

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 20, 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 7:00 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

Michael Makovec, USAG-KA
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Tami Zaragoza, Army COE
Deirdre Wyatt-Pope, DYNCORP
Jill Grabowski, PTO
Misti French, Teacher Representative
Susan Davis, Lead Admin KHS/GSES
Mackenzie Gowans, President, KHS SGA

Visitors Present:

Mary Beth Taylor
Brad Reed
Tarah Yurovchak
Mallory Masciarelli
Matt Gerber
Julie Makovec

1) Opening Remarks

- Michael Makovec opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Kwajalein High School Marine Biology class gave a presentation. The students collected 3,749 pieces of trash during a class trip to Gehh island. The class will soon be focusing on the coral bleaching within the lagoon.

2) Monthly Reports

SGA Report – Mackenzie Gowans, President

Since the last SAC meeting, SGA has met twice: on October 25th and on November 15th.

The classes have been working on Turkey Bowl posters and cheers for the past month. There was a recommendation that our spirit cheers be nicer and more positive than past years. To be consistent and fair, SGA is having Mrs. Yurovchak approve all class cheers.

A group of SGA members are doing research into getting water bottle refillers at the high school, and they are going to send what they find to the SGA officers, so we can submit them to administration.

Spartan Spirit Gear to display in the high school office has been ordered but has not arrived.

Students have requested that more bike racks be put near the MP room, so they have somewhere to park.

Officers are gathering feedback from their class meetings regarding student's thoughts on saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the high school in the future. This discussion was prompted by students in a previous class meeting.

Upcoming Spirit Days:

- Turkey Bowl
 - Twin day
 - Fancy Friday
 - Sports Day
 - Pajama Day
 - Class Colors

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Seventh Grade Fundraiser: Bake Sale at Tree lighting/scuba meetings
- Eighth Grade Fundraiser: Lollipop sales (TBD)
- Freshmen: Valentines Grams (February)
- Sophomores: Tie Dye (Memorial Day)
- Juniors: Carnival (January)
- Seniors: DONE

Upcoming Dances:

- Fall Ball: DONE
- Winter Ball: February 2nd
- Prom/Romp: April 26th

Our next SGA meeting is scheduled for December 13th.

Teacher Representative- Misti French

High School

Don Engen-SAT/ACT Prep sessions resumed last Sunday after a 2-week recess . . . back in full force, students complete a practice math SAT/ACT test on their own time during the week, then come in from 1-3 on Sunday to go over the problems, ask questions, teach each other . . . a wonderful group of dedicated students!

Kristen Hosek-Zoology class went on a boat trip on Saturday to complete a Photographic Diversity Scavenger Hunt. Their current unit is exploring the benefits of coral reef ecosystems, including the wide range of species diversity. Six parent chaperones helped the students photograph organisms from 8 major animal phylums in the reefs north of Carlos.

Christi Cardillo- Seniors in Mrs. Cardillo's American Democracy and Civics class are beginning their study of elections in the United States, including the role of political parties, the nomination process, campaign finance, and then the elections themselves. Students each chose a current presidential candidate to follow at the beginning of the year, which has helped each

student to become somewhat invested in the 2020 Election. And all will be able to vote in the next election too!

Juniors in Mrs. Cardillo's US History II just finished their study of Imperialism of the late 1800s and early 1900s. They culminated the unit by researching modern day examples of imperialism in the world today using the GALE databases, then they created Google slides and presented their findings and analysis of how their contemporary example of imperialism compares or contrasts to imperialism of over 100 years. Now the class is studying World War I. Much to the dismay of some, but to the delight of others, they have been learning and are practicing outline note-taking skills.

Mrs. Cardillo's psychology students just finished the study of memory and thought and will be moving on to the study of psychological disorders next.

Matt Gerber-The Engineering class has spent the last few weeks using a 3D printer for various projects. We designed CAD bridges and tested them for strength, with Yuto Kaneko designing the strongest bridge. We are also 3D printing parts for band instruments to help the band's equipment function! Special thanks to Jon Schoenenberger for lending us his printer.

Kendra Robinson- 10th grade Lord of the Flies Creative projects were a lot of fun. There was a variety in the approach ranging from posters, game show games, and board games to comic strips and 3-D printed models to show understanding. 8th grade is excited to start their Tour of Tulsa digital project as we finish The Outsiders.

Carrie Maxwell- Financial Algebra is learning to calculate monthly payments and finance charges on given loan amounts.

Geometry just finished their Transversal Town project. They had to create their own city blueprint using parallel lines and transversals.

Masina McCollum- College & Career Fair is Thursday, November 21st from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the CRC Gym. Thanks to all the participants for sharing their knowledge with our students!

Kyle Miller-The HS Concert Band was proud to participate in the Command Ceremony on Veteran's Day. Congratulations to 11th grader Rod Hazzard on his performance of Taps. Upcoming Events: GSES Music program on Dec 6, Jr/Sr High Band Concert on Dec 12, GSES Band on Dec 13.

Elementary School

Ellen Potts- In 1st grade we are finishing up our narrative unit in writing. Each student has written two complete narrative stories over the last few months and several shorter pieces. We are continuing plant and animal unit in science. The first graders have enjoyed watching seeds grow into mature plants. They have been learning the parts of a plant and how to make observations. Our class is continuing to grow as readers and practice new reading skills each day. We have been fortunate to have many parents and community members come in as "Mystery Readers" and model great reading to our class.

Karen Brady- 2nd grade took a field trip to learn some Spanish at the high school Spanish class and Mrs. Fernandez. The students had a wonderful experience and were so excited to take part in the Veteran's Day ceremony. 2nd graders also learned RRR at the super UXO demonstration at the coconut room

Jane Christy- Art class -Drawing and 8th grade are starting their clay assignment and will be learning about the art of sgraffito (drawing in clay). They are basing their pieces off of our theme IF and are excited to start their claywork.

Dawn Crump- 3rd Grade is having their International Thanksgiving Tasting Party. Only our 3rd grade class will be tasting, but parents and other grades who would like to attend will be thankful to receive knowledge. Students have chosen a country or culture and have 1 minute to share all their research. We have also had an amazing writing adventure this month with our Turkey journals. Glenna Woodruff came in and shared a craft with us. We made turkeys out of coconuts and their turkeys have had a wildly fun month of adventure. Next month will be reindeer journals. In science we are exploring force and motion. We figured out that Joakim is the strongest through our arm wrestling. He is an unbalanced force for any other 3rd grade arm wrestler. It took two other students at once to balance his force. In math we are moving into Topic 4 next week which is multiplication.

Katrina Ellison/Stephen Robinson- 6th grade- In 6th grade we are working our way through Mesopotamia in our study of ancient cultures. We are excited to be working with fifth grade on a project that was brought to us by MIT, investigating the use of coconut husks as a renewable material for manufacturing wood-based products. We have started writing and revising our Christmas stories so that they can be finished and shared with the rest of the school before Ms. Trina departs. We are excited to continue to see growth schoolwide in our weekly L2J testing which is compiled and analyzed statistically by the sixth graders for the whole school.

Misti French- Fifth grade students are learning science each day in a 5th/6th collaborative classroom. Students started preparing their vocabulary development and background knowledge for work on the MIT/Lincoln Laboratory project of material science. Fifth Grade students also helped to host the Veterans Day Program. Students are working on mathematical calculations as they plan Thanksgiving dinners for their families.

Ashley Wright-All grades worked together on a fantastic show of gratitude through musical performances on Veterans Day. Now students are rehearsing diligently for their upcoming performances. For a list of dates and times, please see email as well as on our GSES Music facebook page.

We have a few guest instructors and musicians collaborating with our elementary program and enriching our learning this semester. Ms. Vanessa Wamsley accompanies on piano twice a week, and HS students from the band and guitar classes are rehearsing to provide our live music for this year's K-4 concert. Ms. Sally Bulla has been coming in to rehearse a special hand bell feature with Grade 3 and 4. We are very thankful for our community's musical support and willingness of individuals to go above and beyond for our students.

Lauren Wallach-Character Counts classes have been discussing conflict resolution and strategies to solve problems with positive communication. Dr. Wallach has been impressed with the ability of our students to express their feelings and generate win:win solutions to real life problems. We have an amazing group of children at GSES.

Lauren Wallach/Misti French- Student Council will be having their first service project of the year on Monday 11/25. Students will meet on their weekend to conduct a shore clean up near the adult pool area and surrounding top shoreline. They are also planning a swim party for next Tuesday as a celebration of the first semester. They are a busy group and are working hard!

Kwajalein School System Lead Administrator – Susan Davis

Past:

- Conferences were held on November 1st at both campuses with a very good turnout for participation. Parents were asked to complete climate surveys at that time. The SIT team will be looking at the data to determine areas of strength and areas that we can improve in.
- Our first all school Veteran's Day assembly was held on November 9th. Our students sang, recited poetry, shared thanks, played patriotic music and posted the colors for our veterans that morning. It was a moving event.
- The Junior-Senior High School band also played at the chapel for the afternoon Veteran's Day ceremony. Fourth graders sang and high school students accompanied them on guitar.
- Round one of all teacher evaluations have been completed for this year. Round two for teachers with less than 3 year of experience at KSS will begin in early 2nd semester.
- School pictures have been taken and are available on a website link to view. See your portal email for the link. Retakes will be on Tuesday, November 26th at 9:00am across from Surfway. We are still checking on photos that did not make it into the viewing galleries and will send out a notice when they have been recovered.
- Mrs. Davis celebrated with PEARLS recipients by having lunch with K-3 students on November 7th and with the 4th -6th grade students on November 8th. This was to recognize their outstanding display of our mission statement character traits.
- First graders made the highest-class percentage gains on their LtoJ math fluency quiz on November 9th and the entire elementary school reached another all time best. The celebration was for the first graders to pour ice water on Mrs. Davis' head while the rest of the school looked on. It was a lot of fun!

Present:

- Safety items:

- We will be having an evacuation drill tomorrow morning. Students from the elementary school will be joining junior high and high school students on the 2nd floor of the high school for a short time to practice what to do in case the Command ever issues an evacuation directive for possible flooding.
- Staff are examining the Run, Hide, Fight videos and meeting with Chief Johnson to determine best options for lock down drills.
- Elementary students just had their UXO training to teach the students how to Recognize unexploded ordinance, Retreat and mark the area, and Report to 911.
- Staff members recently completed annual Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting, TARP, and EpiPen trainings.
- The Fire Inspection will be planned for the month of December or January.
- Orange fencing has been put up at the elementary school gym to keep students away from a large fire ant colony that we are trying to get rid of.
- Fourth graders are participating in swim lessons at this time. I think this has been a great program and something very unique for our school. It is wonderful to know that all elementary students are being taught to swim and makes our fun celebratory events from time to time at the beach or pool so much safer. Thanks to Cliff and his staff for offering these to the children of George Seitz and homeschoolers.

To Come:

- Tomorrow evening from 6:30pm-8:00pm, students in grades 7-12 will be visiting the College and Career Fair at the CRC gym. Community members have volunteered to man tables.
- November 25th, the elementary student council will be doing their service project. They will be cleaning up the shoreline on the ocean side from 10:00am -11:00am.
- Turkey Bowl is fast approaching. This is our island rendition of Home Coming. Students at the Junior Senior High School will be competing in spirit competitions and talents will be showcased. The big event will take place on November 27 in the morning with cheers, posters, and talent. Students will participate in tug of war competitions at the beach in the afternoon.
- NHS is putting on a pancake breakfast on December 2nd from 8:00am til 12 noon in the MP Room. Pancakes are all you can eat -\$10 for adults, \$7 for kids, and children 4 and under are free. There will be crafts, games, and photos with Santa.
- December 4th there will be a Drug and Alcohol Awareness Assembly for our junior-senior high school students at the end of the day. Community members from the hospital, law enforcement, and legal will be assisting with sharing information with students.
- Students will participate in Santa's arrival and the Tree Lighting ceremony on December 7th. Look for the band to lead Santa in the parade from DeMeo field to downtown and our Jim Jera and other KHS students as wheel walkers.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Wednesday, November 20, 2019:

High School: 114
Elementary: 106
Total K-12: 220

KSS Staffing Update:

- Melani Karben has started her job with us as a teacher aide. We are so happy to have her! She rides the ferry with our Rikatak students and assists in the Kindergarten classroom.
- We still have an opening for one more teacher aide and one Reading Specialist.
- Mary McCormick, our reading specialist will have her last day of work on December 18th and Trina Ellison will have her last day on December 7th. Stephen Robinson will be stepping into Trina's 6th grade position.

Additional Information:

- NWEA results are complete for Reading, Math, Science, and Language Arts. Our counselors will be sharing the trend data at December's SAC meeting.
- A calendar will be shared with SAC for the 2021-2022 school year based on the overwhelming results from the survey that was completed by 174 students, parents, and teachers.

3) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Committee Work Plan Development

- School Policy Review – 3000 Series: the school administration has requested the committee review the 3000 series. Bring input to a committee member to discuss.
- School Calendar Review: the school will have a calendar committee. The calendar will be presented to SAC later this school year.

4) Public Feedback & Council Comments

Mike Makovec opened the floor the audience.

- Susan Davis said the RMI government has agreed to pay for the vaccines that are required for the Kwajalein School Rikatak students. Plans are being made to take these vaccinations to the Ebeye hospital to administer.
- Stacey O'Rourke would like to see the Pledge of Allegiance instituted at the High School.

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 7:25 p.m.



Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC