



*DESERT MOUNTAIN  
SITE COUNCIL  
Minutes  
August 24<sup>th</sup> 2022*

***Desert Mountain High School's Mission:*** Desert Mountain High School provides diverse educational opportunities that foster academic, social, and emotional growth inspiring students to create their future in a global community.

***Desert Mountain High School's Vision:*** Desert Mountain High School will provide an environment in which all students may explore and develop their interests and talents in order to reach their highest potential.

**Desert Mountain High School Site Council Meeting Minutes - August 24, 2022**

The meeting was called to order @ 2:32 p.m.

- 1) Dr. Hirsh reviewed the site council mission statement.
- 2) Roll call / attendance was taken:
  - Attended:
    - Lisa Hirsch – Admin
    - Jenny Dorsch – staff
    - Robb Values – parent
    - Sheila Donovan – parent
    - Valerie Shannon – parent
    - Lulu Faraj – parent
    - Jill Dunican – parent
    - Nicholas Borovansky – student rep
    - Caden Gereb – Student government president
    - Brian Novak – PTO
    - Hanna McKolay – teacher rep
  - Absent:
    - John Andrews – admin
    - Matt Hatten – community rep
    - Leslie Jones – guidance rep
    - Bryan Hummel – teacher rep
    - Ashlyn Yamano – student rep

- Phil Ramos – parent
- Guests:
  - Sandy
  - Tanya

### 3) Principal's Report

- a. Reboot = focus for 2022-2023 school year
  - i. School is a serious place; focus on attendance; reducing tardiness; hold students accountable; ensure every student is wearing IDs
- b. CIP = Continuous Improvement Plan
  - i. ACT scores improved more than the set goal
- c. Culture of Safety = DIGIT
  - i. D = Doors locked in classrooms
  - ii. I = IDs worn at all times
  - iii. G = Gates shut (external)
  - iv. IT = safe IT procedures / passwords
- d. Traffic
  - i. No drop-offs/pick-ups in the library parking area
  - ii. No U-turns on Shea (that's where accidents happen)
- e. Moment of Silence
  - i. Teachers are already observing even though this doesn't officially go into effect until September 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. Held during the morning, with pledge of allegiance and announcements/news
  - iii. At least 1 minute, but not longer than 2 minutes
  - iv. Parents are encouraged to help their children decide what to focus on
  - v. Teachers are not allowed to suggest any topics that students should consider
- f. We discussed Remind, which is a group chat app where the teacher can contact a group of students using email and the student's phone # is not visible. Synergy is another communication tool available to teachers.
- g. District Strategic Plan
  - i. SUSD is planning for district accreditation
  - ii. A strategic plan is required to achieve that goal
  - iii. It's also a need for college admission in some countries and for college sports.

### 4) Student Government Report

- a. New officers have been elected for the 2022-2023 school year
- b. Club Rush was held this week w/ 50 clubs participating
  - i. New clubs can be added at any time during the school year

- ii. A parent had a question about kids being able to participate in clubs if they leave at lunch time for EVIT. It was determined that if they leave at lunch, it would be hard to participate as clubs are held either at lunch or after school hours.
- iii. Student government has a QR code that students can use to quickly find information about starting new clubs, running clubs, etc. It also has a school event calendar.
- iv. PTO has seed money for clubs; they just need a request for support
- c. Homecoming is Oct 1
  - i. The theme and location will be announced next week

5) Other notes:

- a. Site council members could create other committees for various reasons if we wanted to do so.
- b. The school District is experiencing a paper supply shortage

6) Tax Credit Funds:

- a. Current funds = \$29,191
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> Request: \$8,000 for tutors
  - i. A request was made to fund tutors for the first semester at a cost of \$8,000 for 5 teachers at \$30/hr. for English and Science. (Math tutors are paid for via ESSR funds)
  - ii. Lisa Explained that The Diligent Den of Wolves are 9-10 grade students who are struggling in school and are then given help and have the goals to “strive for .5” to increase their GPA. While that tutoring is funded via ESSR funds, the tax credit funds would expand the service for any DMHS student, including the Diligent Den of Wolves members, for after school tutoring.
  - iii. A motion was made by Rob Values and seconded by Valerie Shannon
  - iv. The motion passed unanimously and is approved for \$8,000 for the first semester.
- c. 2<sup>nd</sup> request: \$2,503.00 for a mural
  - i. Would be created by a company called Image 360
  - ii. The mural would be in the performing arts area and would be an image of someone standing on stage viewing the audience (empty seats)
  - iii. A motion was made by Brian Novak and seconded by Jenny Dorsch
  - iv. A member mentioned that the cost on the invoice was \$2,503.30
  - v. A new motion was made by Brian Novak to increase the funding approval by \$.30 and was seconded by Jenny Dorsch.
  - vi. The motion was unanimously approved for \$2503.30.
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> request: not to exceed \$900 for IXL Student Intervention program seats
  - i. Students use this program to work on math skills and English skills
  - ii. These funds would purchase additional “seats” of the program

- iii. Seats are transferrable between students
  - iv. The fund would make available about 30 seats
    - v. A parent asked if the curriculum could be approved before approval.
    - vi. Dr. Hirsch clarified that the program is already approved by the district; this ask is to add more seats of the approval curriculum.
    - vii. A parent also asked if we could secure additional seats so that any student who would like could use the program for ACT test practice. It was agreed that this item will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.
      - 1. Jenny Dorsch also shared that students have access to use Revolution Prep for ACT test practice and that she has a list of other available resources.
    - viii. A motion was made by Robb Vaules and seconded by Jenny Dorsch
    - ix. The motion was approved unanimously for up to \$900.
- 7) A request was made to have two parent representatives from DMHS for the Scottsdale Parent Council.
- 8) Jenny Dorsch reported that the district is planning a college fair day on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that 27 colleges have been secured to participate as of this date.
- 9) STAFFING:
- a. At the end of last school year, 9 teachers retired from DMHS
  - b. Some of these vacated positions were not backfilled as enrollment was expected to be 1800
  - c. Enrollment is actually 1930 this year
  - d. In total, DMHS is only short 1 teacher and they are actively interviewing to full the spot
  - e. Overall, there are 56 open positions in the district. A majority of these open positions are special education positions.
  - f. Dr. Hirsch reported that teacher pay has increased quite a bit over the past few years and that teachers want to work at DMHS, so they have been successful in finding teachers when needed.
  - g. DMHS did have 5 Security guards, then 4 with a vacant spot at the end of last year. Currently there are 2 full time guards on campus each day, with one extra coming for an hour in the mornings. We expect to be back up to 5 in the near future. The SRO is our same SRO and that was not cut.

Agenda Item for next meeting:

- Expand IXL program for additional students.

Meeting adjourned @ 4:05 p.m.