**DFA School Council Meeting- 5/17/2022 at 4:00PM**

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

Agenda:

1. Review and approve Minutes from 2/222022 meeting- approved 9/9
2. Council Members Officers for 2022/2023 and Council recommendations-
   1. Discussion was held concerning increasing interest in School Council and increasing membership. Some suggestions included coordinating with PTO, using the Robo Call system to put out a message from administration, and placing an announcement on the DFA website. Some discussion about how best to get the message seen on the website occurred. The banner is up front, but may scroll by too quickly. Placement further down the front page may not be seen.
   2. Discussion about new officers was held. All current officers will no longer have children at DFA for the 2022 school year, and have served 3-4 years. All officers agreed to serve through the first meeting of the 2022/2023 school year. At that first meeting, new officers will need to be appointed.
   3. Laura Irwin discussed some reflections on the School Council over the past 3 years. One area she felt could be increased was follow-up on topics and suggestions brought up during meetings. Though School Council is an advisory board only, perhaps officers moving forward could address this with members.
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](http://www.rcboe.org/pag/8577#calendar16438/20220223/month). The council will check with members at each meeting to ensure everyone goes through the training.

1. Support for new parents to DFA update-

This is a follow-up from discussions at our last 2 meetings.

1. An Open House for 6th Grade Parents is being planned.
2. New students entering above 6th grade will have an Orientation 7/27/22. There are discussions about including parents of these students.
3. Gina Bassford is now also the 9th Grade Counselor along with Middle School. This designation will allow her assist all students, new and returning, with transitioning to high school.
4. Discussion was held about Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA, and how they welcome new students. They put out a red carpet, and work to increase the excitement of arriving at school. They have students and teachers dancing in the halls, encouraging the students on the class.
5. Some ideas to draw on from Ron Clark and other school include:
   1. Buddy System where students pick a ping pong ball for their assignment in front of everyone.
   2. Playing drums at the school entrance to increase excitement
   3. Free T-shirts for 6th graders in their class’ colors
6. At orientation- students are encouraged to Walk Their Schedule, and a Scavenger Hunt is planned to help introduce the students to DFA.
7. There are 114 entering 6th graders for the 2022/2023 school year.
8. Construction update- The Black Box Theatre construction was presented by Dr. Kelly.
9. Yearbook Ad update- Victor Yu was thanked for his service in this year’s edition, and the School Council will received the ad gratis.
10. Honors Day Feedback-

Most Council members agreed that having the Seniors have their own day was special for them, and allowed them to focus on their classmate’s achievements without feeling so pushed for time. The downside mentioned was it did not allow underclassmen to celebrate along with the seniors. Discussion occurred, and in general the separate Senior Honors Day seems positive.

1. Graduation Update- It will be a 1 hour total ceremony at Laney outdoor stadium. No tickets are required, and there should be plenty of space for family. There is a request for no balloons so they do not detract from others’ view of the graduation. Rain date will be in the AR Johnson gymnasium. As that is a smaller venue, seating will be limited if graduation moves indoors. Students are asked to arrive at Laney by 8:15AM.
2. New business- There being none, the meeting was adjourned just before 5pm.