

EVENTS

Dance contract in place for prom

Student leaders worry restrictive rules will affect attendance

By RAYAN TILMATINE
HUB Staff

211 tickets were sold for the Spring Dance on Feb. 23; just 128 students attended.

That's according to Sophie Purves, student organizer of the dance.

Many students blamed the low attendance on a new dance contract that bans "provocative" moves.

The contract will also be effective for the Senior Ball on May 26—and students are worried that may lead to fewer attendees.

The dance contract was the result of administrators and counselors receiving more complaints from students feeling uncomfortable on the dance floor or feeling pressured into dancing provocatively. Student Government adviser Anthony Vasquez contributed to the contract's construction.

"We want to create a safe space where no one feels pressured or sexualized or uncomfortable," Vasquez said. "We're throwing school dances; we're not a nightclub."

Senior Khalida Pergher plans to attend prom, yet is uncertain whether or not she will enjoy the dance.

"This will be my last prom, so usually it's something that I'd like to remember. But I don't want my night filled with administration interrupting it," Pergher said.

Vasquez argues that DHS is not much different than other schools in terms of dance rules.

"Admin proposed language [after] looking at dance contracts from other schools in the area," Vasquez said.

Junior Iain Smith, a member of Student Government and an attendee of the Spring Dance, is not worried about students missing out on prom.

"At the end of the day, even if the student body doesn't agree with the contract, they'll still attend because prom it's this huge highlight of the year that students will want to go to despite the enforced codes," Smith said.

Senior Nancy Avoce believes that it is already difficult to attend because of prom's expenses.

"I do plan on going, but I'm certain there will be students that won't attend due to the fact that prom is such a haul of money, and the idea that they won't go might motivate other students into thinking it isn't worth it," Avoce said.

Vasquez discusses the plans for the upcoming senior dance.

"I believe that [the contract] will be required for prom, so students need to have that turned in before they can purchase a prom ticket," Vasquez said. "I hope the students are looking forward to it. It'll be awesome."

PEOPLE

Girl Scouts craft memories one patch at a time
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THE HUB

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IN-DEPTH

Opportunities soar for high schoolers living in college town
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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/SCOUT BROWN

POLICY

Swimsuit dress code causes controversy

Female swimmers upset as official questions propriety of competition uniforms

By MESERET CARVER
HUB Staff

The female athletes on the DHS swim team are told to make sure their uniforms are appropriate under league and section rules.

But those rules are very vague. The California Interscholastic Federation rule book states that students should wear suits "of decent appearance."

That subjective line has caused a stir within the swim team, with several athletes saying they were questioned over their appearance by a swim tournament official.

Senior Chloe McClain claimed that she was disqualified last year because her suit showed too much of her buttocks.

"After my race, [an offica] pulled me out of the pool and was like, 'I'm disqualifying

you for that race because of your suit,'" McClain said.

However, league rules say that athletes cannot be disqualified after they have raced.

This year, female swimmers say their swimsuits have been inspected several times by Roswita Norris, who volunteers as the head official at home meets for the DHS swim meets.

According to senior Aly Lodigiani, there are two concerns the female athletes have with how the swimsuit issue has been handled. First, the female athletes feel that the girls are being targeted while the boys get a free pass.

"Initially it felt like the league was targeting body sizes and saying, 'You can't swim,'" Lodigiani said.

After one team meeting at the Feb. 28 meet, Lodigiani says that DHS head swim coach John Varley dismissed the boys and asked the girls to stick around for a discussion about their swimwear. Some of the female athletes saw this in a negative light. They wondered why the boys were dismissed for a discussion on uniforms.

Norris denies that the league treats women and men differently, recalling that at a recent meet she discussed the size of the American flag (which must not be larger than two by three inches) on the cap of two boys.

While the boys were getting their flags measured, Norris walked around to different teams and asked the girls to remove their towels so she could see how much of their buttocks the bathing suit covered. Norris claimed that it was "to catch their attention" and that she would "never do it again."

According to Norris, many parents have approached her, saying they are uncomfortable with the swim suits the girls are wearing to meets. As a result, Norris started going around and checking the girls' suits to ensure they abided by regulations.

"They need to dress appropriately so they don't expose themselves to pornography," Norris said.

According to Norris, while "99.9 percent" of people who come to the meets are not predators, there might be someone at

POLICY continued page 2



An estimated 300 students took part in the March 14 rally against gun violence, including junior Salma Doulaki. Community members gathered at the 14th St. entrance to show support for the student protest.



FULL COVERAGE OF THE WALKOUT ON BLUEDEVILHUB.COM



Senior Talya Kalman (holding sign) joined organizer Liz Alejo at the rally. Jazelyn Wenk believes it's "time for change." Sofia Dolan and Tiya Kamba-Griffin handed out ribbons in memory of the Parkland victims and notecards to send to legislators.

COURTESY/PHOTOS/DHS YEARBOOK

HUB PHOTOS/LAUREN TULL



The Symphony Orchestra raised about \$14,000 through their "No-Show Tea Party," a letter writing campaign to family and friends; \$2,500 by raffling off a Mark Wood electric violin; \$2,000 through a Facebook contribution campaign and \$2,500 from local business sponsorships. The band's Coconut Grove benefit raised about \$8,000.

MUSIC

Orchestra and band programs pitch together to fundraise

\$33,000 still needed for summer trip to New York

By STEPHANIE CHANG
Print Editor-in-Chief

The orchestra and band programs have been planning their first collaborative tour effort to Carnegie Hall for the summer of 2018. The trip costs \$200,000 total, or \$2,300 per tour participant with 55 orchestra and 82 band participants.

According to orchestra conductor Angelo Moreno, Carnegie Hall is "considered one of the most cherished concert halls and one of the most perfect acoustic spaces for instrumental performance." Classical composers such as Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and Leonard Bernstein have performed there, as well as rock bands like the Beatles, Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin.

"This trip is educationally important for music students because it is a chance of a lifetime to perform in one of the most prestigious performance halls in the world," Moreno said. "Students are not just gearing up for the performance of a life-

time in this amazing space, but they are going to get immersed in the New York City culture and sightseeing, which for the majority of them will be their first time in one of the most influential and historically significant cities in the world."

The prestige of Carnegie Hall is what makes the trip stand out to some students. "This trip is important because it is a once-in-lifetime experience to the famous Carnegie Hall," sophomore Roger Xia said.

Like Xia, senior JuHye Mun believes playing at Carnegie Hall is a special opportunity others may never have. She has been looking forward to it since ninth grade.

"For me, it's a milestone that sums up my dedication to the orchestra program for the past seven years," Mun said. "Plus, NYC in general is going to be fun! I'm excited to see my first Broadway show."

In order for all students to attend the trip, orchestra and band members have been fundraising to reach their goal with the help of parents. As of now, they have held a cultural dinner night as well as many fundraisers at local restaurants where 20 percent of the proceeds go towards the tour fund. The Symphony Orchestra raised \$2,500 at the Mark Wood Concert performance by raffling off a Mark Wood electric violin. They also have a Facebook contri-

buton campaign that has raised close to \$2,000 a letter writing campaign to family and friends; a "No Show Tea Party," which has brought in about \$14,000; and sponsorships from local businesses, which has raised about \$2,500. The band's biggest fundraiser is Coconut Grove.

"Between the Band Boosters and the DHS Orchestra Booster volunteers there are some incredibly smart and resourceful parents who care deeply about the success of their students and have donated hundreds of hours of their personal time to assure that these students have a powerful life changing musical experience together," Moreno said.

In addition to all the fundraising, orchestra students have also been playing gigs in quartets and small ensembles around town, making \$100-\$500 a performance, as well as selling tickets to all the social events scheduled. Mun is one student who performs for political and company parties with her quartet to fundraise.

"It's actually pretty fun," Mun said. "I love gigging, and it's really cool to get paid and be able to contribute to our trip by playing Mozart for a bunch of adults eating cheese, drinking wine and talking loudly."

The orchestras and bands still need to raise about \$33,000. To close the gap, up-

coming fundraising events include the Winery Event at Berryessa Gap Winery on April 7 and a Beer Tasting Lecture by Professor Bamforth from UC Davis Beer Science Department at Sudwerk Brewery on May 5 from 4 to 6 p.m..

"It is always a mad dash to the finish line for these tour efforts, and it takes a lot of hard work and dedication by the students and parents, but I am very confident that we will meet our goal," Moreno said.

Senior Isabella Campos is also confident that the fundraising goals will be met.

"The band boosters have been encouraging us, students and parents to participate in fundraiser events as much as possible," Campos said. "Since the beginning of this year our funding has been closer to the final goal. Up until the trip date in June, I definitely see our goal being successful."

Moreno contributes the success of their fundraising to the Davis community.

"This tour planning experience has been just one more reminder of what makes this community such a wonderful place to live," Moreno said. "A huge thank you to the community, music students, parents, family and friends for helping us make this Carnegie tour a reality for these fine young musicians."

STAFF

DJUSD proposes new contract for educators after protests

District comes to agreement with the DTA on salary and benefits for employees

By LAUREN KECK
HUB Staff

Deputy Superintendent Matt Best sent district employees news of a new contract agreement on March 6.

The agreement still needs to be approved by members of the Davis Teachers Association (DTA).

Jamie Kerr is a teacher at Patwin Elementary school and a member of the DTA organizing team.

"DTA was really looking for a fair contract that included an increase in pay as well as an improvement on the district's offering of health benefits. We won the increase in our pay scale, but did not win any improvements to health care," Kerr said.

An email sent to teachers by Best outlined what this agreement means.

The biggest change is a 3.5 percent increase in salary across the board for all DTA employees including new and old

teachers.

This increase is retroactive to the beginning of the teacher work year, July 1, 2017.

There is also an increase to \$45 per hour for teaching summer school as well as a 2 percent one time payment in 2018-2019.

If a local parcel tax for employee compensation is passed, the use of the revenue earned from it would be discussed between DTA and the district.

Kerr feels that many members of DTA are unhappy with the agreement.

"I think that the vote will pass, but that's not to say that everyone is happy with the outcome. I think the important thing to remember is that we can't make up for decades of misprioritization of funds in a single year," Kerr said.

Health care benefits are one concern.

"Many other districts offer fully covered health care for employees and their spouses. When you compare the entire salary and benefits package of Davis versus other districts, we can't compare," Kerr said. If passed, the agreement will stay in place until July 1, 2019.

"The current contract is for 2017-2019, so we'll start negotiation for our next contract in 2019. Until we negotiate the next contract, we will work under the conditions put forth by the current contract," Kerr said.

"DTA members will vote to ratify the

tentative agreements after the break and the district's Board of Education will vote to ratify the tentative agreement on April 5," Best said.

The district has met with DTA representatives eight times this year to come to this agreement.

The agreement is meant to help close the compensation gap for DTA members.

"However, there is still work to be done to close the remaining compensation gaps in order to attract and retain the highest quality staff throughout the district," Best said.

Kerr will continue to work towards better benefits and pay.

"While this is a larger pay increase than we've seen in years, it still doesn't make us competitive with other districts. It's a start, but the fight is not over," Kerr said.

Kerr believes that in order to make the changes necessary, spending priorities need to be reconsidered.

"Without restructuring the district's priorities and taking a hard look at where it spends its money or finding new funding sources, the district can't afford teacher raises. I'm hoping to see the district and the board take more initiative in the future to restructure its budget and spending and make the hard decisions that are required to create a more sustainable budget," Kerr said.

SWIMMERS, OFFICIAL AT ODDS

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the meet looking to exploit the girls. Norris says that to protect themselves from these predators, they need to dress "appropriately."

Lodigiani's second concern is that the same suit does not necessarily cover every girl equally.

Lodigiani says that most of the girls Norris has spoken to this year are bigger than the average female athlete, thus they expose more skin. However, the swim team does not offer different types of suits based on body types.

"The two girls that have been disqualified, both have the body type that make it nearly impossible to fit into the suits," Lodigiani said.

Athletic director Jeff Lorenson says that no one has actually been disqualified this year. He also said that, after speaking with the California Interscholastic Federation, coaches and volunteer officials like Norris, they have decided that the ambiguous rule about swimsuits will not longer be enforced.

"If I see something that was inappropriate, I would talk to the coaches," Norris said. She added that she just wanted the female athletes "to be ladies."

Vague CIF rules state that swimsuits must be of "decent" appearance. Swimmers and officials have different ideas about what that means.



HUB ILLUSTRATION/SCOUT BROWN

PRECAUTIONS

Safety measures reconsidered after Parkland shooting

Some plans dependent on increased funding

By ALBERT HU
HUB Staff

In the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, the DJUSD school board has proposed new safety measures to protect against and prevent a similar incident from occurring at DHS.

The proposals were laid out in the school board's March 1 meeting and include measures such as a new fire drill, door blocks, improved school signage, additional school resource officers, active shooter training and more.

According to DHS vice principal Amelia Hess, the new fire drill was planned to be implemented the week of March 12 for safety week and was designed to protect students from the Parkland shooting scenario, where the shooter triggered the fire alarm to get students to leave their classrooms.

School officials proposed a new drill that would have had students sheltering in place as the alarm goes off, with teachers locking the doors and waiting for an intercom announcement to either shelter in place, evacuate or continue teaching. However, on March 8, one day after the new drill had been taught to DHS staff and new red emergency cards were printed out, the Davis Fire Department canceled implementation of the drill. Its objection was that the new plan did not follow the California fire code, which mandates individuals must evacuate the building when the fire alarm rings.

While none of the other new safety measures proposed to the board were scheduled for implementation during last week's safety week, a few will be implemented by the end of the school year.

One of these measures is door blocks, which Director of Student Support Services Laura Juanitas explains the district has "hundreds of" on backorder, to be tested out at DHS and other DJUSD campuses as soon as they arrive. However, it may take a while for these blocks to arrive, as schools across the "whole country" are ordering them in the wake of the Parkland shooting.

She asserts that they are a cheap and effective way to improve campus safety, allowing anyone to lock the door from the inside.

"Think of it as putting your foot in the door, you can still get in, but anyone who



HUB PHOTO/LAUREN TULL

Students duck and cover during an earthquake drill during Kristin Swanstrom's fifth period as a part of Safety Week in September.

is closest to the door can move the door block to the side and the door will lock, so you don't need a teacher to have a key close by to lock the door," Juanitas said.

Another measure that has been discussed with administration is improved school signage.

Juanitas has been in contact with Davis police chief Darren Pytel to develop this new signage.

"We are exploring different options as to improving signage so that if you walk onto campus you would be able to quickly identify what each building is and where the office is," Juanitas said.

"Harper [is a good example of proper signage]: they have big letters on the sides of buildings which say A, and office, etc., so if emergency personnel came on campus, they wouldn't have to be familiar with Harper."

Juanitas explains that bad signage is especially apparent at DHS.

"At Davis High you can enter the campus

from so many different areas, so it's unclear to emergency personnel as to where the office is, contrasting with Harper [where there is one clear main entrance with the office right there.] In addition, although DHS buildings have letter names, no one really knows where buildings are because there isn't clear stenciling."

Hess agrees.

"Right now the way buildings are labeled at Davis High makes sense to some but not to the vast majority of individuals. [For example], the M-wing used to stand for music, but now it houses robotics," Hess said.

Juanitas estimates new signage will be put in place across DJUSD schools by the end of summer. "We are still exploring different options [as to how signage will be improved], but it will most likely include [larger] stenciling on buildings similar to Harper [and] stencils on the ground to show where the office is"

The district has also been exploring bringing in a second school resource offi-

cer.

"The idea is we would share the cost with the police department [for this second police officer], but one of the issues with this is the Davis Police Department doesn't have a spare officer for us to have due to people retiring and such [...] so even if we had the money bandwidth to hire the officer [it still wouldn't be able to happen]." Juanitas explained.

Other measures the district has been considering, including active shooter training for teachers, perimeter fencing for school boundaries, classroom doors being locked by default and an electronic key system are still "very much up in the air"—with many dependent on additional funding.

As such, according to Juanitas, "the Board of Education is considering putting safety measures as part of a facilities bond to be put on the ballot in 2019 or 2020," which will allow for "widespread improvement of DJUSD campuses."

DEVELOPMENT

New facilities plan introduced for public review and input

Proposals for a school pool and other new buildings are in the works within the next 10 years at DHS

By MOLLY BURKE
HUB Staff

A committee has been working on a future facilities plan that details ambitious construction for the DHS campus for the next decade.

The plans are still in a very early stage of development and teacher Steve Smyte, who is on the committee to help design the plans, says that up until now, teachers have not had much input, so the plans could drastically change after staff provide suggestions.

The current plans include a pool where some of the N buildings currently reside, between the two gyms. The other N buildings would be expanded to a two-story wing. Another two story building of classrooms would be placed next to the L wing and the quad would be expanded to almost double its current size. The Davis Adult School, currently located by the All-Student Center, would be moved to where the S buildings are.



our mild/moderate program or the classrooms for our moderate/severe or special day class classrooms in the plan that was submitted," Smyte said.

Eric Bastin, another teacher on the committee, says that the plan is in its early stages of development.

"Each school campus in the district has a list of projects which are being prioritized as to which would be in an early phase and which would be later on. Of course this all depends upon available funds and what stakeholders consider to be the highest priorities," Bastin said.

Bastin is not sure yet of the priorities of the school since he believes there are many different aspects that would benefit students.

"Here at DHS, priorities include things such as campus safety, adequate space for learning, STEM facilities [and] athletic facilities," Bastin said.

Because the funding for such projects relies on the investments of stakeholders, Bastin is concerned that priorities will be chosen based on the return they can get on their money, not the needs of the students.

Depending on when the district receives funding, Bastin estimates that any construction will not begin for several years.

"These [oversights] can be expected when teachers and staff haven't been involved in the process and as we move forward I'm sure these things will be ironed out, not only by our team but also by the input of all of our staff members," Smyte said.

The first draft of the facilities plan hangs on a bulletin board near administrative offices.

Though these plans add many new facilities or upgrades to current facilities, they also eliminate some of the current spaces that DHS utilizes.

"Increased growth and classroom needs really need to be further evaluated before we commit to large, uncovered, park-like, open spaces, which sound wonderful but

may need to be compressed due to the educational needs that are our primary purpose," Smyte said.

The plans leave out the Special Education program, which concerns Smyte, chair of the department.

"They did not include a learning center like we currently have for students in

HUB PHOTO/MOLLY BURKE