

# **Approved: 17 January 2006**

DECATUR HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

November 17, 2005

The Decatur High School Council met Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. in Decatur High School Cafeteria, 310 North McDonough Street, Decatur, GA.

School Council Members Present: Sterling Christy, Arlethea Williams, Teresa Cross, Steve Monroe, Vickie Chiang, Lauri McKain Fernandez and Nancy Lee

School Council Members Absent: Lynn Hart

Others present: Paul Jones and Dennis Headings

Seven school council members were present representing a quorum.

## 1. Call to Order

Mr. Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

The September 20, 2005, minutes were previously emailed to, and reviewed by the school council members. Steve Monroe made the motion; seconded by Nancy Lee; and unanimously approved by the council to accept the September 20, 2005 minutes, as reviewed.

## 2. Agenda

1. Review Last Meeting's Minutes
2. 2 Open Seats for Business Partners
3. Stakeholder's Meeting Regarding Construction of New Gymnasium and Auditorium
4. School Improvement Plan

Members and guests introduced self and position.

An inventory of those who attended the last meeting (School Council training at RMS) was taken. Present: Teresa Cross, Vickie Chiang, Arlethea Williams, Sterling Christy and Steve Monroe

School Council needs business partner from community. Dennis Headings volunteers for the position. Sterling Christy makes a motion to approve. Lauri McKain-Fernandez seconds the motion. Council unanimously passes vote.

Sterling Christy reminds the council of the issues concerning the Stakeholder's Meeting. Concerns include: budget increases, timeline for the project and decision making (tabled for 30 days in the last board meeting), funding, science wing. The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2005.

Lauri McKain-Fernandez distributes new template for School Improvement Plan. Template was provided by the system. There will be a meeting December 5, 2005 from 4-8 P.M. to evaluate the goals set. Lauri invites council members to attend. The plans will be presented to the School Board on December 19. Template will be posted for feedback by all. Lauri McKain-Fernandez clarifies that these plans are not to be approved. It's simply a declaration of goals. Parental involvement is necessary when presenting plans.

Nancy Lee shares from perspective of a parent member that community may perceive a focus on one section of our student population. Nancy Lee stresses the importance of not neglecting the students who fall in the middle of the spectrum of academic performance.

Lauri McKain-Fernandez asks for strategies to advertise to the community for the presentation of School Improvement Plan. Mass email, school newsletter and phone tree are options discussed. Council proposes a 'spaghetti dinner' as a way to draw parents and community members to the presentation. Invitations in the form of postcards are suggested by bulk mail rate. In addition, teacher representatives will ask peers and departments to make personal calls to invite parents. Lauri McKain-Fernandez also asks for volunteers to form a committee to organize this event.

Dennis Headings suggests inviting Decatur businesses. He reminds the council how surrounding businesses have a stake in what we do at DHS. Dennis Headings also mentions that the businesses have contributed \$6000 to help fund a tutoring program for DHS students.

Lauri McKain-Fernandez reports to the council that in the School Board Meeting, the Board uncovered a shortage of 1.5 million dollars for the system budget. Cuts will be made in faculty and other areas. Dennis Headings suggests asking the local businesses to help with funding.

3. Report of Principal

Sterling Christy reports that the construction of the auditorium and gymnasium is the major issue at hand.

4. Old Business

There was no old business to come before the school council.

5. New Business

Sterling Christy proposes a further investigation to the financial woes posed by the 1.5 million deficit.

6. No executive session was held.

7. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. in the DHS cafeteria.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council, Mr. Monroe motioned, seconded by Nancy Lee, and unanimously approved by the council to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

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Chairperson