Desert Mountain Site Council

Minutes

Sept 23, 2026

- Meeting called to order by John Andrews at 2:35 pm.
- Attendance: Absent: Chloe Steinbeck, Matilde Lister
- Guest : Annie Ferris (Stugo)
- Approval of May minutes - Motion to approve made by Andrea Augustine . Seconded by Skyler Kaplan. Motion passed.

Call to Public-

- Change to lunch period to 5th period is a big change. Student feedback has been relatively positive and kids have adapted to the earlier lunch. Teachers feel it is more balanced and post lunch classes are being taken more seriously.
- Reminder of study habits and weekly tutoring in library and some world language classes. Biggest topics are math and world language. Best suggestion is to go to your teacher and set an appointment
- Best practice to keep cell phones away. Cell phone usage in halls is down.
- Monitoring tardies
- Goal to keep enrollment as high as possible and grow it 2% by end of May 2027
- Senior class is large this year, over 500
- People are coming here due to choice in curriculum, sports, activities
- Grade checks just happened for athletes and performing arts.
- Enrollment is 1870 – highest by almost 200 students
- School facilities and bond update
    - DMHS needs a lot of maintenance work. Community must vote on bond to pay for maintenance
    - Phase 2 will affect the DMHS learning complex with possible school closures
    - Phase 3 focuses on maintaining families in our complex
- Howl outs – 12 National Merit Semi-finalists, 8 Commended scholars
    - Fall sports
    - Football is 4/0 going for 5/0
    - Homecoming week
    - Fall play – The Games Afoot murder mystery inspired by the man who played Sherlock Holmes on broadway
    - Swim and Dive – DM has won every meet they have had.
    - Stugo – increase in school spirit seen this week!
    - Band is in year 2 with Mr. Snyder
    - PTO has been extremely supportive of students and staff with lunches and Wolf of the Month

STUGO – Annie – Junior Class President – HoCo theme is Going Back to the 2000's.

- Working on dance and planning the pep assemblies on Friday.
- Ticket sales doing pretty well for juniors, seniors reporting they are planning to attend. STUGO has been encouraging their friends to bring their friend groups along to boost attendance.

- Dance is Saturday from 7-10
- STU-GOS is trying to get more involvement at games

Principal's Report

TAX CREDIT BALANCE - $33,720

- Funding Request: Tim Spatz for Teen Court for $750
  - Students serve as jury for first-time offenders at Fountain Hills Municipal Court
  - Hear cases, students get community service and focus on restoration of justice
  - Sponsor must attend the sessions. Requested cost covers Mr. Spatz's time for these sessions. They meet monthly during school year.
  - Motion to approve – Kristen Tindall. Seconded by Maribell Salazar.
  - Motion passed.
- Funding Request: Academic Intervention with Veva Pacheco $1,500
  - Mrs. Pacheco works with students who need academic interventions.
  - Highly focused on 9th and 10th graders who are failing 3 or more classes. Identified in first quarter.
  - This is voluntary – parents are notified about the opportunity for tutoring and intervention.
  - Meets with students every Monday and Wednesday. Cost is to cover Mrs. Pacheco's time
  - Motion to approved by Lulu Faraj. Seconded by Sarah Lombardi
  - Motion passed

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Sarah Lombardi – shout out to PTO for the great social media presence this year.

Student Advisory Board – Sid Gupta

- Parents are wondering if their students can shadow when considering SUSD schools as their school of choice. Sid and Max are reaching out to teachers for Shadowing program to see if they would like to have student shadows in their classes. Student Shadowers have been selected by interview.
- School Safety – Sid and a committee will be presenting to Governing Board about safety ideas.

PTO – trying to boost membership and getting messaging out about DMHS.

Sophia Martone Zoll – trying to boost enrollment in performing arts by appealing to 8th graders.

Jenny Dorsch – College Fair is Sept 26. Please take advantage of this event to research and meet with over 100 colleges.

Motion to adjourn made by Andrea Augustine. Seconded by Lulu Faraj

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Dorsch