

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 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 7:02 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

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

Visitors Present:

Mary Beth Taylor
Chelsea Reed
Christi Cardillo
Karen Brady
Mallory Masciarelli
Alex Coleman
Tarah Yurovchak

1) Opening Remarks

- Brad Reed opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.
- The survey results for the 2018/19 school year were presented by Mallory Masciarelli and Alex Coleman. Surveys were given to the Kwajalein School faculty, Kwajalein School 6-12th grade students, Kwajalein School 3rd – 5th grade students, and Kwajalein School kindergarten – 12th grade parents. The survey shows areas of strength in the school and areas to improve. Results are included as an attachment.

2) Monthly Reports

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

- The Spartan Gear student committee has been working hard to get their site up and running. It should be available in the next month or so.
- The vending machine committee has been holding meetings with the AAFES manager and got a vending machine back on school campus.
- A new committee was formed to go through the student handbook and review our school's policies.
- The third quarter survey was sent out with questions about the finals schedule from first semester.
- The majority of the student body enjoyed the way the finals schedule was made up this year.

- There was also a question about the school calendar, giving student two choices; A) keep the semester start and end dates the same, or B) start the year earlier to end first semester before Christmas break. 70% of 7th through 10th grade students chose calendar B. 92% of 11th and 12th graders chose calendar B, for a total of 75% of our student body choosing calendar B, which is to end the semester before Christmas break.

Teacher Representative – Misti French

HIGH SCHOOL

- Mr Engen reports that for the past 5 Sundays, an average of 14 students have been attending 2-hour optional Math SAT/ACT Prep sessions. These students take a college-board approved practice SAT math test [both the 25-minute, 20 question non-calculator and the 55-minute, 38 question calculator portions] before meeting on Sundays. We then go over the tests, spending the most time on questions incorrectly answered by a majority of the students. Any student who plans to take the SAT and/or ACT this year has been invited to attend.
- Marine Science is entering a national competition in the Marshall Islands. We are filming our students talking about El Nino and preparing for water shortages that come with El Nino Conditions. We will submit the video to Marshall Islands Education Department and will compete against schools from around the country!
- Jimjera went to Ebeye last Monday, March 18th, to deliver donated school supplies from Wendy Peacock to the Ebeye Deaf Education Center. We talked with the EDEC teachers on how best to utilize the raised funds, from Tree Lighting, for the school and the students. Jimjera girls spent the morning socializing with the EDEC students and communicated by using the sign language they have been learning since September. It is our hope to have the EDEC students come to Kwajalein for an exchange event in the near future.
- Principles of Engineering students have recently completed a number of projects, including designing and testing prototypes off energy efficient thermoses and ranking designs based on criteria of effectiveness, mass and volume. We just recently designed and built light weight shipping containers made of recyclable materials with the goal to ship a potato chip from Kwajalein to a class in Maine without the chip breaking (Results are still pending) and most recently have been developing solar-powered desalination systems for purifying drinking water from salt water.
- In Chemistry students recently investigated exothermic reactions and different chemical identities by observing the reaction of sucrose with potassium chlorate (a.k.a. The Death of A Gummy Bear Lab) Quite an impressive reaction if you have never seen it. A definite "don't try this at home" experiment.
- Physics students are applying what they have learned this year about forces, motion and energy by designing trebuchets.
- AP Chemistry students are busying preparing for the upcoming exam at the beginning of May.

ELEMENTARY

- Fifth grade has been working on self paced math and is completing the text series in the next two weeks to focus the rest of the year on mastery review of all standards as well as projects in project based learning. The students are beginning an exciting new project in science called the Cool Jobs of Science Island-a Kwaj community interactive and immersive STEM project which will also integrate research, technology, essay writing and presentation skills.
- Fourth grade is busy working through two projects. Our Biography project involves reading a biography and viewing online information on a subject, After gathering our research notes from these two (or more) sources, we will write up our research papers and present them to our classmates. Finally, we will present our Living Museum based on these subject to GSES students and staff, as well as parents on Saturday, April 13th.
- In Science 4th grade has begun work on our Rube Goldberg machines. Students are to build machines utilizing their knowledge of forces and simple machines which will perform a specific function. Breaking eggs, popping balloons and catapulting objects into a target are topping the list so far. Part of the challenge here is to use an engineering process to plan for, design, test, and redesign our machines. Our completed machine should be ready to display by Saturday. April 23rd.
- 2nd grade students have been working on book reports.
- In kindergarten we have been celebrating Dr. Seuss. We read many many of his books, we tasted green eggs and ham, we created our own Dr. Seuss characters, and participated in a fun STEM project building our own truffula trees. We love Dr. Seuss!
- Exciting things happening with the GSES Student Council! In spring elections for the rest of the year the members voted for new officers: Taruru Naut President, Glory Reed VP, Grace Otto Secretary and Lyla Otto Treasurer. We also have a new fund raiser in the works, thanks to a generous donation of 1000 fabric shopping bags and supplies by Dyncorp International. Be sure to visit our table at the Spring Craft Fair to purchase child-decorated cloth reusable shopping bag or bags.
- Character Counts classes have discussed bullying behavior and the various roles, responsibilities and strategies, as well as possible outcomes of this behavior. In the coming weeks Dr. Wallach will use children's literature to address self-esteem and positive character traits with all the students in Kinder through 6th Grade. Some of these books include: "Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon," "I like Myself" and "The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade."
- The entire elementary school is excited for this Friday's Talent Show which is being hosted by the PTO many thanks to them for showcasing our students' and classes' talents!
- Last but certainly not least-Ms. Jane Christy otherwise known as Art Mama, organized another wonderful K-6 Art Show where students showcased their original artwork gallery style. This year's theme was IDENTITY, and students were encouraged to wear their favorite outfits or costumes.

Principal GSES/KHS – Susan Davis

Past:

- In the past month, we have enjoyed a strong turn-out volunteers for the Military Fair and the Bike Rodeo. Both events were a success and made a big impact on our students that were involved. Thank you to the community for your time with students.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were held Friday, March 1 and parents were encouraged to fill out our Spring Survey. High lights from the surveys have been shared tonight.
- Some staff members were able to received Training on Child Abuse and Neglect from the Family Advocacy Program visitors from Hawaii at the end of February and Concussion Protocol Training from Dr. Sok. Both trainings were valuable and appreciated.
- Softball Tryouts were Tuesday, March 5th. A large number of students have gone out for Softball this season. If you think you would be interested in helping coach softball or if you are interested in coaching for any student sports team next year, we would love for you to start your background clearance process through Dyn Corp HR and Security. The school can get you pointed in the right direction to get started, just give us a call or drop by.
- The Commander met with High School students on Wednesday, March 6th for a Teen Town Hall.
- A Spring Band and Choir Concert Thursday, March 7th entertained a large audience with a variety of musical selections that showed off their hard work.
- NHS held their Movie Night fundraiser last weekend at the HS. Students sold candy and popcorn while watching The Sandlot.

Present:

- Mrs. Yurovchak is back! We are glad to have her back at school!
- Monday, April 8 Spring Craft Fair GSES Student Council sells shopping bags, so come on out and purchase yours and decrease the number of paper bags used in the stores.
- First graders have begun their swimming lessons for the year and will complete them before Spring Break.
- Orders are being placed for new curriculum to replace old texts. An email with links to the websites will be shared so that parents can view the new textbooks that will be coming for the 2019-2020 school year. Dyn Corp has shown commitment to helping the school update their curriculum and get back in sync with the review cycle.

To Come:

- Saturday, March Spartan Expresso will be serving muffins and drinks from 6:45-7:45am in the MP Room.
- Fleet Band will be working with high school band students and elementary students this week on Saturday morning.
- There is an Administrative Calendar available tonight that lists the activities that have been planned for the remainder of March and for April.

SIT Update:

- The School Improvement Team has received instructions for the AdvancED team accreditation visit. Diagnostics and evidence have been uploaded to a digital workspace for the visiting team to view before arriving on April 20th.

- The Accreditation team will be on island next month and may attend the April SAC meeting.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Wednesday, March 20, 2019:

High School: 113

Elementary: 119

Total K-12: 232

(up by 4 since last month)

KSS Staffing Update:

- The staff openings we currently have for the remainder of this year are three:
 - Speech Language Pathologist – we have a candidate that we are waiting on a background clearance completion for
 - Rikatak Teacher Assistant- we have a candidate that we are waiting on a background clearance completion for
 - English Language Learner Teacher- Franci Lagonik has her ELL certification and will be a long term substitute for this position until May. We have a candidate for this position for next year and that person is in process for hiring.
- There are three more staff openings for next year:
 - K-12 PE and Health- we have a candidate that we in the process of hiring
 - Jr.- Sr. High School Math is open
 - Jr. –Sr. High School English is open
- We will be saying good bye to Rosario Young on March 28th and wish her well. We have been very lucky to have her with us this year as our ESL teacher.
- We will also be saying good bye to Meghan Connor and Vanessa Wamsley. Meghan has taught math for the past 5 years and Drama for the past year at KHS and will be starting a new adventure in Italy next fall. Vanessa has been with us this year teaching English and will continue on with the school as a substitute so that she can pursue some other goals and passions that she has. We wish them both the best and thank them for their time as teachers. I mentioned last month that Alex Coleman is leaving at the end of this school year to pursue PE adventures abroad. He, of course will be missed as our K-12 PE teacher and Athletic Director, too.

Additional Information:

We have identified areas of the School Policies that may need some revision for next year and will be sharing those at our next SAC meeting. If the community has policy that they would like reviewed, please notify the school principals or your SAC representative so that we can take them into account as we plan for next year.

The school will be meeting with legal counsel later this week for clarification in order to move forward on home school policy and lightning warning procedures.

We will be in the midst of our Accreditation visit next month during the SAC meeting, but will plan to share a summary at the May SAC meeting for anyone in attendance.

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

- SAC will have recommendations on policies to review next year. Community input will help determine the focus of the 2019/20 work plan.

C. Important Dates of future SAC meetings

1. 24 April 2019
2. 15 May 2019

4) **Public Feedback & Council Comments**

Brad Reed opened the floor to the audience. There were no questions or comments at this time.

Closing Committee Remarks

- Next SAC meeting will be April 24.
- Input on school policy is needed by April 1st so the SAC can pass the suggestions on to the school for planning purposes.
- SAC will determine the work plan for the 2019/20 school year.
- Remember to take concerns to the school first. They are the subject matter experts.
- Ideas for presentations during the open SAC meetings are welcome.

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