

**Minutes of the Dunwoody High School
School Council Meeting
March 10, 2015**

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 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, Lisa Victory, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle and Allyson Wagner. Community members present: Peggy Stecker. School Council Members absent: Allison Ingram. Eight members were present, representing a quorum.

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Pam Melton called the meeting to order at 4:08pm. Pam distributed the agenda and the minutes from the January 13th meeting of the council. The minutes and agenda were approved by motions from Pam Melton. Adrienne Bashuk seconded both motions.

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

Principal's Report – Mr. McFerrin

Attendance – Attendance report is good. We have 406 students in the school who have six or more days absent so far this year, but this includes excused and unexcused. Only 35 students have six or more unexcused absences. Administrators are working with those students and their families.

School Safety – 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. Project SAVE offered First Responder training yesterday to eleven staff members and hopes to have a drill soon to offer staff a chance to practice their training. We are continuing to follow up on AED devices. Mr. McFerrin approved a visit by experts to assess the school's AED needs and locations. We will determine the need, then decide how to fund and install the appropriate amount of devices.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Discipline numbers remain good. We only had 29 referrals in February and only 74 the entire semester so far. Mr. McFerrin recently visited Dacula High School and came away with some good ideas about how to acclimate incoming freshman next year. He also attended a county meeting where he learned that DHS will have 8 points next year toward hiring new staff. This increase is mainly due to strategic scheduling and gifted/ESOL training, allowing lower class numbers. He is hoping to add teachers in drama and art, as well as other areas with needs. He also hopes to hire a Graduation Coach and an additional counselor. Mr. Jameson is presently building the master schedule for next year based on course requests, so staffing needs will be more apparent soon.

Teachers/Staff Issues – Mr. McFerrin hired a new assistant principal a few months ago, Mr. David Johnson, who worked at PCMS many years ago and is familiar with the community. He also officially hired Mr. Bach to be the new football coach. He is also teaching social studies. Mr. McFerrin also hired Mr. Francis, a new special education teacher.

Construction and Plant – The concession stand renovation is a little behind due to the county, but has been re-scheduled for spring break. The school is also hoping to use the

space for a school store, potentially run by the Finance Academy students. Mr. McFerrin is talking to the county about future construction needs at DHS since the numbers at PCMS are so large. He is concerned about space, lockers, etc. We are hoping the county is planning for this increase. They tell Mr. McFerrin that they are aware.

School Site Budget and Expenditures—The Wildcat Royale fundraiser in January earned over \$21,000 for the school. Next year's event is already in the works and the committee hopes to make it even better by adding a silent auction and finding a less expensive venue. It was a great community-building event. The feasibility study for the capital campaign is underway and is interviewing potential donors, both from DHS and the old Peachtree High. We should be on track to roll out the campaign by next fall.

Current Issues – Mr. McFerrin said they are considering changing vendors for senior and yearbook pictures and may use Cady Studios. We also discussed the retention pond again and Ashley D. says it is due to be cleaned but they have to wait until the water level drops to a workable point.

Teacher's Report –Michael Berry

Mr. Berry reported that morale is still high among the faculty. He said that Ms. Ingram has secured internships for many of her biotech students at Ga. Tech and Emory. She is still looking for a few more and asked the council's help. Pam M. mentioned contacting Lisa Adams for help. ESOL teachers recently received a grant for an ipad cart. He also reported that two teachers are presently dealing with their spouses' very severe medical issues. The council discussed ways to support these teachers.

Unfinished Business

Courage to Speak: Adrienne updated us on the re-scheduled presentation. Mr. McFerrin signed a letter of commitment for Ginger Katz to come Red Ribbon week. We are still working to secure funding for this. We need over \$10,000 to bring the program to the Dunwoody community. DHS PTSO is planning to give money and Rotary has offered \$1500. Adrienne has spoken to PCMS again, but since the program dates moved from this spring, the PCMS funding has been re-allocated. She is hoping to secure funding again from PCMS. She also created a gofundme account for donations and has written a letter for the community soliciting funds. We would need to raise about \$5000. The council decided to put an announcement in the eblasts looking for parents willing to serve on this committee to help fundraise for this important program.

Superintendent Search: Kelly C., Allyson W., Lisa V. and Adrienne B. all attended the meeting with the PROACT representative. They reported that the meeting was not well-attended by school councils and there may have been some confusion about date/time/location which caused the poor attendance. However, the representative seemed willing to listen to the community members who attended and Ashley D. reported that the results of these county meetings have been published as of today on the county website.

New Business

We discussed the timeline for electing new council members. Four council members are rolling off this year. We need to put an announcement in the eblast and have the ballot out by March 30. We will then publish candidate bios. Voting will take place the first week in May. Then, newly elected council members will attend our last meeting of the school year in May.

Public Comment— None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held on April 14, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center.

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