

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 18, 2019**

Call to Order

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

Committee Members Present:

Michael Makovec, USAG-KA
Victor Burnley, RTS
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Eric Corder, Ri-Katak Parent Rep
Tami Zaragoza, Army COE
Chad Gibbon, RGNEXT
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Deirdre Wyatt-Pope, DYNCORP
Misti French, Teacher Representative
Susan Davis, Lead Admin KHS/GSES
Mackenzie Gowans, President, KHS SGA
Julia Sektman, Education Service Specialist

Visitors Present:

Rebecca Hiller	Chelsea Reed
Carrie West	Brad Reed
Jamie Norton	Tarah Yurovchak
Carrie Maxwell	Masina McCollum
Ashley Homuth	Mary McCormick
Abbie Warren	Kendra Robinson
Sarah Scott	Stephen Robinson
Jane Sholar	Mary Beth Taylor
Christi Cardillo	Mallory Masciarelli
Mary Brown	Katie O'Rourke
Julie Makovec	

1) Opening Remarks

- Michael Makovec opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.
- New staff members were introduced: Carrie West (Kindergarten), Dawn Crump (3rd Grade), Jamie Norton (GSES Tech & Library), Carrie Maxwell (KHS Math), Kerry Balzer (KHS English), Kendra Robinson (KHS English), Sarah Scott (KHS English), Becca Hiller (KHS PE/Health), Colleen England (GSES PE/Health), Mary Brown (KHS Computer Science), Jee Taylor (K – 12 ESL), Steve Robinson (GSES Teaching Assistant), Christina Dodson (GSES Teacher Assistant)

2) Monthly Reports

Teacher Representative- Misti French

Elementary School:

Wallach- Guidance and Character Counts It has been a busy few weeks as counselor, getting reacquainted with returning students and meeting new students and families. Guidance classes are in full swing, celebrating personal strengths and differences as well as appreciating those traits in others.

As test coordinator, Dr Wallach reported she is glad we were able to get an early start on NWEA assessments, which in turn will help teachers and students set academic goals for this school year.

Potts- 1st Grade Has really been spending this first month building a story classroom community and also learning new routines and procedures. They also have been practicing how to do centers and how to work with small groups.

Brady- 2nd Grade Each year, George Seitz Elementary School chooses a theme during the month of September to honor the "Manit" or Culture of the Marshall Islands. This year it is called "Kwon Meram Eo" which refers to the light we all have that brings us together for success. In the Marshallese culture this feeling of sharing, caring and working together is the anchor for beliefs. This bond helps to strengthen identity and helps us all realize that we are connected.

In the next two weeks, each grade level will be encouraged to foster Marshallese cultural awareness by reading legends, creating storyboards, weaving palm fronds, telling stories, learning parts of the language, creating tattoo designs, stick charts and even walking in nature to identify plants. At home, each student K-3 will design a boat for floatability and then also a creative piece of recycled art that depicts anything you may see above land (sun, stars, moon,...) 4-6 Students are designing and constructing a class boat from recycled materials around the island. They will also test out their boat's ability to hold 2 students on September 27th at the pool.

Our Final celebrations will be on the Manit Day Holiday, Friday the 27th of September. We will tour the Marshallese Culture Center in the morning and then test out boats at the family pool in the afternoon. On Saturday the 28th we will have food tasting and dancing at the CRC gym from 1:30 to 3:15. All are invited to come and see!
Enriching our lives through the spirit of the Marshallese culture creates a brighter light!

Premo-4th Grade Fourth grade is busy getting started with our new Science curriculum. In Life Science they are analyzing how structure relates to function in the plant world, and will move into studying a similar relationship with animals. Additionally, they had fun learning about the history of Labor Day. They shared what they learned by putting on a play for our parents and fellow GSES students.

French 5th Grade- For *Constitution Day*, September 17th, 5th grade students learned about the U.S. Constitution as well as the Preamble and its meaning. They also discussed and participated in activities to learn the difference between a democracy and democratic republic. More in depth government lessons will come later in the year. They have also started with our Geography studies. Students examined real life world events using NOAA printed hurricane tracking charts to track the path of Hurricane Dorian as it formed and progressed. The week long activities connected to real life application of geography, the interaction of humans with the earth, government roles in a natural disaster and weather phenomenon.

Ellison 6th Grade-The 6th grade students are finishing up their two weeks of American Red Cross swim lessons. They also have been collecting recycled materials to build a class boat for Manit activities.

Jane Christy- Art K-6 Art students are working on their ORIGINAL WORKS fundraiser pictures. These should be finished soon and then informative packets will be sent home to parents. The kids really love this project and have created some really neat imagery to put onto specialty items like mousepads, magnets, and t-shirts.

Library News

Jamie Norton- Technology and Library-

In library- All students have had the opportunity to check out books and learn a bit about the organization of library resources.

In Tech- Kindergarten students are mastering mouse skills, first graders are learning the parts of the computer and input versus output, second grade is covering technology vocabulary, third graders are learning Microsoft Word basics, fourth grade has just started an internet safety module, fifth and sixth graders are focusing on typing speed and accuracy along with how to evaluate and read webpages.

Cindy Engen-MS/HS Library Norton-ES

We are excited to announce, we now have 2 new subscriptions -- Britannica and Gale. -- available at school and at home for all students!

Britannica is safe, up-to-date, and age-appropriate information resource for Elementary, Middle, and High School. Included are encyclopedia articles, multimedia, primary sources, games, and other learning resources that support student research and reinforce curriculum standards.

Gale is a world leader in e-research and educational publishing for libraries, schools, and businesses. Best known for accurate and authoritative reference content as well as intelligent organization of full-text magazine and newspaper articles, Gale publishes learning resources in a variety of formats including Web portals, digital archives, print, and e-books.

Gale (list of databases)

- * Kids InfoBits
- * Gale In Context (8)
- * Biography
- * Global Issues
- * Opposing Viewpoints
- * Science
- * US History
- * World History
- * Middle School
- * High School
- * Gale OneFile (3)
- * General OneFile

- * Academic OneFile
- * Educator's Reference Complete
- * Literature Resource Center

Middle/High School News

Don Engen-MS/HS Math Mr Engen is offering PSAT/ACT/SAT Prep sessions for math on Sundays from 1-3 pm beginning 22 Sept. Twenty-nine sophomores and juniors have signed up so far for the first session.

Miller KSS Band-The HS Concert band was honored to perform at the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony last week and wanted to thank command for the opportunity to serve our community.

Carrie Maxwell- Financial/ Algebra -To introduce budgeting in Financial Algebra, students played an online game called Spent by Next Gen Personal Finance. In this simulation players are given \$1,000 to live on for one month. The goal is to end the month with some money left over. Throughout the game's one-month period, players learn how quickly changes in employment, housing, medical costs, and other expenses can have disastrous consequences. Students have to make choices like what groceries to purchase, whether their child can play a sport or save that money and how decisions can affect your employment. One student shared at his job working in a warehouse he damaged a product. Since he did not tell his boss about the incident another employee was blamed and fired.

It is considered a win if you end the game with money left in the bank but the game quickly reminds you the rent is due tomorrow.

After everyone played the game we discussed some of the situations they were asked about, how these situations pertain to the real world and what they learned that will help them when they are living on their own.

Rebecca Hiller HS Athletic Director Soccer is in full swing. Not only do we have 4 Spartan teams in the league, we also have a number of staff members playing soccer as well. If you are looking for some evening entertainment, please head over to Brandon Field and support your Kwaj School family.

Matt Gerber- HS Engineering and Marine Science

The Marine Science class is conducting research on the trash washing ashore our beaches. They are returning to the same beach they cleaned a year ago and will be inventorying all of the trash that has accumulated. Check out their class website: pacresearch.org for updates!

In Engineering class they are completing projects that allow students to program hovercrafts and drones to complete a challenge. They are also working a year long project to send a camera to the twilight zone to research the kinds of living things at depth.

Mindi Gerber MS/HS Social Studies

US History class is doing a Cold Case Mystery about the lost colony of Roanoke. Multiple exhibits are displayed about the room. Students look through the different pieces of evidence, develop theories, and come to a conclusion about what happened to the colonists.

Principal GSES/KHS – Susan Davis

Past:

- We have started the school year with Back to School Nights at both campuses. Attendance was good with about 65% of parents represented. Teachers shared classroom management styles, student expectations, major learning activities, and grading policies.
- Seniors were invited to have breakfast with the Commander and his wife on the first day of school.
- Parents have been asked to update all enrollment forms for their students. It is critical that the school have the most up-to-date information for parent and emergency contacts and the following other input:
 - Lightning self-release permission
 - Photograph and video permissions
 - Technology user agreements
- Immunization updates: parents have been notified by letter of any immunizations that need to be updated. Students will not be allowed in school after October 23rd without the required immunizations. If there are reasons that your child cannot be immunized, that needs to be shared with the Chief Medical Officer. Please ask for a copy of your updated immunizations records from the hospital and bring to the school office. We will put these in your child's school record file.
- The school network has been moved to a government network prior to the start of school. We are now operating under a firewall to protect against accidental or intentional searching of inappropriate content. There are no personal devices on the internet any longer. If students need to use personal devices after school, they will need to find a public wi-fi area to use them. Personal devices are not to be used during the school day.
- In addition to the new network, there is now a cache box to store downloaded material that is helping us with Chrome Book and desk top speeds when multiple users are accessing the same content.
- Many of our old desktop computers have been replaced with newer computers and our Windows 7 products have been updated to Windows 10.
- Fire Drills were held in August and new staff members and students did very well.
- The Bike Rodeo was held last Saturday to teach rules of the road and to promote safety on bicycles. The police department, fire department, EMTs, chapel, and volunteers all came together with the school to put on this successful event.
- The High School Band played at the 9/11 ceremony last week.

Present:

- Student Government at KJSHS and Student Council at GSES, along with other school organizations are working on setting dates for fundraisers to be approved this year.
- Seniors are preparing to talk with the Commander about Street Painting this year and request permission to continue this KSS tradition.
- Our Reading support has begun with our Academic Support Specialist. We are very pleased to have Mary McCormick providing quality reading instruction to help students close the gaps in their reading skills.
- Our Bi-Lingual Multi-Lingual program is in full swing with our new instructor Jee Taylor and Gary Stein is continuing to provide speech/language services for students pre-school through high school as well.
- We are finishing up our NWEA testing at the high school and have another week or two for the elementary school to complete. These tests give us valuable feedback on what our students are ready to tackle next in English/Language Arts, Math, and this year we add Science.

To Come:

- Mani Day is coming up at the end of September. Elementary students will have an opportunity to bring their lunches and do some weaving in the gym. Look for notes to come home with details. Friday, September 27th in the morning, elementary students will be visiting the Marshallese Cultural Center. In the afternoon, K-6 will be floating their boats at the Family Pool. On Saturday, September 28th, all students k-12 will be tasting samples of Marshallese food provided by our Marshallese parents from 1:15-2:00pm and from 2:00-3:30pm, students will be singing and dancing in the CRC gym. Parents are welcome to come to the Gym to observe the fun.
- The College and Career Fair is being planned for November this year. The Military Career Fair is planned for February. Specific dates will be determined and advertised by the High School Counselor and that information will be shared with the community.
- Lighting is improved in the CAC room 6. With the good lighting and the carpeting for a quieter venue, high school testing of PSAT, SAT, and ACT will take place in that location.
- Fire Prevention Week is coming up in October 8th-12th. We will be taking field trips with elementary students to the fire department to learn about fire safety.

SIT Update:

- School Improvement Team leaders gave an overview to the staff of the AdvancED Accreditation Report from June. Teachers were reminded of their consensus last spring to focus on the use of assessment data to improve instruction at the junior-senior high school and to focus on engagement and differentiation at the elementary school. Teachers then created two professional goals. One was a school goal and the other was a personal

professional goal based on the Marzano Instructional Model. The School Improvement Team will be meeting with administrators on Thursday this week to go over data and begin plans for the 2019-2020 school year.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Wednesday, September 18, 2019:

High School: 113
Elementary: 103
Total K-12: 216

KSS Staffing Update:

- All new teachers have arrived and started the school year except for our Special Education teacher, Glenna Woodruff. She is expected in Mid October. Until Ms. Woodruff arrives, Gary Stein and Masina McCollum are assisting students at the high school and all teachers are tracking accommodations and modifications for students.
- We are awaiting clearances for two RMI teacher aides. One should be joining us soon.
- In addition, our 6th grade teacher, Trina Ellison, will be PCSing with her family in the next couple of months. We are sorry to see her leave, but are in total support of their decision and wish them well. She will be missed. We do have a plan in place to fill Trina's position and there will be no need for a substitute teacher.

Additional Information:

- The policy section that the school will be looking at closely this year for review and possible updating is the 2000 Series: Students. If you are interested in policy, please read through that section and give any input or suggestions to either the school or one of the SAC representatives. The school will be sharing draft versions of the policy as they complete them this year. Final voting on policy updates will be in the month of May.
- The school curriculum 7 year cycle plan had fallen behind in the last several years. Under the previous contractor, school text books hadn't been updated since 2004 in some cases. In the last year and a half, the school was given approval to catch up on the renewals. Tonight, there are samples of our new texts available for viewing for French, Spanish, Science, High School Social Studies, and Art. The school has also purchased online resources for Foreign Language, Social Studies, Science, and Music. Be aware that we have also updated our online library resources as well. We are working on creating links so that students can access the resources from home as well as in school. Watch for an email when that is available.

- The final area that needs to be renewed is physical education and health. These areas will be researched and planned for this year. Once this area is updated, all curriculum areas will be up-to-date and back on track in the 7-year cycle.

3) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Committee Work Plan Review

SAC will be looking at the school system policy updates for the 2019/20 school year. There will also be a 2021/22 calendar draft for SAC to look at later this year.

4) Public Feedback & Council Comments

Mike Makovec opened the floor the audience.

- Board Member asked if it is a new requirement for the seniors to ask the Commander for permission to paint the street. Susan Davis said the senior class has always asked for permission.
- Board Member asked if the accreditation report will be available for the public to view. Susan Davis said she will talk to the SIT (School Improvement Team) about this.
- Audience Member asked for more information on the plans to replace Trina Ellison. Susan Davis replied that it too soon to announce but she does not expect to need a substitute teacher.
- Julia Sektnan asked the audience to share the news about the new textbooks. Encourage others to come check out the new curriculum at the school.
- Board Member asked if a 7-year cycle for school curriculum is an average interval. Susan Davis responded that some schools may have 5 or 6 years.

Closing Committee Remarks

- Next SAC meetings will be October 16, November 13, and December 11.

Future Agenda Planning

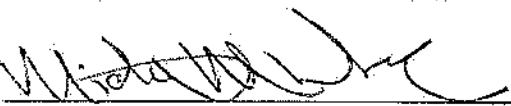
- Agendas will note future policy or non-policy issues up for discussion

5) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC