

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 16, 2019**

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Kwajalein School Advisory Committee (SAC) was called to order by Brad Reed, USAG-KA at 7:02 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

Brad Reed, USAG-KA
Christina Dodson, ALUTIIQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Stephanie Sandige, PTO
Dawn Gray, KRS
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Gustavo Aljure, DYNCORP
Eric Corder, RIKATAK PARENT REP
Susan Davis, Lead Admin KHS/GSES
Misti French, Teacher Representative
Graeson Cossey, SGA

Visitors Present:

Tim Ryan
Shelly Day
Jennifer Cossey
Pam Hess
Eric Miller
Chelsea Reed
Carrie Aljure
Deidre Wyatt-Pope

1) Opening Remarks

- Brad Reed opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.
- Members of the KJSHS Kwajalein Girl Scout Troop presented their "Protect Our Coral Reef" service project. Their goal is to raise awareness of the toxic effect chemical sunscreens have on our reef. They will be available at public events to encourage the community to switch to a reef safe sunscreen. AAFES has one reef safe sunscreen available at this time.

2) Monthly Reports

**SGA Representative: Graeson Cossey
KJHS Student Government Association President**

- SGA has been continuing to put work into the Kwajalein JR./Sr. High School Spartan Gear.
- We have also decided to use some of our funds to buy new pencil sharpeners for each classroom.
- The biggest project SGA has been working on is a student survey which was given out on today during class meetings. We will have some data from the surveys to share with you during the next SAC meeting.

Teacher Representative – Misti French

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- In Character Counts Class, the students continue to embark upon the journey of exploring their Mindset: Growth or Fixed. They are discovering how mindset impacts their success and happiness.
- Students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to demonstrate their academic progress this week during NWEA assessments. Special classes continue as usual. Home School families are welcome to register with Dr. Wallach (wallachl@kwajalein-school.com) to include their children in the assessment of Reading, Math and Language skills. This is an excellent way to determine a baseline and/or monitor progress.
- **Kindergarten** students recently performed Vowel Surgery when they donned full medical uniforms complete with gloves and masks to “save” their words by operating and inserting the vowels.
- The students in **first grade** are really enjoying learning about opinion writing and are looking forward to Dr Martin Luther King Jr. activities planned for later this week.
- **Second Grade** students have also have been working on growth mindset and positive self image with the development of hash tags to promote self love and friendship, especially as we enter the time of studying Dr Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrating each other’s differences. Their project is entitled #LoveYourSelfie
- The **3rd graders** are off to a great start to the New Year. The students created SMART goals for the remainder of the year. Their goals are displayed on the 3rd grade bulletin board outside the classroom. Students are excited to start a new Social Studies unit titled, How One Person Can Make a Difference. They will be researching and learning about important American citizens past and present.
- In **5th grade** students have been studying slavery in American history as well as understanding multiple perspectives that happen when interpreting history. As students have been learning about the causes of the American Revolution, they have explored multiple perspectives and ways that the causes for the American Revolution can be traced directly back to the freedoms that are guaranteed in the American Bill of Rights. They are looking forward to a REAL LIFE tug of war outside next week demonstrating how the American Revolutionary Army was able to defeat one of the most powerful militaries in the world at that time.
- **Sixth grade** students have been exploring ancient Egypt and have fully implemented Google Classroom into each of their subjects enabling student differentiation and organization within the classroom as well as with their writing and ongoing projects!
- **GSES Student Council**- Focusing on Service, Leadership and Fun Activities for the Student Body. The Elementary Student Council had a very successful Toy Drive for

Christmas which impacted over 100 families with a free Toy Giveaway on December 8th. The students would like to thank the community for their generosity and donations.

- The Student Council members are currently planning their Candy-Gram fund raiser, the elementary Valentine's Day Dance as well as a Beach Clean Up scheduled for council members on Monday, National Day of Service, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and dedication to service.
- Other projects in the planning stages include more service projects, possible Mardi Gras Parade participation and cloth shopping bag decorating and sales.
- **100th Day of School Activities** The teachers of the elementary school will once again this year collaborate cross grades to incorporate science and math into our 100th Day of School Activities. School wide, students will participate in the Classroom Hashtag Challenge as well as the 100 Ice Cube STEM project. Classes will explore in different approaches, a daylong project involving math and science concepts centered on the science and measuring of data regarding melting 100 ice cubes.

HIGH SCHOOL

- **Band-** The high school band will be going to Ebeye for the RMI Liberation Day parade Feb 9th, and have been asked to play in the Mardi Gras parade on March 3rd. Other outstanding news from band includes news that The US Pacific Fleet band will also be performing for the students sometime in March, bringing 10 members of their brass and woodwind quintets. Mr. Ryan is also planning on scheduling a clinic with their director for the high school band. Mr. Ryan attended the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago over winter break where he learned more about band composers who specifically publish for the rising specific needs for smaller bands. This presented information that is specifically relevant for programs such as ours at KSS.
- The **9th grade English** students are reading a coming-of-age novel, *A Separate Peace*, and will be creating a graphic novel-style character map for their final project while **7th grade English** students are improving their writing skills by learning the six traits of writing and incorporating them into a nonfiction narrative as they walk through the steps of the writing process.
- Exciting News in the the **Marine Biology** class! The students are in the midst of a large coral bleaching research project! They are documenting the current amount of bleaching and will be comparing and documenting it from year to year. They are publishing their findings on their very own webpage: pacresearch.org!
- In the **Introduction to Japanese Language** class students are finishing up learning the second "alphabet" - a writing system really- called katakana. Everyone can read hiragana (the first writing system) pretty easily, which makes everyone proud - students as well as, the teacher.

- **Psychology class** is currently studying infant and childhood development and are researching and listening to lots of stories about small children.
- The **High School US History** class just finished studying the New Deal and was very interested that there are still New Deal Programs in existence today.
- Mrs. Cardillo's **senior class** is getting ready to present their Civic Action Projects to their fellow classmates. They've been working on the projects throughout the semester to learn how "government" doesn't always just mean voting and laws, but asking questions, thinking critically, problem solving, and more." The seniors are also getting ready to take their Final Exam which is mostly made up of all the questions on the US Naturalization Exam. The students took the exam on the first day of class and are interested to see how much they have learned. As students continue to learn about government, they have expressed great excitement at the idea of voting and in the words of Mrs. Cardillo, "They say they can't wait to vote!"
- The High School students are hard at work as they prepare for end of semester final exams!

Principal GSES/KHS – Susan Davis

Past:

- Winter break was from December 15 through January 3rd this year. Students and teachers returned to school on the 4th of January.
- Decades Day at the Jr.-Sr. High School was January 8th for 7-12th grade students and teachers.
- We had several families PCS over the 2nd Quarter. Our enrollment is down 14 students over all since November.
- Both schools have completed their annual fire inspections. We will be planning other safety drills in February.

Present:

- Basketball is in full swing and Water Polo has started as well. Go out and cheer on your favorite Spartans!
- It is now the 4th graders turn for swim lessons at the Family Pool. They will be finished on January 19th and third graders will start swimming on February 1st.
- We are still waiting for the legal counsel to get back to us with information to move forward with reviewing our home school and special education policies.
- Additionally, some guidance from legal counsel on the Lightning Warning procedures was asked for in November. When we get feedback on this, an update will be given.
- School administrators are working on budgets and staffing for next year. Admin assistants are putting in orders for updated curriculum.

- The school curriculum committee is working on researching new science texts and resources.
- At this time, we are waiting for clear direction on who will be maintaining the school wifi. Once that is decided, we will be able to move forward with putting the new Chrome Books on and get them into students' hands.
- We have 2 wonderful volunteers doing the crossing guard duties for us in the morning and afternoon. Be sure to wave and thank them for volunteering to keep our students safe.

To Come:

- The MPs will be working with our 5th graders to help them become the jr. crossing guards in the near future.
- We also look forward to a Bike Rodeo in the future months to help teach our elementary students bike safety.
- Junior High Registration for class officers will be January 17th through the 25th.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday is observed on January 22nd. School will be closed.
- The High School Finals Schedule for 7-12th graders begins on January 23rd and goes through the 26th. A message was sent to parents and students via the Portal for student planning purposes. All classes will be giving a final exam, test, or project for the end of the semester.
- January 26th is the end of the second quarter and first semester.
- January 29th is a half day of school for all grades K-12. Teachers have an afternoon work day to get their grades finalized for the semester report cards. Grades will be available on the Portal by 4pm on Friday, February 1st. You will be able to view your child's grades on the Portal.
- January 30th is also a half day for all grades K-12. Teachers and staff members will have Child Abuse and Neglect and Epi Pen and Allergic reaction trainings in the afternoon pending confirmation with the hospital.
- Next month in the February SAC meeting, our counselor and registrar will give a presentation for new families and a refresher to others on how to access the Portal and what you can find and do there. We want to make sure all of our families know how to use the Portal, so please spread the word and come on February 13th.
- For awareness, the high school principal will be off island for about 3 weeks beginning January 21st. The lead administrator will be off island for about a week at the end of January to attend the UNI Job Fair. Matt Gerber and Alex Coleman will be the point personnel in charge in their absence. Masina McCollum and Lauren Wallach will also be assisting with the principal duties in their absence.
- There is an Administrative Calendar available tonight that lists the activities that have been planned for the remainder of January and February.

SIT Update:

- The School Improvement Team continues to collect evidence and prepare for the April visit.
- A mid-year check has been done with teachers to find out how LtoJ is working in the classrooms. Students are also gathering information from their peers. Information has been and will continue to be discussed in Department Lead and GSES Leadership Meetings to continually improve our processes.
- Leadership meetings have begun at both campuses to encourage open communication on relevant topics in order to do our very best to create a healthy and productive learning environment for students and for staff members.
- The principals continue to use the Educational Learning Environment Observation Tool (ELEOT) to give feedback when visiting classrooms and the second round of observations have begun.
- The Education COR is visiting classrooms at both campuses to observe education in action.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Wednesday, January 16, 2018:

High School: 112

Elementary: 118

Total K-12: 230

(down by 14 since November)

KSS Staffing Update:

- We continue to look for a Speech Language Pathologist. We have one interview possibility at this time.
- We are currently waiting on background clearances for 4 more substitute teachers.
- Candidates for teaching positions will be interviewed at the UNI Job Fair for future needs should they arise.

Additional Information:

- Each year, the school is required to review and submit the Kwajalein School System Policies for advisement from SAC. Last year, an overall update on all sections was completed with the exception of the Special Education and Home School policies. While we wait for legal guidance on those two areas, we will be looking over the school policies once more to determine which policies, if any, are in need of a closer look and focus for revision next year. We ask the community to contact their SAC representative if they have any suggestions on policies that need a closer look. We will take this into account when we are planning for next year.

If there are any minor revisions that you would like considered, please bring those to the attention of your SAC rep as well. The school welcomes the input.

- 2020-2021 School Calendar: SAC has advised the school that being 2 years out with an approved academic school calendar would be beneficial to the community. The school will begin creating 2 options for a calendar that will be shared with the community and with the SAC by early March. If you have any input on the school calendar, please send it to your SAC representative and they will get it to the school. Thanks for your participation.

3) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Special Education and Home School Policy review update

- Special Education Policy review update – still waiting on legal counsel
- Home School Policy review update – still waiting on legal counsel

B. Kwajalein School Policy Review Update

- It was recommended that everyone take the time to look over the current policies in the school handbook. Policy review is a yearly requirement. Input from the community will help determine the focus of the 2019/20 work plan.
- The 2020/21 school calendar is getting worked out for planning purposes. Brad Reed encouraged the school to get student input on changes they would like to see with the calendar.

C. Important Dates of future SAC meetings

1. 20 February 2019
2. 20 March 2019
3. 17 April 2019
4. 15 May 2019

4) Public Feedback & Council Comments

Brad Reed opened the floor to the audience.

- An audience member asked for clarification on why the school is seeking legal counsel on the lightning warning policy. Is the school asking how to do it better or if the current policy is acceptable? Susan Davis explained that the current procedures are the best we can do at this time. In the October SAC meeting, it was asked if the junior senior high school could have a blanket permission to be released. The current policy is still in place. We are just seeing if it is possible to change.
- Gus Aljure suggested shortening the summer so the semester could end before winter break. There will be a couple calendar drafts to consider. Look them both over and give feedback to your SAC representative. Susan Davis said the school has asked the Student Government Association for feedback. She is hopeful they will have some input. Graeson Cossey commented that the students are thankful to have a voice. The 2020/21

school calendar was a subject in the senior class meeting. They liked having the first semester ending before winter break.

- An audience member asking for clarification on how many classes a student needs to take each school year. She will be graduating this year and already has the credits needed to graduate. She is taking online college classes and could have used a free period to do the online classes at home. Her request to have a free period was rejected. Susan Davis will look into the policy and get back to the student. Dodea has college and high school credits that can be earned simultaneously. Although our school is not quite there yet with our policy, this may be a good opportunity to start looking at that.

Closing Committee Remarks

- Next SAC meeting will be February 20.
- Spread the word to get involved with SAC. It would be helpful to have more public attendance each month.
- The goal is to wrap up the official business in April's meeting so the May meeting can be used to determine the work plan for the 2019/20 school year.

Future Agenda Planning

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

5) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System

Brad Reed, Chairperson, SAC