

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 20, 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 7:01 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

Brad Reed, USAG-KA
Victor Burnley, RTS
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Stephanie Sandige, PTO
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Gustavo Aljure, DYNCORP
Eric Corder, RIKATAK PARENT REP
Susan Davis, Lead Admin KHS/GSES
Graeson Cossey, SGA

Visitors Present:

Masina McCollum
Andrea Strong
Melissa Dethlefsen
Chelsea Reed
Christi Cardillo
Melissa Selzler

1) Opening Remarks

- Brad Reed opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.
- Masina McCollum, Kwajalein Junior Senior High School Counselor, gave a presentation on how to navigate the school portal, what kind of information can be found there, and how to access the various features.

2) Monthly Reports

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

- SGA has continued to have a committee work on Spartan Gear. We discussed a profit margin and hope to get the site up and running soon.
- We have also had a committee put together a pre-approved song list that classes may use at school dances. Survey results were put together and looked over. On the survey, there were five main questions: What are your overall feelings about Mani week? What are your overall feelings about Turkey Bowl? Do you feel the lightning policy could be approved? Is LtoJ helping you learn the key concepts of the course? and Are you taking any of the new classes offered this year? 82 students responded to the survey which was sent out via email. Of the 82 responses, about 80% gave Mani week a 4 or 5 out of 5 for loving it, about 70% of the people who responded loved Turkey bowl this year, about 60% of respondents said the lightning policy could be improved, about 60% said LtoJ

was helping them understand key concepts, and about 60% of the students who took the survey said they were taking a new class this year.

Teacher Representative – Misti French

- The K-6 Art Show will be Tuesday, March 19 4-6p.m. in the Art Studio---room 14 in school building across the street from the Family Pool (formerly known as elementary art room). This year's art theme is IDENTITY and kids are encouraged to wear their favorite outfit or costume to show their creative spirit!
- Mrs. Karen has been teaching line dancing once a week to students during lunch to get them ready for the Mardi Gras parade. Kudos to her for such a great idea.
- The third graders have been working on improving their writing skills using The Step Up To Writing strategies. It's a great way for students to learn the complete writing process. Students independently complete a prewriting web, rough draft, editing and final copy, The students have enjoyed meeting with each other and sharing their writing progress throughout the writing process.
- The GSES Elementary Student Council planned and executed a very successful fundraiser selling and making by hand candygrams and sold just over 800. The candygrams were delivered by 5th grade council members on the 14th.
- The Student Council then sponsored a Valentine Dance and Games event. The k-3 students came in their Valentine best and had a roaring great time with line dancing, limbos, and freeze dances. The 4-6 grade dance immediately followed. The 5th and 6th grade event committee students did a great job in planning and MCing both dances. Refreshments such as fruit punch was free and treats were sold that had been donated.
- All together the Student Council raised over 500 dollars. Their second term elections are coming up next week and more service projects as well as marching in the MWR Mardi Gras parade are all scheduled.
- The Fifth grade students have been working on reading strategies through multiple sources including a complete Revolutionary War comic book collection. They have been connecting the reasons for the Revolution to the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Math continues to be self paced and some students are at or near the end of the 5th grade curriculum having mastered the standards and are working on 6th grade Math standards!
- 6th graders have been studying ancient China and have taught their classmates through multiple media presentations about the different dynasties.
- In GSES Tech class, Mrs Engen has continued to teach through google classroom and the students are becoming quite proficient since multiple teachers are now using this as a part of everyday instruction.
- Last week was Random Acts of Kindness Week and the students have been working on recognizing and performing acts of kindness to help instill this as an everyday approach.
- #Love your Selfies was a theme inthe elementary school this month and all classes developed their own hashtag and created a display board to help promote self care and esteem.
- Dr Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday was honored throughout both schools in different ways, and the Student Council did a very large beach clean up of Beckley Beach removing large amounts of plastic and debris during the National Day of Service.

- African American History month is being celebrated by not only honoring African American heroes of the past. But also by focusing on current day pioneers in many fields.
- The High School Band practiced marching through Kwaj streets and traveled to Ebeye on Marshallese Liberation Day to take part in the parade and did an amazing job!
- Students throughout both schools learned more about our Host Nation history as we studied the ways in which our RMI hosts celebrate different liberation days throughout the atolls as this was the 75th anniversary. Students and faculty alike wore green and orange to celebrate Kwajalein Atolls liberation.

Principal GSES/KHS – Susan Davis

Past:

- The first day of second semester was Tuesday, January 29th. Students had ½ days on the 29th and 30th while teachers had an afternoon to work on report card grades and to attend trainings for child abuse and neglect and the proper use of Epi pens.
- The jr.-sr. high school band marched in the Kwajalein Atoll Liberation Day ceremony on Ebeye last week and did a wonderful job.

Present:

- The Jr.-Sr. High School principal is out on a medical leave until further notice and the Lead Administrator is covering both campuses.
- Basketball and Water Polo is still going on. Go out and cheer on your favorite Spartans!
- 5th and 6th graders have started working as crossing guards in the intersection of 3rd and Lagoon. Please watch for the students in orange vests and slow down when you approach between 8:20 and 8:35; 11:20 and 11:35; 12:20 and 12:35; or 3:20 and 3:35pm. They are keeping our bikers and community safe from collisions.
- We have had some feedback on the homeschool and special education policies, but do not have all of the answers we need yet to move forward on policy.
- There was also discussion with legal counsel about the lightning warning procedures and we are looking into further possibilities that will keep our students safe with reasonable measures.
- All Chrome Books are on the wifi! For now, our Chrome Books will remain at school to be used in the classrooms. We will be looking into purchasing protective cases for them so that we can explore the idea of one to one devices for our students at the HS.

To Come:

- Second graders will begin swimming lessons after conferences in March.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are at both campuses on the afternoon and evening of March 1st. There will be a ½ day of school for students on both March 1st and 2nd. An email went out to all elementary parents with a link to Sign Up Genius to select conference times. Please call Jennifer at the elementary school, #5-3601 if you have any difficulty signing up.
- The school curriculum committee has made selections for resources to use next year. We will share websites with parents this month and will set up a display of samples after they arrive.

- February 21st from 7:00-9:00pm will be our first Military Fair held in the MP room for High School students. This is an opportunity to see what kinds of careers there are within the military.
- February 23rd from 9:00-10:30am there will be a Bike Rodeo at the elementary school to teach our kindergarten, first, and second graders how to ride safely on Kwajalein.
- There is an Administrative Calendar available tonight that lists the activities that have been planned for the remainder of February and March.

SIT Update:

- The School Improvement Team continues to collect evidence and prepare for the April accreditation visit.
- A second survey will be going out at the March Parent Teacher Conferences. Results from the Fall and Spring surveys will be shared at next month's SAC meeting.
- Leadership meetings continue 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, February 20, 2019:

High School: 113

Elementary: 115

Total K-12: 228

(down by 2 since last month)

KSS Staffing Update:

- The Lead Administrator attended the University of Northern Iowa International Job fair between January 30 and February 2nd to interview possible candidates for the 2019-2020 school year. Thirty-five interviews were conducted in a variety of positions to have a bank of candidates if openings become available.
- We did make an offer to a speech language pathologist who was registered at the UNI Job fair and she accepted. Hiring will be finalized once she goes through the background check process.
- We are doing second interviews with a couple of candidates from the UNI Job fair for the K-12 PE position. Alex Coleman has given notice of his resignation and will be starting a new adventure in Panama for the 2019-2020 school year. He will be missed and we wish him well in his new school.
- We are currently waiting on background clearances for 1 teacher and for 3 more substitute teachers.

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. The school welcomes the input.

We will be taking a look at the red-line document from parent discussions last year to use in making decisions of what else may need revision that wasn't covered last year.

- 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 – waiting for legal advisement from command
- Home School Policy review update – waiting for legal advisement from command

B. Kwajalein School Policy Review Update

- It was recommended that everyone take the time to look over the current policies in the school handbook. SAC will have recommendations on policies to review next year. 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. If you have any input, please send it to your SAC representative.

C. Important Dates of future SAC meetings

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

4) Public Feedback & Council Comments

Brad Reed opened the floor to the audience.

- Audience member asked about the faculty intentions. In the past, there seemed to be a date when the faculty had to commit to stay or go for the following school year. Susan Davis explained that the faculty received their employment agreements back in January

and everyone signed. However, it is an “at will” contract meaning they can change their mind.

Closing Committee Remarks

- Next SAC meeting will be March 20.
- SAC is an advisory committee and not a school board. Community members should contact the school first with concerns.
- Spread the word to get involved. SAC needs community input 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 7:40 p.m.

Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System

Brad Reed, Chairperson, SAC