

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

The DHS School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 4:00-6:00pm in the Media Center at Dunwoody High School.

Attendance

School Council Members present: Andy Jameson (filling in for Mr. McFerrin), Heather Carter, Mike Berry, Kelly Clinch, Ashley Doolittle, Ann O'Connor, Grant Wells, Chad Griffith, and Renate Herod. Community members present: Bruce Kaminsky

Welcome and Housekeeping Issues

Chairperson, Ashley Doolittle called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Then, Ashley asked if there were any additions or deletions to the October minutes and Ann added two items to the Unfinished Business section. Renate motioned to approve the minutes with the additions and Ann seconded. Then, Ashley passed around the DCSS School Council training documentation for members to sign.

Guest Speaker – Bruce Kaminsky, Dunwoody Dads

See information shared under “New Business”

Principal’s Report – Andy Jameson

First, Mr. Jameson passed out a letter from Mr. McFerrin regarding recent threatening and racist graffiti found in the girl’s restroom. He said the school and county are investigating. DHS has received communication from the superintendent and he says this kind of incident will be taken very seriously. Mr. Jameson also discussed the false fire alarm that happened today at school. He said some thought they smelled smoke in the kitchen. The fire department responded and confirmed the false alarm.

Attendance – Enrollment is 1696 to date. We have 199 students with 6 or more excused and unexcused absences which is 12% of students. Only 26 have 6 or more unexcused absences. Mr. Johnson is following up with students who have chronic absences.

School Safety – We have had 264 referrals for discipline so far this year. Mr. Jameson read the detailed report to the council and says these are actually very small numbers and DHS is lucky compared to many other schools. The administration is happy with the small number of referrals, most of which reflect minor incidents.

Schedules/Instructional Needs – Schedules for spring semester are on track and should be handed out to students in December. There may be some changes in math classes to reflect changes in teachers’ schedules. Students seeking changes should contact counselors. Counselors are holding class meetings November 19 to begin scheduling/course requests for next year. Ann asked if parents/students could access course descriptions on-line. Mr. Jameson said not yet but he would look into that in the future. Rising 9th graders will meet with counselor on Dec 1 to begin their course selection for next year.

Teachers/Staff Issues – School is fully staffed. Mr. Jameson said we have .25 points for hiring. Grant asked about how the school plans for staffing. Mr. Jameson explained how FTE counts affect hiring.

Construction and Plant – We are still waiting on signage for the front of the school. School is also continuing to work with Cady Photographers to create more “culture collages” for the hallways. We are also adding DHS flags to the light poles in the parking lot.

School Site Budget and Expenditures – Mr. Jameson said he had no update from Mr. McFerrin on this.

School Improvement Plan – Ashley mentioned the graduation rate recently released for DHS (79% graduate in four years) and said some parents had expressed concerns about this. Ashley reached out to Mr. McFerrin once parents expressed concerns and he emailed this: "improving the graduation rate is part of the SIP and hiring 5 ESOL teachers and a graduation coach to help increase the majority of these students which are ELL." Kelly asked if the graduation rate also includes special education students who may not be on a four year graduation plan and Mr. Jameson said yes. There are many factors that create that number and CCRPI requirements have changed how it is calculated. Mr. Jameson said Math Boot Camp is going well. Chad and Grant both helped recently by providing breakfast for those students. PTSO is providing white boards for math classes as well.

Drug Prevention Program – Mr. Jameson said thanks to Adrienne Bashuk for working tirelessly to make this program happen. The speakers were very effective and students seemed to respond well to them. The 10th grade presentation had some issues with misbehavior, but administrators were able to control the situation. Council shared some of their experiences in the parent presentation. Health and science classes are getting a drug prevention curriculum as well as part of the program. Overall, the program was very effective and well received.

Parking Update - Mr. Blake is meeting with any students found parking on campus without the purchased decal. Students are allowed to park on the street in marked spaces. Ashley said the city was meant to paint the new spaces on Nov 2-3 but that didn't happen b/c of all the rain. She will email them to find out the new paint date. The old parking signs have still not be changed and students/staff are still receiving parking tickets based on old signs. Ashley will follow up. Ann asked if we need to attend a Dunwoody Council meeting on this issue and we agreed that might be effective if we don't get action or a response soon.

Copier/Intercom/Refrigerator Status – Mr. Jameson shared that Mr. Brantley says the faculty should be getting a new large copier in two weeks. We discussed where it should go. Ms. Carter recommended moving it to the teacher's lounge and moving the older one to another location. Mr. McFerrin is still encouraging faculty to use less paper where they can. Kelly said she will ask about the PTSO copiers. We are also getting a new intercom system for the school. Mr. McFerrin is still researching getting a new refrigerated case for the cafeteria for "grab and go" sandwiches and salads.

Current Issues – Mr. Jameson said DHS was selected to be a part of a new STEM program which involves building a car on site. Both DHS and PCMS Engineering students will participate. Kelly asked about the car building taking place in the drama club scene shop. She was concerned about the county moving the props and set pieces off site as they belong to the drama club and represent years of expense and hard work. The club also plans to re-use many of the pieces for the spring show. Mr. Jameson was not sure how those pieces were being stored and Kelly said she will follow up with Mr. McFerrin. Mr. Jameson also discussed the STEM program that took place last week with Superintendent Green arriving in a helicopter. He said the county did not pay for that—the program was subsidized by Ford.

Teacher's Report – Heather Carter and Mike Berry

Mr. Berry shared that Ms. Hawk again requested help in the Media Center. Since we have lost support staff in the library, she needs assistance so she can focus more on instruction. PTSO has a committee for Media Center volunteers and is looking into ways they can help, but Ms. Hawk says she needs a more permanent solution and is asking the

council to petition the county to add back a MC clerk. Kelly said the MC also needs to be updated and digitalized. She expressed concern that Ms. Hawk wouldn't have time to focus on that either if she is stretched too thin. Ashley said we should table the issue until Mr. McFerrin is present to discuss. In the meantime, council members said they hope the PTSO volunteers will help with some of these issues.

Unfinished Business

Nutrition and Exercise program: Ashley did some research on the DCSS Building Spaces site and found the county standards for HS cafeterias. According to the standards, we should have four lines rather than the two we have now. Adding more lines will help alleviate the long wait times and encourage more students to eat in the cafeteria. Ann is planning to meet with Mr. McFerrin to get an update on cafeteria issues. She also suggested asking the Board to improve the quality of food served to students since menus are dictated by the county. Ann said we should write a report after our research to ask the county for what we need and want. Grant asked how the school plans the amount of food to prepare. Mr. Jameson said they are supposed to prepare enough food for the population plus 10%. With so few students eating in the cafeteria, there must be wasted food.

PCMS STEM program at DHS – This discussion was again tabled due to lack of time.

Update on Teen Town Hall – Ashley reminded council that this event is taking place on Dec. 3

Update on Track Repair – Ashley said she recently spoke to Joshua Williams and he says the county is in the process of getting bids to do the work. Mr. Berry also mentioned a leaking pipe near the track that will probably need repair first. Mr. Jameson said he would let Mr. McFerrin know.

CATS – Mr. McFerrin met with the new Student Advisory Committee (CATS) on Nov 3. He said he had great input from students. They said there was positive reaction to the drug program and speakers. They are also planning a school swap to learn more about other school climates. Kelly asked if CATS would plan to present at a council meeting to share their concerns and discussions with us. Council will try to plan this for our January meeting.

Overcrowding Issues at DHS – This issue was tabled due to lack of time.

New Business

Council Goals for New Year – This issue was tabled due to lack of time.

Dunwoody Dads - Bruce Kaminsky spoke to council about the mission of the group and what they are working on. Mr. Fortenberry is their faculty liaison. The group has grown to 82 dads in just two years. Their mission is to find ways that fathers can get more involved with the school. Their goal is to participate in a school project, a community project, and to adopt a needy DHS family for the holidays each year. Last year the family they adopted was very appreciative and Chad even provided a paid internship for the student. The group also recently renovated the picnic tables and eating area, providing 6 new tables. They are also planning a food drive at the school this spring for the CAC. Bruce said he is hoping the group will continue to grow and become more diverse. Ashley asked if they were on the school website as that would be a good way to get more information out to the community about the group. Bruce said he would look into that. He also said the group would love to be approached with projects and opportunities to help if they can. The group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7am at DHS.

Fundraising at DHS – Kelly said that there is some concern among local businesses about the amount of donation requests they are receiving from DHS organizations. Council discussed some ways the streamline fundraising in the school so our benefactors

don't become over-saturated with requests. Ms. Carter said Ms. Jester has a list of all school organizations and their budgets. This might be a good resource to begin the conversation. Council decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting when Mr. McFerrin could be present.

Public Comment– None

Ashley adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm. The next meeting of the Dunwoody HS School Council will be held in January in the Media Center.

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