

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 21, 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 7:00 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

Brad Reed, USAG-KA
Victor Burnley, RTS
Mike Howe, USACE
Christina Dodson, ALUTIIQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Eric Corder, Ri-Katak Parent Rep
Alexie McElhoe, KRS
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Gustavo Aljure, DYNCORP
Dawn Gray, KRS
Tom Pamperin, Teacher Representative
Susan Davis, Lead Admin KHS/GSES
Julia Sektnan, USAG-KA

Visitors Present:

Tim Ryan
Tarah Yurovchak
Mallory Masciarelli
Meghan Connor
Chelsea Reed

1) Opening Remarks

- Brad Reed opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Mallory Masciarelli gave a special presentation about her school business trip last month. She and Alex Coleman participated in the AdvancED accreditation process in the Northern Marianas. The evaluation process includes interviews of leadership, faculty, students, district personnel, parents and community members. The accreditation includes evaluation in 3 areas: Leadership, Learning, and Resources. Mallory and Alex will now help prepare the Kwajalein School for the AdvancED accreditation scheduled for April 2019.
- Meghan Connor gave a presentation on L to J. The high school students take a weekly quiz with 6 randomly generated questions. These questions cover key concepts that the students will learn throughout the year. Results are tracked on Individual Run Charts, Class Run Charts, and Histograms. Growth is celebrated for personal best, class all time best, and school all time best. The elementary students are measuring growth in math fluency and track progress of weekly math fact quizzes.

2) Monthly Reports

Teacher Representative- Tom Pamperin

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- George Seitz Elementary School Student Council Advisors, Misti French and Lauren Wallach, are pleased to announce the Council Officers:

President: 6th Grader Marina Dethlefsen, Vice President: 6th Grader Avery Acosta,
Secretary: 5th Grader Alana Leines, Treasurer: 4th Grader Jagger Smith

After just a few weeks, the leadership developed their agenda, formed committees and chose committee chairs. Watch the GSES Student Council as they perform service projects for our communities, provide fun activities for the student body, including dances and spirit days, and accomplish creative fund raisers.

- In Character Counts classes, Dr. Wallach used activities and children's literature to focus on Fairness. The students discovered that fair is not always everybody getting the same thing, but rather everyone getting what they need. New vocabulary words include tolerance, justice, favoritism and equality.

HIGH SCHOOL

- The marine science class is conducting multiple research projects in conjunction with our units to learn about our ocean's health. Our research is being published through a website we are creating (pacresearch.org) to try and be advocates for a healthy ocean!
- In Physics students recently built and launched model rockets while studying Newton's Laws of Motion. Chemistry students have been exploring electron orbitals and energy levels by performing flame tests.
- Engineering students have been building and programming VEX robots and using CAD software to create 3-D models. They have also successfully installed a sun photometer in partnership with the NASA Aeronet program that monitors particulates in the atmosphere through a worldwide network of small monitoring stations.
- 8th grade Physical Science students have been busy using Lego Mindstorm robotics and also learning about atomic structure and atomic models.
- Mrs. Cardillo's Introduction to Japanese Language Class has mastered the hiragana writing system, which is made up of 46 basic characters, and is currently working on learning katakana. They are also learning some kanji along the way, so each student will have a good introduction to the 3 writing systems of the Japanese language, as well as the sounds of the language. Students particularly enjoy trying new Japanese snacks, which are part of the cultural component of the class.
- Mrs. Cardillo's Government class finished their study of the contemporary American politics, including nominations, the campaign process, and the cost of campaigning, the

election process and how to register to vote. Students each chose a state and then followed that state's election and campaign news, researched where candidates money was coming from, and predicted winners. Mrs. Cardillo sincerely hopes each student will take advantage of their right and responsibility to vote some day.

Principal GSES/KHS – Susan Davis

Past:

- Special Education Policy update
- Home School Policy update
- The Jr.-Sr. High Band and Choir Concert was held on October 27th .
- Halloween Parade and parties at the Elementary took place on October 31st.
- Parent teacher conferences were held and Surveys have been made available for parents, teachers and students.
- Fall Ball was held on November 3rd in the MP room for 7th-12th graders.
- The PEARLS Lunch Bunch met on Tuesday, November 6th in the Coconut room for all students that had been recognized in the month of October for going above and beyond in displaying responsibility. Their picture will be displayed on a bulletin board being moved into the classroom hallway.
- Soccer Season ended with both the Spartans boys and girls teams taking 3rd place in the championship games.
- Principals met with a group of 9 parents for coffee last Saturday morning to discuss a variety of topics at the school. Thank you to those who could join us. We will be holding another Coffee in March to be held at a later time for those who work to be able to attend.
- 2nd grade took a field trip to the weather station recently to learn about the science of weather .
- 5th graders took a field trip to the Command building to recognize veterans with their posters and gratitude.
- 4th graders have been busy creating instruments and learning about sound waves.
- 3rd graders have been studying cultures of their ancestry and celebrated their learning with an international tasting party.
- 6th graders have been learning about the laws of motion and how to use the engineering design process to build catapults. They launched marshmallows at targets to test their designs.

Present:

- Volleyball Season has started.
- Spirit Days at the high school have been taking place each day this week leading up to Turkey Bowl.

- Turkey Bowl was a great success this morning with students putting on a fun assembly showing off their talents and spirit. The afternoon games were held at Emon Beach.
- Teacher mentors are using the ELEOT tool to visit colleagues- this gives feedback on teaching strategies and engagement level for teachers to adjust accordingly.
- We are submitting orders for curriculum to catch up on last year's cycle rotation for curriculum. Next year's curriculum adoption is for Science and that order should be ready to go in January.
- Pool is still closed, so swimming lessons continue to be delayed.
- Great news! Rikatak lunches have been paid for by RMI for the remainder of the year. We will not need any donations until spring for the start of the next school year.
- More great news! Rikatak parents now have access to Kwajalein to watch their children in sporting events. If the student teams are involved in championship playoffs and games, all Rikatak parents are invited to Kwajalein to watch the games, regardless of whether their student is playing.

To Come:

- There is an Administrative Calendar available tonight that lists the activities that have been planned for the remainder of November and December.
- KJSHS band will be performing at the Tree Lighting ceremony on December 1st.
- The Elementary Band Concert will be in the Davye Davis Multi Purpose room at 5pm on Tuesday, December 4th.
- The GSES winter choir program will take place at 5 pm on Thursday, December 13th.
- We are hoping to receive some newer computers over winter break that will help in our video streaming and ability to access content from the wifi.

SIT Update:

- The SIT update was presented earlier tonight.
- The LtoJ was also presented earlier tonight.
- Principals are finishing up the first round of formal observations and evaluations for new staff members. Additional formal observations and evaluations for all staff will take place in the spring.

KSS Enrollment Update:

Wednesday, November 21, 2018:
 High School: 118
 Elementary: 126
 Total K-12: 244

KSS Staffing Update:

- Kristen Hosek is on Kwajalein and awaiting her interim security clearance. She will be stepping into the science position as soon as possible. We are glad that she is on island.
- Ashley Howe is currently a teacher assistant for kindergarten as we await processing of our new teacher aide.
- An offer has gone out to a new RMI teacher aide. Until she completes the hiring process, Ashley Howe will be filling in for her as the kindergarten aide and parents are filling in on the ferry boat to watch the students traveling between home and school.
- Becky Denham, our speech language pathologist, will be leaving at winter break in December to return home. Becky has been a wonderful SLP serving the preschool, elementary, and jr.-sr. high school. We are continuing our search for a new Speech Language Pathologist.

Additional Information for the Community:

- It has been a source of concern from the community in the past that KHS was not offering enough electives in its course offerings. In order to provide more variety and to increase our ability to prepare students for college and for careers, we have added more elective courses, more AP courses, and begun 3 career pathways. ***It was brought to our attention that there is concern over some classes having two classes going on in one period at the high school.*** There may be a misconception about how limited this is at this time. It is something we are trying out with our Edunuity platform. Edunuity uses a blended learning approach with online courses. Teachers are facilitators, but may supplement as they see fit, and will be grading scripted responses. Different teachers supplement or augment differently. Right now, we have *one* teacher teaching two Edunuity courses in one period. Students in one class are online following the coursework while the teacher supplements with the other class. Students do need to be more independent for this type of class experience. We will be evaluating how well this works for our students this year.

The language classes and woods class have combined two different levels of students into one class period for many years. Those teachers have carried this out well and it is not the same as teaching two different classes. They are teaching one class to students with different skill levels.

The feedback so far is that teachers do not want to teach multiple classes in one period and that this is doable only under certain circumstances. Occasionally, there is a student who just can't fit a class into their schedule and they are allowed to take a class as a singleton within another class. Students again, need to be fairly independent for this type of arrangement.

It really is difficult to justify one teacher preparing for just one student, and this is why they will sometimes take a course within a larger class like that mentioned above. This has been done with art and with AP classes.

On the other hand, electives will always have smaller numbers than core classes. It is just the nature of being in a small school. In order to offer more electives, those classes will be smaller.

More than one elective offered on blended learning platforms such as Edunuity at the same time could be the answer to our problem. We will have to see how the pilot year goes to determine if it is a good fit for our school.

- ***Another topic of concern that has come up is the use of textbooks. Do teachers have to use them?*** Our curriculum is the College and Career Ready Standards. Teachers are required to teach the standards. That is the expectation. Textbooks are a tool that can be used to teach them. Some of our textbooks at KSS are very old and teachers have found it more beneficial to students to supplement with other resources as well. We are working to get back on track with our curriculum adoption. Teachers have input into the new adoptions and it is expected that any new textbooks ordered will be used, however, that doesn't mean that other resources would not be used.
- ***LtoJ-*** This is only a small part of the class. Lto J takes away the permission to forget and replaces the need for as much review as teachers typically give. It is meant to get students engaged and excited about seeing their progress and provide a solid foundation of surface learning so that students can experience that deeper learning (additional information as needed/probably not needed after the presentation).

3) Discussion/Action Items:

- Special Education and Home School Policy review update – waiting on legal counsel
- Kwajalein School Policy Review update – waiting on legal counsel

4) Public Feedback & Council Comments

Brad Reed opened the floor the audience.

- Susan Davis and Tarah Yurovchak invited parents to a morning coffee with the principals on November 17th in the MP Room. Dawn Gray stated that she is unable to attend events during the school day, and suggested offering a meeting with the Principals during lunch. Tarah Yurovchak encouraged parents to attend the evening meeting that will be scheduled in the spring.

- Julia Sektnan explained that background checks are required for people with routine contact with children under 18 years old. The process has been updated and now has fingerprints run through the FBI database instead of just each former state of residency.
- Stacey O'Rourke asked if there is a way for potential new faculty members to have a preliminary check done at the recruiting job fairs in the spring. Brad Reed stated that this is a business related concern and not SAC related.

Closing Committee Remarks

- Next SAC meetings will be December 12, January 16.

Future Agenda Planning

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

5) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System

Brad Reed, Chairperson, SAC