

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM  
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 19, 2018**

**Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the Kwajalein School Advisory Committee (SAC) was called to order by Brad Reed, USAG-KA at 7:04 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

**Committee Members Present:**

Brad Reed, USAG-KA  
Mike Howe, USACE  
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ  
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL  
Kiersta Bailey, PTO  
Eric Corder, Ri-Katak Parent Rep  
Alexie McElhoe, KRS  
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO  
Gustavo Aljure, DYNCORP  
Tom Pamperin, Teacher Representative  
Susan Davis, Lead Admin KHS/GSES  
Graeson Cossey, President, KHS SGA

**Visitors Present:**

Pam Hess	Chelsea Reed
Kim Yarnes	Tarah Yurovchak
Dave Dethlefsen	Masina McCollum
Mary Beth Taylor	Jane Premo
Melissa Selzler	Don Engen
Cindy Engen	Mary McCormick

**1) Opening Remarks**

- Brad Reed opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.
- 10 new staff members were introduced: Tim Ryan (5-12 Grade Band / Choir), Ellen Potts (1st Grade), Matt Gerber (KHS Science), Mindi Gerber (KHS Social Studies), Vanessa Wamsley (KHS English), Dr. Lauren Wallach (GSES Counselor), Ron Chernobrov (KHS Computer Science and Business), Rosario Young (K – 12 ESL), Colleen England (2nd Grade), and Mary McCormick (GSES Teaching Assistant).

**2) Monthly Reports**

**Teacher Representative- Tom Pamperin**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

In her role as school counselor, Lauren Wallach will be incorporating LtoJ materials with her use of Character Counts vocabulary development.

Classroom teachers at the elementary school have been working on incorporating LtoJ into their classrooms, concentrating on using LtoJ to increase math fluency.

## HIGH SCHOOL

Class officers and SGA officers were elected last week, and planning has begun for activities and fundraisers throughout the year.

Planning and preparations are underway for the SGA Mani Week celebration from September 25-29. Mani Week will culminate in a Mani Day school assembly on September 29, featuring class competitions including boat building and dancing.

The English Department has been working on developing the new Adventures in Reading class that will debut with students next week, including building a library for independent reading, incorporating specific reading strategies, incorporating 3-word sentence outlines, and researching reading assessment tools and materials. Meanwhile, grade 7 and 8 teachers have been developing a sequence of key concepts for the LtoJ program, breaking down the Common Core Language Standards by grade level.

Mrs. Cardillo's government class is starting civic action projects focused on an issue of their choice. The projects are a project-based learning program for civics and government created by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. It is a culmination of their K-12 social studies education and provides students a chance to apply what they have learned to the real world and impact an issue that matters to them.

### Principal GSES/KHS – Susan Davis

#### Past:

- Description of the Kwajalein School System: We are a K-12 American private school run by the logistics contractor, Dyn Corp International. Our Jr.-Sr. High School campus is located on one campus and the Elementary School is located on another campus. We have a principal and a counselor at each campus and we share staff members between the two campuses to serve 236 students. We have the privilege of being a part of an agreement between the United States and the Host Nation, Marshall Islands, to welcome 42 students from the neighboring island of Ebeye into our student body. The majority of the student population at Kwajalein School System are dependents from 9 different contractors and USAG-KA families.
- **The KSS approved policies** with all of the updates from last year, have been posted on the Portal. You can see them on the log in page of each campus Portal under “School Resources”. You will also find the School Handbooks and the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 **School Calendars** in the same location.
- The Portal System was experiencing issues with not delivering email messages to all patrons. We have been looking into the source of the problem with the **Rediker Software** company and are hoping to resolve that issue soon if it hasn't been already.
- NWEA Map tests are one of the assessment tools we use at KSS to measure progress in the content areas of reading, mathematics, and language arts. We have completed the Fall testing and will be sharing results of our school trend data at the next open SAC meeting in October.

### **Present:**

- This year, we have two policy areas that need to be reviewed at the beginning of the year: **Special Education and Home School policies**. We welcome any parent who is so inclined, to join us as we continue to work on these policies in the next few weeks. Contact either school office and let the administrative assistants know that you would be interested and we will get you in touch with committee members.
- We have two committees that have been working on these two policies and will be presenting to the SAC at the closed meeting next month. When they have a draft of the policies ready, they will share with the school community through the Portal or in an open meeting, which ever seems to meet the needs best. We are hoping for an extension on the Oct. 1 due date and anticipate sharing our work in early October.
- Soccer Season has begun! Be sure to catch some games and cheer on your local Spartans!

### **To Come:**

- Manit Day is officially Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The high school and the elementary school will be having special activities throughout September to celebrate and learn more about Marshallese Culture.
- Senior Street Painting takes place at the High School from 3:00-10:00 pm on October 9<sup>th</sup> for 12<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents only. Come by and see the new paintings on October 10<sup>th</sup> and enjoy this school tradition.
- Please be aware that Christmas Trees and Wreaths will not be sold this year. The vendor has gone out of business and we have been unable to make arrangements for a new vendor and transportation of the trees and wreaths to Kwajalein.
- We will be looking into whether or not we can have a designated parking in a lighted area for students down at the dock security check point. We would like our students to have a safe and legal area to park when going home on the boat after sporting events in the evening or riding to and from school
- We would like the community to be aware that students will not be released from school during lightening warnings. If this occurs prior and during the lunch break or prior and during the end of the school day, students will remain with teachers in their classrooms for 15 minutes before being moved to a common area with supervision. Notes will go out on the portal to parents letting them know that this is occurring. For grades 3-12, parents may call the school or email the school and give permission for their students to go home on their own or they may come to the school and pick them up. For grades K-2, students may be picked up by parents, emergency contacts, or a sibling with the parent's permission by phone or email.

### **SIT Update:**

- Teachers are participating in two Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) on Wednesday afternoons. These are self-selected areas of professional learning and work that cover these topics: LtoJ, Reading Interventions, Response to Interventions, STEM, School Improvement Team, Google Classroom, Curriculum Review, Growth Mindset,

Instructional Support Specialists, Special Education Policy review, and Home School Policy review.

- Other areas of improvement will be our RtI meetings to support students and teachers with best practices and strategies, departmental meetings to align curriculum, and working on positive behavior supports.
- Teachers completed 18 hours of training with Dr. Lee Jenkins, the author of *Optimizing Your School It's All About the Strategy*, and several other books on his LtoJ approach for student improvement. Students will be taking part in ungraded quizzes on key concepts throughout the year and charting their own growth. The hope is for students to continually show growth throughout the year, retain information permanently, reward individual and class growth, and to eliminate the cramming and forgetting aspect of school. This is our first year to implement this and we are excited to see the results.

### **KSS Enrollment Update:**

As of Wednesday, September 19, 2018:

High School: 114

Elementary: 122

Total K-12: 236

### **KSS Staffing Update:**

- Kristen Hosak will be joining us from Colorado to teach Science and Health as soon as she is given the word from the contractor that her processing is in order to come. We hope to be introducing her at the next SAC meeting.

### **SGA Representative: Graeson Cossey**

#### **KJHS Student Government Association Vice President**

- This year is the first time in recent years that Kwajalein Jr/Sr High School is going to be participating in Mani Week festivities. We'll have a couple spirit days, then on Saturday the 29th, we're going to have an assembly at the high school MP room, then at 2:15 PM join with the elementary school at the CRC Gym.
- We'll be having class meetings again on the 26th where we'll plan for the rest of the upcoming events for the school year. The next SGA meeting is on the 28th where we'll decide on Spirit Days for the rest of the year.

### **3) Discussion/Action Items:**

#### **A. Committee Work Plan Review**

Committees made up of teachers and parents are updating both the Home School Policy and the Special Education Policy. Brad Reed encouraged the audience to spread the word and get involved. SAC will vote on the updated policies in October or November. The new policies will then go to Command for review.

### **4) Public Feedback & Council Comments**

Brad Reed opened the floor the audience.

- Audience Member asked about the Rikatak Lunch Program. Will the lunches stop if enough money isn't raised? Brad Reed stated that there are issues that cannot be discussed in this meeting. Susan Davis indicated that she would be following up on this concern.
- Audience Member asked about the driving force behind the new policy that does not allow personal devices on the school wifi network. Susan Davis explained that the wifi is needed to support the Chromebooks. The school will have a 1:1 ratio of Chromebooks to students this year. The school needs more technical support for the Chromebooks. The contractors need to work together to get everything in place. Once that happens, personal devices will no longer be connected to the wifi.
- Stacey O'Rourke asked if the Wifi can be turned on in inclement weather so students can be in communication with parents. Susan Davis stated that the wifi cannot be turned on and off. The MAC addresses have to be added to the network for each personal device. The students can use Chromebooks to email their parents.
- Kiersta Bailey asked if the Chromebooks can be used at home. Susan Davis was still working on the details. Ron Chernobrov, the high school computer teacher, stated that in he would estimate 25% of the Chromebooks would be lost or damaged. He had experience with this situation in his previous school.
- Veronica Moos wanted to know the process of contacting parents with only a VOIP phone at home. Susan Davis said that the schools have a business PIN that the staff members can access to.
- Audience Member asked about the current contract for the school. Mary Beth Taylor shared that the current contract is through March.
- Eric Corder commented that the Rikatak kids have said that the lunches are a lot better than last year. He also said that the high school Rikatak students are very excited to have choir this year.

### **Closing Committee Remarks**

- Next SAC meetings will be October 17, November 14, and December 12.
- Brad Reed emphasized that everyone get involved. If you have concerns, reach out to the school.

### **Future Agenda Planning**

- Agendas will note future policy or non-policy issues up for discussion

### **5) Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System

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Brad Reed, Chairperson, SAC