**Minutes DFA School Council**

Date: 11/28/2018

Members in attendance: James Bower (teacher), Laura Irwin (Chair and parent), Renee Kelly (Principal), Chris Melcher (parent), Tiffany Tatem (teacher), Almira Vazdarjanova (parent), Josh Workman (*Asst. Principal*), Victor Yu (parent)

Quorum: The meeting opened with 7 members present (Mr. Workman joined after the break)

Agenda items voted on:

1. Minutes from *the 9/19 meeting* were voted on and approved (7/7)

Agenda items discussed:

1. **Ideas for improving carline**: Mr. Yu suggested to move student entrance to the art building to facilitate the flow of cars during carpool. The idea was discussed and tabled as its implementation would require substantial capital investment which is currently unavailable.
2. **PTO recognition**: Mr. Yu suggested that the PTO should be recognized in the yearbook for its school-benefiting activities, including fundraising. The idea received general support and Dr. Irwin volunteered to investigate how this is done in other schools.
3. **Graduation location**: It was discussed if graduation can be done on campus. Dr. Kelly explained that this is against BOE policy.
4. **School website**: Dr. Irwin updated the council on the improvements that she and Jeff Pullium have been working on. The major accomplishment reported was establishing a template for each activity. Currently, all activities are transitioned to this template. It was clarified that all homework assignments should be posted on the website under each teacher’s page and most teachers are compliant. The goal is to achieve 100% compliance, for every school day.
5. **Review** **of mission statement**: It was suggested that the DFA mission statement appears on the main page of the DFA website. Dr. Kelly clarified that the BOE has specific requirements as to how the webpage is organized. It was agreed that an effort should be made to include the DFA mission statement on the main page.
6. **Presence of team sports be increased on campus**: Dr. Kelly stated that although engaging students in team sports is desirable and may increase DFA’s competitiveness in terms of recruiting qualified students, sports activities remain secondary to fine arts activities. Track and field teams were added, but basketball and football teams will not be added. Dr. Irwin asked if DFA looses qualified candidates due to limited team sports opportunities. Dr. Kelly stated that the number of students eligible for DFA is decreasing and this is a bigger concern. Ms. Tatem stated that participation in sports teams is a motivating factor for many students to attain high academic achievement, so they are eligible to participate in sports. Dr. Vazdarjanova asked if the number of available sports is enough to serve as such motivating factor for a significant number of students. Dr. Kelly clarified that in addition to the mentioned sports there are teams in tennis, golf and a pilot volleyball team (Aug-Sep). The variety of existing sports was deemed sufficient.
7. **Election** **of Secretary**: Dr. Vazdarjanova was nominated and she accepted the nomination, after which she left the room. She was unanimously approved (6/6) and invited to re-join the meeting.
8. **School Rankings**: Dr. Kelly reported that the College Readiness Rankings were posted and DFA has the second highest score in the state *among fine arts schools?* The AP scores were also improved compared to last year (74% vs 70%), as well as the SAT scores (28 vs. 24.6), and the graduation rate remains extremely high (*I don’t have the number here).* Dr. Kelly reported on her visit to the Gwinnett County fine arts high school and their admission and retention practices. It was agreed to continue with DFA’s model, which is to have a stringent selection process, but provide multiple resources for DFA students to succeed.
9. **Programming changes**: Starting next year, AP Human Geography will begin in 9th grade to increase the number of AP courses a high school student can sign up for. There is also an after-school SAT/ACT prep program available to high school students. It was reported that the number of Duke Tip students in 7th grade has increased.

The meeting was adjourned.