motions.

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

Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – No report

School Safety – The Project SAVE team trained 60+ faculty and staff members on the January 5 workday in CPR and AED use. Many of the faculty said it was the most comprehensive training they had received in emergency response and really benefitted from the workshop. Project SAVE is planning to do a follow-up drill with staff in the near future. The council discussed the need to procure more AEDs for the building. Each device costs about \$1100 and we would like to see one on each floor, one in the cafeteria and in the gym. We are looking into how to make this happen—it could be a county issue and thus funds could come from there. Ashley Doolittle will follow up.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Second semester started smoothly with few scheduling issues. However, there was a glitch in Infinite Campus causing a miscalculation in student GPAs on first semester progress reports and transcripts. The program didn't calculate the extra points for AP and GPC classes. The county is working to correct the issue ASAP and send out corrected reports. Some teachers reported having trouble accessing Infinite Campus, but that seems to be resolved now. Mr. McFerrin reported that the junior class earned a 99% pass rate on the graduation writing test, up from 94% last year. He spoke to the juniors during their class meeting to congratulate them. The council discussed possible ways to create more incentives for students to earn high scores on their state tests which affect our school rankings—possible “passes” for registration, athletic events, discounts at local restaurants, etc. Mr. McFerrin also reported that DHS was ranked #36 in high schools as listed by Atlanta Magazine. This is also an improvement.

Teachers/Staff Issues—Mr. McFerrin hired a new math teacher who has already started this semester. He also hired two new chemistry teachers. The school is now fully staffed minus a few paraprofessionals. Class numbers are good. He interviewed today for the open football coach position and has some good candidates. He says he is almost ready to make a recommendation to the county to hire one.

Construction and Plant – The council raised some concerns about the lack of cell service and access to wi-fi in the building, especially noting that it could be a safety issue for students and staff. Mr. McFerrin said the county does restrict student access to wi-fi so instruction will not be interrupted. The concession stand renovation should start once basketball season is over. The funds are in place and we've hired a contractor. Coca-cola is donating a refrigerator, recycling bins, and signage.

School Site Budget and Expenditures—The Wildcat Royale fundraiser will be held on Jan 31 and ticket sales are going well. Pam asked the council to please purchase their tickets if they haven't done so. The Alumni Hall of Fame dinner will be held on Jan 30. The Wildcat Fund committee has chosen the consultant to help with the feasibility study for the Capital Campaign. We should be on track to roll out the campaign by next fall.

Current Issues – Kelly asked Mr. McFerrin for an update on the Writer's Workshop class now required for 10th graders. He says that course is being moved to 9th grade and will be populated with students whose CRCT scores in 8th grade show they would benefit from additional instruction in writing. It will no longer be required for all students. He says they are also bringing back a Creative Writing elective. Pam asked for clarification on what GPC classes will be offered. Mr. McFerrin said he is attending a meeting this week on this topic and will follow up. Some concerns were raised that the SAT class only offers prep in the language arts section of the test and little to no math prep. We are hoping to change that. Adrienne asked Mr. McFerrin to follow up on how we can better support the counselling office. He reported that he recently added some clerical staff and that is helping with the workload, but with school population rising, he hopes to add another counselor next year and perhaps a graduation/college application coach.

Teacher's Report – Allison Ingram and Michael Berry

Pam welcomed Mr. Berry and briefly explained the role of School Council. Ms. Ingram reported that second semester started well. She was especially impressed with how well her 9th grade classes did in their biology courses. She also reported on her work with STEM classes. She presently has 18 students in her Scientific Research class and is working to build research skills and find them summer internships in professional/academic research labs. She asked the council for any contacts in this area. She is also looking into starting the STEM pathway as early as 9th grade in the future. Mr. McFerrin says that the number of students participating in Work Based Learning is increasing and this could be a good opportunity for STEM students (and those in other academies as well) to find internships during the school year. Mr. Berry reported that he and the other Social Studies teachers are organizing a European trip in 2016 for students presently in AP Human Geography, AP Euro, and AP Comp Gov classes. They plan to go to Brussels and sit in on the EU Parliament as part of the trip. There is a meeting on Tues, Jan 27 for interested and eligible students/parents. Pam asked if they were also planning the Close Up trip to DC. Mr. Berry said he would follow up. Mr. Berry also mentioned that many teachers need supplies (tissues, hand sanitizer, etc). The council brainstormed some ways we can be more organized about the way we collect Wish List items for teachers—possible ideas included collecting during registration and open houses each semester.

Unfinished Business

Courage to Speak: Pam reported that we have heard nothing from Rotary about our grant proposal, even though we have attempted to follow up. Therefore, we don't have the funds to bring the Courage to Speak program to DHS in March. Adrienne will speak to Ginger to reschedule to program, possibly in October. We hope to have the grant money by then. In the meantime, we will investigate other speakers who can present this

spring on the dangers of drug/alcohol abuse. Council reiterated the need for this type of presentation in our community.

CATS (Student Advisory Council): Mr. McFerrin has been considering students to invite to participate. He hopes to assemble a group by the end of the year, train them over the summer and have CATS ready to go by the fall.

New Business

Possible Parenting Seminars – Adrienne attended a parenting seminar run by Celebrate Calm and said it was very effective.

Volunteer Recruitment – Lisa says Lemonade Days needs volunteers and would like some DHS students to participate. Mr. McFerrin added that a student is starting a volunteer board in the school to give visibility to opportunities in the community.

Clubs – Pam mentioned that there isn't easily accessed information about requirements for Beta and NHS. Perhaps we need a website for all clubs, or at least more information on the school website as a resource for parents and students.

Public Comment– None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held on February 10, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center.

DunwoodyHigh School
5035 Vermack Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
<http://www.dunwoodyhs.dekalb.k12.ga.us/>
Main Office: 678-874-8502
Tom McFerrin, Principal