

DFA School Council Meeting- 2/24/2022 at 4:00PM

Present- Gina Bassford, Jimmy Bowers, Laura Irwin, Renee Kelly, Chris Melcher, Tiffany Tatem, Almira Vazadarjanova, DH Zhang

Meeting Started: 4:07pm

Agenda:

- 1) Review and approve Minutes from 12/9/2021 meeting- approved 8/8
- 2) Council Members updates-
Laura Irwin reached out to new members, who did not respond yet.
- 3) Mandatory RCBOE training update-
The School Council training is for new members only, particularly parents and business members. The website is www.rcboe.org/pag/8577#calendar16438/20220223/month. The council will check with members at each meeting to ensure everyone goes through the training.
- 4) Support for new parents to DFA update-
This is a follow-up from discussions at our last meeting.
 - a. Laura Irwin reached out to PTO President Adelaide Vaughn concerning collaboration. She shared challenges with PTO participation/parent engagement. There are upcoming Meet the PTO events: 2/28, 8am, DFA coffee/doughnuts and Beer after 5pm at Savannah River Brewing Company. PTO is willing to host videos on their website, but do not have the resources to create the videos themselves. Discussion occurred around DFA creating video clips to posted on the PTO website. Some ideas included “common questions or FAQ’s” about ways to navigate DFA and to interest parents to participate in school life.
 - b. Buddy system- pair a parent of an older child with incoming student parents. Execution of this plan was not clarified.
 - c. Another option was to add Q&A section to the Patent tab on the DFA website, as well as post school-wide announcements that are not sent on fliers.
 - d. New Parent Orientation with a Parent/Administrator pair to answer questions while students attend New Student Orientation- possibly for this July 22, 2022. Some discussion occurred around having a panel of parents. It was felt having Teachers or Administration there might help prevent potential misinformation.
 - e. Consider having a Parent Orientation for all High School Students (Spring before 9th grade). Could discuss AP classes, Dual Enrollment, getting onto Infinite Campus, etc.
 - f. “Connect with the 6th Graders” is a program Gina Bassford is currently doing. Discussion occurred around using a platform such as Group Me to help facilitate questions and answers, as well as not placing all communication on one person.
- 5) Construction update-
 - a. A suggestion was made that a video of the New Wing be created and posted on the DFA website to show off the area. Renee Kelly agreed, once it is all finished and decorated.
 - b. Structural assessment of the Augusta Canal around DFA buildings- There is some concern about erosion occurring around the canal. A structural plan was created and paid for by RCBOE by an outside agency for Richmond County concerning the canal that runs in front of the school, and behind the Art Building. The Canal Authority only controls water flow, not structural issues. There appears to be a need for upgrades to

prevent future structural problems. Carl Hammond-Beyer is working with his students to present a plan to Richmond County on a structural assessment of the canal. Of concern may also be the Art Building due to its proximity to the canal. It is unclear which entity is ultimately responsible for correcting any issues. The process is ongoing.

- c. 13 new Promethium Active Boards have arrived, with hopefully another 17 arriving. The goal is for each classroom will have one.
- 6) Yearbook Ad update- Victor Yu will be properly thanked in this year's edition, and the School Council will receive the ad gratis.
- 7) New business- There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 5pm.