

DRUID HILLS CLUSTER ALLIANCE
<https://druidhillsclusteralliance.weebly.com/>

September Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2019
Time: 5:30pm
Location: Druid Hills Hill School Media Center

Attendees:
See sign-in sheet

Copies to: All

Prepared by: Steve Langdon

01 – Cluster Alliance PACs

01.1.1 – Cluster PACs

8/19/19 – Several cluster schools need PAC candidates. Candidates can self declare on line through 8/23. Elections will be held 9/17-9/24.

9/23/19 – Elections are current in process. ELPC extended an invitation to all PAC candidates.
[ACTION – Recruit new PAC members to Cluster Alliance]

02 – DeKalb County School District Items

02.1.1 – Dr. Green resignation

8/19/19 – Marshall Orson shared that a search firm will be identified over the next 4-6 months to manage the national search process to identify a replacement for Dr. Green.

9/23/19 – No update.

[ACTION – Marshall to continue to keep Cluster informed of search status]

02.1.2 – GO Bond

8/19/19 – DCSD is exploring issuing a property tax backed bond to address an E-SPLOST budget shortfall of approximately \$95 million. There are 5 community engagement input meetings planned and an online survey for stakeholders to share their feedback. Sept 10 is the engagement session at Lakeside High School for Region 2. The bond would be on the DeKalb County ballot as part of the March 2020 primary vote.

9/23/19 – Cluster members to review and take part in the online survey. Additionally, ELPC hosting a panel discussion on 10/28 at 6:30pm.

[ACTION – Take survey]

02.1.3 - \$30k State Security Grant per School

8/19/19 – As approved by Governor Kemp this past spring, the state has approved funding to provide every public school in the state with \$30k to be used on security improvements. DeKalb will be presenting all schools' Principals with a list of possible scope options this fall. DeKalb will compile each schools' selection for presentation to the state in early 2020 for funding.

9/23/19 – Principals submitted their preference list on 9/20.

[ACTION – Await reply from DCSD]

03 – Cluster Alliance Committees

03.1.1 - COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY Committee

8/19/19 – Several schools are scheduling fundraisers this fall:

- DHHS Athletic Association is holding their fall fundraiser at Wild Heaven on 9/28. All are welcome. See athletic association website for tickets and more details.

9/23/19 –

- DHMS PTSA online Fall Fundraiser – ongoing through 10/3 with Cherryvale shopfund.com
- DHMS enrichment fund started this year.
- GOT SNEAKERS! fundraiser program being piloted at DHHS. To be expanded to all Cluster schools with a target date of Dec 2nd to Dec 20th.

[ACTION – Continue to support all schools]

03.1.2 – HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SAFETY Committee

8/19/19 – Ladybugs for Girls Program will be held this fall at Laurel Ridge. An information session was held at the Open House and Emory Students recently held orientation. Due to the overwhelming interest, the program will be provided at ALL grade levels.

9/23/19 – Ladybugs program is going really well at LHE. Cluster to review options to expand to more schools.

[ACTION – Continue to support Ladybugs program and look to expand to other elem schools]

03.1.3 - ACADEMIC ALIGNMENT AND CONNECTIONS Committee

A. Illuminate Assessments

8/19/19 – Due to the input from PACs and specifically our Cluster, DCSD revised both Standardized Lesson Planning and Illuminate Assessments requirements for the start of this school year. Lesson Planning format has been shortened and is less burdensome on our teachers while still providing a format to achieve the County’s curriculum goals. The quantity of Illuminate Assessments has been reduced to 1 set per quarter. With the first set of Illuminate pre-unit tests beginning, discussions with teachers will continue to be held to confirm the assessment questions have also improved. The Cluster also discussed MAP and Milestones and will continue to review options for discussions with DCSD to lessen the burden on students.

9/23/19 – First round of assessment testing has begun. Cluster to discuss program further with teachers.

[ACTION – Confirm Illuminate progress and MAP/Milestone options]

B. ICS alignment with DHMS

9/23/19 – Principal at ICS is exploring options for graduating 5th graders at ICS to continue onto DHMS. Current ICS students are not bussed from DHMS attendance zone so transportation options will also need to be review.

[ACTION – Explore options]

03.1.4 – FACILITY PRIORITIES AND SUPPORT Committee

A. DHHS Master Planning

8/19/19 – DHHS has hired a design firm to complete their campus Master Planning. The next steps will be hold meetings with stakeholders with the goal to have this input compiled by the end of September. The firm will use this information to develop the master plan for presentation I early 2020.

9/23/19 – Next DHHS Facility Committee meeting is 9/30.

[ACTION – Attend stakeholder meetings]

B. Avondale Elem Lead Windows

8/19/19 – DCSD reviewed and tested peeling windows on existing windows at Avondale Elementary this summer. Those evaluations confirmed that the peeling paint included lead and needs to be abated. The Cluster Alliance to write letter to confirm urgent need for the County to complete this abatement work.

9/23/19 - Avondale PAC to write draft letter for Cluster input.

[**ACTION** – Write letter]

NEW BUSINESS

04.2.1 - Dr Green on the Scene

9/23/19 - The next Dr. Green on the Scene is scheduled for Oct 17th at DHMS. Please plan to attend.

[**ACTION** – Attend meeting]

04.2.2 - Briar Vista Montessori program

9/23/19 - A Montessori teacher at BVE left for another position last summer. BE was unable to hire a replacement Montessori-certified teacher and Montessori students are now being taught by a traditional teacher. Similarly, Huntley Hills Elementary has unfilled Montessori teacher positions. BVE PAC has discussed writing a letter to DCSD to fund a Montessori teacher training for up to 8 teachers to create a pipeline for replacement teachers. Additionally, fund renovation to existing classrooms to better meet the goals of Montessori program and provide flexibility to County curriculum assessments schedule to match the Montessori teaching model.

[**ACTION** – Research and create letter to DCSD]

Next meeting: 10/21 @ 5:30pm at Druid Hills Middle School

[End of Minutes]