

## Responses to questions for Dunwoody HS DADS Group Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Q. Can Kingsley field be improved? It slopes toward the school and the water flow is causing drainage problems and erosion to trees and sidewalks. Also, can Chestnut field be improved? Could both fields be used and maintained by the city?

**A. We can approach the City of Dunwoody to see if they would like to enter into an intergovernmental agreement for the upgrade and maintenance of the Chestnut ES and Kingsley ES fields.**

**This would be similar to the current agreement we have with the City for the football field and track at Peachtree MS, where the City maintains the school district-owned facility.**

Q. DHS is already hundreds of students over capacity. What specific actions is Dr. Green taking to address school over-crowding? DHS doesn't have enough of the following to adequately serve our children:

- Classrooms
  - Cafeteria space
  - Bathrooms
  - Locker Room showers/lockers
  - Etc.
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- **We have \$17.7 million 26-classroom addition planned for Dunwoody HS to be completed by fall 2022. A Construction Advisory Committee (CAC), a sub-committee of the school council (now Parent Advisory Council) will collaborate with the architect of record in what improvements could be included as part of the scope of work within the Board-approved budget.**

- Q. Status update on the renovation of the school.
- What is the plan for the growing school population at DHS?
  - How DHS to address the growing student population until the expansion is ready in 2021?
  - More trailers?
- **We will have more portable classrooms until the addition is complete in fall of 2022. This summer, we will bring out one more quad (4 classrooms) with restrooms. We are currently working with the architect of record to ensure the placement of the portable classrooms will fit relative to the possible location of the proposed addition.**

Q. What about parking for students, teachers and visitors?

**A. We will add more parking as part of the classroom expansion.**

Q. What is DCSDs' intention for the land owned on Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. where the former Middle School was torn down?

Couldn't this be leveraged to educate students in any way?

Unless there's a school building coming to relieve student crowding, why isn't the land sold and the money put back into serving existing students?

DCSD has held this land for approximately 15 years without our students benefiting in any way.

- **The land is valuable and could bring in more revenue to the school district. We have looked at possible options for this, including support/office needs for the school district. We are still reviewing this and the Board could make a decision to sell the land.**
  
- Staffing for the school – currently two staff members (1 is brand new this year) handle all of the 504 and IEP processing and testing.
- **Each school is staffed with counselors, social workers and psychologists and other support persons that assist with the Section 504 process and special education staff (teachers and case managers) and support (LTSE) that ensure goals listed on the IEP's of students are met.**
  - 504 Plan/Hospital Homebound Chair # 1
    - **Dr. Thenita Williams**
    - **(Students with last names L-Z)**
  - 504 Plan Chair # 2
    - **Amy Dyche- newest counselor hired in November**
    - **(Students with last names A-K)**
  - Number of students with active 504 plan
    - **220**
  - Number of students who receive HHB Instruction
    - **12**

**Additional note: MTSS Chair facilitates SST meetings and monitors data collection**

  - Name of Lead Teacher for Special Education
    - **Coleen Conway**
  - Name of Special Education Department Chair
    - **Rose Abraham**
  - Total Number of SPED Teachers
    - **16**

- Co-Taught
    - **11 co-taught teachers**
  - Resource
    - **1 Teacher**
  - ID
    - **3 Teachers (2 MID/MOID and 1 SID/PID). 1 one to one Teacher for a student**
  - Number of case managers
    - **16**
  - Number of students with IEP's
    - **178**
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- Who specifically made the decision last August to require DCS teachers to attend a day long program at the Infinite Energy Center in fundamentally an “employee rally”?
    - **The Superintendent and the Board of Education approved the Opening of Schools Convocation on August 4, 2017.**
  - How was funding for that activity reached when DCS can't seem to fund some of the very basic necessities?

For example, we couldn't get DCS to pay for buses to transport students to their Football Camp and private donors (via the Dunwoody Gridiron Club) had to pay for the transportation.

- **Each division/department is allocated a budget for July 1 – June 30. The funding for the event was paid for through the Communications Division's budget.**
  - **\*(The total cost of the event was \$165,455.77 this included rental of the facility, production costs, transportation, interpreters for hearing impaired employees, speaker, signage, t-shirts, and bottled water.)**
- Was allocating money for the Infinite Energy Center the best use of funds?

- **An Opening Schools Convocation has not been held in the district for 10 years. The event was designed as a professional development experience in which all staff (new and experienced, north and south, east and west) had the opportunity to engage with each other.**

**The event was a direct response to an expressed desire to have us come together – to create a culture of unity and togetherness as One Team, One Voice, One DeKalb. It was also an opportunity for all staff to hear first-hand the depth and breadth of our accomplishments and to hear directly from the superintendent regarding the charge: the next steps we will be taking toward the fulfillment of our vision and mission as a district focused on deep teach and learning.**

**It was also a wonderful opportunity to see our talented students perform on stage.**

Q. The high jump mat is completely unsafe and unusable. This is a major safety concern for our kids.

**A. The Athletics Department provides equipment for the regional stadiums. Teams are able to visit those locations for practice at any time.**

Q. There is no Booster Club for the Track Team and the majority of the kids who participate in track can barely afford the minimal dues the coach's collect to cover the basic expenses of meets, coach's salary and uniforms.

- **The coach's salary comes from the district allocated budget. Uniforms are provided by the district as well on a three year rotational cycle. Collected fees should not be used for these purposes.**

Q. How can we best reach our student sub-groups? For example, DHS has a significant population of Latin American students and there is a language barrier.

**A. The English Learner Department works closely with local school staff to provide training to meet the needs of all speakers of languages other than English. Training is provided for teachers and administrators. Parents are also supported through the Title III parent centers.**

Q. Can we have a paid liaison who is fluent in Spanish to help communicate with these students and parents?

**A. General Budget considerations are being made for the increase of support for students and parents that speak a primary home language other than English.**

• What specific, incremental security measures is Dr. Green intending to put in place to heighten school security, if any?

- **Increases are being made in the general budget to increase the number of school resource officers across the district.**

**A pilot for the installation of metal detectors will be launched. We are also working to enhance security cameras in schools and have added vestibules to newer construction projects. The K-9 unit (2 trained in narcotics and explosives detection) have been added to the Public Safety unit.**

Q. Those that are controlled by the DeKalb County Schools vs. the State or Federal Government?

**A. The DeKalb County School Police work closely with other local jurisdictions to ensure the safety of students and staff on a daily basis.**

Q. Capacity and student overpopulation issues at Dunwoody High School.

- **The Board approved \$17.7 million under E-SPLOST V to construct a 26-classroom addition at Dunwoody HS to address this issue.**

**The new addition is slated to be completed by fall 2022. In the interim, the Operations Division will be installing additional quad units (4 classrooms per unit) with restrooms to temporarily address overcrowding at the school.**

Q. One third of our students are on free/reduced lunch. Our cafeteria lines are too long and some students are not able/willing to wait in line to eat. For some of the kids, this is their best meal of the day.

How can you help us ensure that our kids have access to lunch and do not have to go hungry throughout the school day? As a bonus, it would be nice if the quality of the food was higher.

- **The School Nutrition Coordinator, Maureen Pickett and Connie Walker, Interim Executive Director of School Nutrition, met with the student council lead, Ebony Greene and student members at Dunwoody HS during the fall 2017. A survey and a taste test was conducted**

with the student council to identify student preferences and menu selections.

We are in the process of obtaining equipment to add a Grab and Go serving line in the cafeteria.

The next step to meet with DCSD technicians to determine the electrical voltage needs in the cafeteria. This will increase the student participation and flow the traffic during meal service. The target for completion is April, 2018.

Q. Please address the level of athletic support that the school gets from the County, some specific examples below:

- Took 8 weeks to get the Tennis court lights to come on in time to be useful for home matches.
- Can we get local control over those facilities to allow the coaches to turn on and off as needed?
- **The Division of Operations will assess the lighting concerns to determine if the automatic timers or photocell sensors on the Tennis court lights need to be replaced or recalibrated. If so, our Region 1 Facilities Manager will work with GA Power and our in-house electricians to do so as soon as possible.**