

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 16, 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 7:01 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

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

Visitors Present:

Eric Miller	Chelsea Reed
Heather Miller	Tarah Yurovchak
Karen Brady	Mallory Masciarelli
Lauren Wallach	Glenna Woodruff
Brad Reed	Mary Beth Taylor

1) Opening Remarks

- Michael Makovec opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.
- Elementary student council officers were introduced.
 - President: Jonielle
 - Vice President: Weisson
 - Secretary: Audrey
 - Treasurer: Ellie
 - Reporter: Theo
 - Historian: Chevelle
- Glenna Woodruff, the new special education teacher, was introduced. Mrs. Woodruff moved joined us from Guam and the school is so thankful for have her.
- New SAC committee member was introduced. Jill Grabowski will be representing the Kwajalein School Parent Teacher Organization.

2) Monthly Reports

SGA Report – Mackenzie Gowans, President

The high school student government association has met twice this school year: on September 27th and October 11th. In these meetings, we discuss ways to better our school, atmosphere, and

learning abilities. Along with this, we provide students with a way to voice their opinions in order to make changes they believe will benefit the school.

At our September 27th meeting, SGA discussed spirit days for the year. We decided that we are going to continue doing monthly spirit days in addition to our annual Turkey Spirit Days. Our first Spirit Day is October 31st, which will be Costume Day.

Our turkey bowl spirit days will be:

Thursday: Twin Day

Friday: Fancy Friday

Saturday: Sports Saturday

Tuesday: PJ Day

Wednesday: Class Colors

SGA was also informed of what the classes decided to do for their fundraisers:

Seventh grade: bake sale—tree lighting/scuba club safety meeting

Eighth grade: lollipop sales—tbd depending on when they can get lollipops on island

Freshman: valentine grams—Valentine's Day

Sophomores: tie dye—Memorial Day

Juniors: carnival—January

Seniors: laser tag—October 26

SGA was also given the dance dates:

Fall ball—November 2nd

Winter ball—February 26

Prom/Romp—April 26

Seventh grade informed the group that they will continue to do locker decorations, and that they will decorate for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Easter.

The classes said that they would be interested in air fresheners in the restrooms, the door numbers on the classrooms moved to the inside of the doors, for students to park in the bike racks, and to unstick the right downstairs door on the south side of the building.

On our October 11th SGA meeting, the SGA Officers explained what happened in the meeting they had with Principal Yurovchak. Mrs. Yurovchak said she would put the work order for the downstairs door and would ask Mrs. Reed to ask students to park in bike racks through the announcements. She looked into getting air fresheners for the bathrooms, and said that the school isn't allowed to have spray or plug in air fresheners and asked for SGA to provide a few air freshener options to her.

SGA decided to spend some of their funds to purchase art supplies that can be used by the 7th grade for locker decorations and as supplies for turkey bowl activities; and to purchase spirit gear that will be on display in the high school office.

The classes are going to do research on different types of water bottle fillers, to see if it is reasonable for one to be installed in the high school.

Our next SGA meeting is scheduled for October 25th.

Teacher Representative- Misti French

High School Report:

Don Engen- PSAT/SAT/ACT Math review sessions are from 1:00-3:00 pm on Sundays. An average of 16 students have attended each session for the past 4 Sundays. The students must complete a practice test each week before attending

Sarah Scott- Home Economics- The Home EC Cycle class in the Family and Consumer Science Department prepared homemade paninis for the band class. There are over 40 students in the high school band class and 6 students in this cycle. They are working hard to build culinary, planning, and customer service skills in this cycle.

Matt Gerber- Marine Biology- Marine Science completed the Clean Islands Clean Beaches Trash Pick Up on Gehh. The class collected and brought back over 3700 pieces of trash and are publishing their results soon.

Maria Fernandez-Spanish-This month, students have celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month, recognizing the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. Students have had the opportunity to participate in an enrichment activity creating presentations entirely in Spanish about Latino artists, sports personalities, and national heroes.

Students have also deepened their knowledge of the Hispanic culture by engaging with an authentic resource, an infographic about Hispanic Heritage Month in the target language, intended to increase students' interpretive reading abilities. One of the most important skills students used was to identify and cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Kendra Robinson- 10th grade students are reading Lord of the Flies and excited about their creative projects that they will be completing once they finish. 8th grade just finished their first personal nonfiction narration and they are GREAT so far, the students have amazing voice. All students are becoming fluent in Google Classroom, as is their teacher and efforts adjust to make it more user friendly/useful.

Kyle Miller- HS Band will be having their Fall Band Concert tomorrow evening in the MP Room- Priority seating will be reserved for the first 40
People who bring a box of breakfast bars to donate to our Rikatak Program.

Elementary School Report:

Ellen Potts- First graders have started using the new science series. They have been learning about plants and animals.

During reading they have been working on retelling stories in order. Retelling is being carried over into writing personal narratives. Students have been working on finding *details* in both reading and writing lessons. During math centers, students are becoming familiar with

IXL during their computer center. They are working on addition and subtraction in other centers.

Karen Brady- Second grade students are still excited about their trip to the fire station as all elementary students attended National Fire Prevention activities hosted by the Kwajalein Fire Department.

Misti French-Fifth grade students are finishing up their celebration and recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Students have also begun their U.S. history studies beginning with the First Americans who arrived in North America approximately 13,000 years ago. They will continue studying Native American cultures, regions, and perspectives on historical events. They have also started to explore ecosystems using the hands on approach of the new Science Alive series and exploring the interdependent nature of species within the ecosystems.

Ashley Wright-Music K-6 has started rehearsing for the upcoming Veterans' Day All-School Assembly Nov. 9! Music looks forward to collaborating with the secondary guitar class members of the HS Jazz Band in our performance of gratitude. K-4 continues skill building in preparation for the annual "winter" concert, with focus on tuneful singing and music literacy. Grade 5 Beginning Band and Grade 6 Cadet bands are working hard to prepare for their upcoming concerts as well this December.

Jane Christy- Art class just finished the Original Works fundraiser artwork---the kids are very excited! All classes are deep into exploring our theme (IF). We are working with clay, plaster, paint/canvas, and collage at this time. Needless to say, the Art Studio is looking more magical than normal :)

Ashley Wright / Misti French / Kyle Miller- are collaborating on the **KSS Veterans Day of Gratitude Program** on Saturday, November 9th. The program will feature students from all 13 grades singing, playing instruments, reading poetry, and speaking, to thank our community veterans for their service. The students are actively preparing in Music Class, Band Class, U.S. History studies in the elementary, in tech creation, and with some other surprise activities to prepare for our program. Community Veterans and families are invited to attend.

Lauren Wallach-Character Counts Class-In Character Counts, classes are discussing Bully Prevention. Students learned to identify rude vs. bullying behavior, the roles people play in bullying and strategies to avoid and prevent bullying. All the grades continue to focus on having an Attitude of Gratitude.

Lauren Wallach / Misti French- Student Council- Student Council members are in the process of labeling and distributing the toys and sports equipment (including badminton sets) that they purchased for the school after spring fundraising efforts. The Student Council also received the various chess sets they ordered in spring for the new chess club that will be starting soon. They also ordered and received enough equipment for the creation of 4 different school chess clubs at neighboring Ebeye schools and are currently arranging to deliver the chess equipment and collaborate with Ebeye students in their formation. Students will continue to paint and sell the reusable Cloth Kwaja-Clean shopping bags during the Craft Bazaar to support their service.

projects for both community and students of Ebeye and Kwajalein.

Kwajalein School System Lead Administrator – Susan Davis

Past:

- The biggest event in the past month was the Manit celebration throughout September. This event included all students K-12 gathering at the CRC gym to enjoy Marshallese dancing and music. Other activities included watching how coconut rice balls were made, weaving, learning the English translation of the RMI national anthem, learning the location of the various atolls in the RMI, food tasting, creating boats from natural and recycled materials, and dressing in Marshallese clothing and jewelry.
- Guest Speakers, Dr. Lisa Rūth and Mr. Glen Shonkwiler visited the high school to talk to students about the shore clean-up project and fish studies in the atoll.
- Mr. O'Rourke from MIT also visited the Computer Service and Support class to talk to students about computer maintenance.
- Marine Biology class took a field trip to Gehh to clean up the shoreline, identify and sort the trash and to observe change in the coral. They will be presenting at SAC next month to talk about their projects.
- Elementary students took field trips to the Fire Station for Fire Prevention Week, learned fire safety tips, and got to know the firemen and see the equipment up close.
- Tea with Mrs. D was held in the George Seitz Elementary library recently with 5 parents in attendance.
- Coffee with the High School principal was held on October 12th with 3 parents in attendance.

Present:

- Seniors have completed their annual street painting. Ride by the high school to view the class of 2020's artistic creations.
- We are currently planning to practice an evacuation and a lock down drill in the month of November. We will notify parents when we have dates set so that there will not be any confusion when we walk all students to the other campus.

To Come:

- The first band concert will be held tomorrow, at the MP room at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend.
- Spartans will be having their final games of the season this week. Come out and cheer on our 4 teams of students!
- The elementary Halloween parade will occur at 2:15pm on the 31st. Students should bring their costumes and can put them on after the afternoon recess. Please do not send students

with weapons, real or pretend and avoid costumes that are bloody or gory. Parents are welcome to come and line the field by the Coconut room to view the parade. Let your child's teacher know if you would like to help with the classroom party that afternoon.

- The high school will have a spirit day on the 31st and students are encouraged to dress up in costumes all day. Classes will be having a competing for most participation. Again, no weapons, real or fake and avoid bloody or particularly gory costumes.
- November 1st in the afternoon and early evening, Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held at both campuses. The elementary school is sending out Sign Up Genius invitations for parents to select their conference times. If you have a junior high or high school student, you do not need an appointment to attend the arena style conferences in the MP room.
- Friday and Saturday, November 1st and 2nd are ½ days for students.
- November 9th, from 11:00-11:30am, the school, kindergarten through 12th grade, will be celebrating our veterans with a special program. Students should send in photos of their veteran family members to add to a slide show. We hope that all parent veterans will join us for this special celebration

SIT Update:

- School Improvement Team will be meeting monthly to work on our school improvement plan which will include planning out professional development, professional learning communities and strategies to meet our school goal of improving reading.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Wednesday, October 16, 2019:

High School: 117

Elementary: 106

Total K-12: 223

KSS Staffing Update:

- Our Special Education teacher Glenna Woodruff has arrived! She comes to us from Guam where she has been both a Special Education teacher and a School Principal. We are looking forward to working with her and for her to meet our students.
- We look forward to one of our teacher aides from Ebeye joining us soon. Melani Karben will be riding the ferry with our Rikatak students and assisting in the Kindergarten classroom.
- Trina Ellison's last day will be December 7th. It will be a smooth transition with Steve Robinson sliding into the 6th grade teacher position.

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.

3) **Discussion/Action Items:**

A. **Committee Work Plan Development**

- School Policy Review – 3000 Series
- School Calendar Review

4) **Public Feedback & Council Comments**

Mike Makovec opened the floor the audience.

- Parent noted that the Jr/Sr High School band concert is not listed on the portal as an upcoming event.
- Tarah Yurovchak said that all school fundraisers are tentatively scheduled until we have Garrison approval. The request has been submitted and the school is waiting to hear back.

Closing Committee Remarks

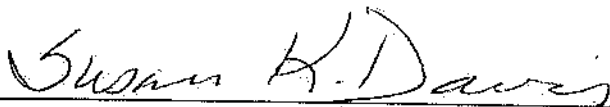
- Next SAC meetings will be November 13 and December 11.

Future Agenda Planning

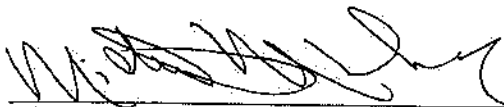
- Agendas will note future policy or non-policy issues up for discussion

5) **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC