

DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2005

The Decatur High School Council met on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, 6:30 p.m., Decatur High School Cafeteria, 310 North McDonough Street, Decatur, GA.

School Council Members Present: Mrs. Lynn Hart, Mr. Sterling Christy, Ms. Vickie Chiang, Mrs. Teresa Cross, Ms. Arlethea Williams, and Mr. Steve Monroe.

School Council Member Absent: Ms. Nancy Lee.

Others present: Mrs. Lauri McKain-Fernandez and Mr. Paul Jones.

Six school council members were present representing a quorum.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Christy called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

The May 24, 2005, minutes were read. Mr. Monroe made a correction of the last item on page one regarding staggered terms. It should read: "two teachers/one parent to serve a one year term, and one teacher/two parents to serve a two year term."

Mr. Monroe made the motion; seconded by Ms. Chiang, and unanimously approved by the council to accept the May 24, 2005, minutes, as amended.

2. Agenda

Mr. Christy informed the council of the evening's agenda that included:

1. Elections;
2. By-Laws;
3. Meeting Dates and Times;
4. Possible Agenda Items; and
5. Policy for Audience Participation.

Council members introduced themselves at Ms. Hart's request as this was her first meeting since her election.

Mr. Steve Monroe distributed a handout on the school council election process, and explained its contents. See attached.

Mr. Christy opened the floor for nominations for chairman, vice chair, and secretary of the Decatur High School Council.

Mr. Christy explained the school council By-Laws, Article XI, the responsibilities of the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary.

Ms. Lynn Hart nominated Mr. Steve Monroe as chair of the Decatur High School Council for the 2005-2006 school term. With no other names presented, Ms. Hart made a motion; seconded by Ms. Arlethea Williams, and unanimously approved by the council to close the nominations. Ms. Hart made a motion; seconded by Ms. Williams; and unanimously approved by the council to elect Mr. Monroe as chair.

Mr. Christy nominated Mrs. Cross; and Ms. Cross nominated Ms. Chiang for vice chair. Mr. Monroe seconded the nominations; and the council unanimously approved closing the nominations. Mr. Christy called for secret ballots to vote for vice chair. Ms. Cross was elected five to one as vice chairperson of the school council.

Mr. Christy nominated Ms. Chiang as secretary of the Decatur High School Council. With no other names presented, Ms. Hart motioned, seconded by Ms. Cross and unanimously approved by the council to elect Ms. Chiang as secretary of the school council.

Mr. Monroe briefed the council on the finished document he provided that incorporates into the Decatur High School Council bylaws the changes set forth in the state school council governing laws. Some were voted on at the special council meeting in May 2005. Mr. Monroe informed the council that some local decisions still need to be made one of which is the business piece.

Mr. Christy explained that under Article V, new businesspersons must be chosen as the two from last year decided not to serve again. The council must now recommend or nominate or look for two new business- persons. Two names were suggested, and Mr. Christy requested the submission of more names so that each might be approached by him to serve on the school council. Only two are needed, and the council can only have two businesspersons. At the next council meeting, two names will be presented for nomination, and voted upon.

Mr. Monroe referred the council to the first page of the bylaws, Article V, third bullet that speaks to the purpose and authority of the school council. It emphasizes reviewing, and providing recommendations on the school improvement plan. Since that effort is led at Decatur High School by the assistant principal of curriculum, he stated that it seems quite logical that that person should be a member of the school council.

Mr. Christy turned over chairing of the meeting to Mr. Monroe.

On the motion of Mr. Christy, seconded by Mrs. Cross, the council unanimously approved amending Article V of the bylaws to include the principal, and assistant principal for curriculum instruction as members of the Decatur High School Council.

With the membership of the Decatur High School Council currently at ten, Mr. Monroe and Mr. Christy agreed that committees and subcommittees could be assigned for specific input on specific topics as opposed to appointing endless numbers of council members.

Mr. Monroe directed the council to page three, Article VII of the bylaws, vacancies on the school council due to inactivity. He suggested that at the next scheduled school council meeting a proposed number of meetings to be missed before a member is deemed inactive be considered.

Mrs. McKain-Fernandez proposed scheduling parent meetings to discuss the school improvement plan that includes test scores, teacher trainings, hopes and dreams for staff and community, etc. Mr. Monroe suggested that the November meeting include an informed discussion on the school improvement plan.

Mr. Christy spoke to the six meetings voted upon in January 2005. System-wide school council training and attendance is scheduled for the month of October 2005. He submitted a handout of tentative subjects to be discussed during the remaining 2005-2006 scheduled meetings. See attached.

Ms. Cross motioned, seconded by Ms. Hart, and unanimously approved by the council to change the meeting dates as follows:

October 24 – System-wide school council training

February 28 – Fourth Tuesday

November 15 – Third Tuesday

March 21 – Third Tuesday

December – No meeting

April 18 – Third Tuesday

January 17 - Third Tuesday

May – No meeting; submit report to Superintendent on council's activities

3. Report of Principal

There was no report of principal to come before the school council.

4. Old Business

Policy for audience participation, council vacancies due to inactivity, nomination of businesspersons, and proposed parent meetings will be considered at the next scheduled school council meeting in November.

5. New Business

There was no new business to come before the council.

Mr. Paul Jones requested time to speak to the school council. He was allotted the time in which he asked the council's assistance with a project regarding the science curriculum. He requested the encouragement of open discussions on theories of the origin of life other than evolution, scientific creationism or intelligent design. The others are biogenesis, abiogenesis, punctuated equilibrium, and saultation.

6. No executive session was held.

7. The next monthly meeting is scheduled November 15, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council, Ms. Hart motioned, seconded by Mr. Christy, and unanimously approved by the council to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

Approved: 17 November 2005