

KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2020

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Kwajalein School Advisory Committee (SAC) was called to order by Julia Sektnan, USAG-KA at 7:01 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

Committee Members Present:

Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Christina Dodson, ALUTIIQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Chad Gibbon, RGNEXT
Eric Corder, Rikatak Representative
Deirdre Wyatt-Pope, DYNCORP
Becky Foust, USACE
Jill Grabowski, PTO
Tarah Yurovchak, Principal KHS
Mallory Masciarelli, KSS Teacher Rep
Mackenzie Gowans, President, SGA

Visitors Present:

David Dethlefsen
Morgan Dethlefsen
Leticia Sanchez
Mary Beth Taylor
Mindi Gerber
Scott Hill
Nikki Cote
Karen Brady
Jane Sholar
Stephanie McCutcheon
Steve Dodson
Jessica Dambruch

1) Opening Remarks

Julia Sektnan opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Stephanie McCutcheon, Child and Youth Services Coordinator, gave a presentation on the new Teacher Exchange Program. There are 22 teachers participating in the program from the Ebeye Public School. Every Saturday morning, a rotating group of 11 teachers join the GSES teachers in their classrooms. In the afternoons, they go to the CDC for Professional Development with Nikki Cote. The exchange program will last a total of 14 weeks.

2) Monthly Reports

SGA Report – Mackenzie Gowans, President

SGA has met twice since the last SAC meeting; we met on January 17th, 2020 and February 14th, 2020.

Spartan Spirit Gear is available online, and there are several samples on display in the office. The Junior Class hosted a successful carnival fundraiser in January. For January's Spirit Day, students dressed like teachers - and some teachers dressed like students.

This month, the sophomores hosted Winter Ball, and the freshmen sold Valentine grams to raise money for their class. For February's Spirit Day, the school wore socks with sandals.

March's Spirit Day is Disney Day on March 12th, so some people might be prepping their outfits now.

New Business: At our January meeting, every class, other than 10th and 7th, verbally reported back to SGA about course selection for next year. Those classes said they would like guided help with what classes we should take and how to execute our 4-year plans. Students suggested the following courses be offered: more advanced computer classes, an easier/more general computer class, AP Spanish, physics, Sign Language, and intro to business. The majority of students in each class would not take choir or drama during lunch time; however, a couple kids from each class would like to see these courses reimplemented. This could mean that there may be enough combined interest from grades 7-12. More students preferred Drama over Choir.

Service Hours Celebration is on May 30th, students would like to have a lot of free time, but still have games provided. These games were egg toss, water balloon fight, scavenger hunt, and bouncy houses. Some even suggested organized sports tournaments. A committee was made for the service hour celebration to organize possible competitions.

A student was also looking for feedback on why the student and teacher representatives are not voting members of the SAC board.

The topic of school dances has been discussed. Sophomores suggested changing the rule of limiting the bathroom passes to one person, as people eat and then need to use the bathroom at around the same times. People also tend to take a while to get back. Freshmen suggested we make a school playlist with approved songs on a school Spotify account that classes can have access to. Sophomores suggested making a database or list of songs that classes can choose from. A committee was made to work on this. Sophomores also suggested that SGA order white tablecloths for the school to have on hand to use for dances.

Sophomores also brought up the issue that the chromebooks cannot print, and they thought it might be helpful to add that feature to them.

Teacher Representative Report - Mallory Masciarelli

Ashley Wright, K-6 Music: General music K-4 practicing music literacy and performance skills during February's Black History Month, including traditional African American spirituals, civil rights era protest music, and works of black composers and performers. All grades practicing to be independent learners and monitor their own progress through classroom centers. Grade 5 and 6 band welcoming a number of new students. Everyone is beginning preparation for the concert in May.

Carrie Maxwell, Geometry/Financial Algebra: Financial Algebra is finishing up a unit on Independent living where calculated interest on mortgage loans and looked at the cost of renting vs. buying a house.

Cindy Engen: Yearbooks for sale - last day to order Feb. 22, the cost is \$65 - can place an order through the kwajaleinschools.org website.

Ellen Potts, Grade 1: We are finishing a social studies unit on continents and oceans. We have also been learning about USA symbols.

Kyle Miller, Band: Jr/Sr High Band Concert Thursday, March 5 at 6:30pm. This year's POPS! concert features great music from the 70's and 80's, movies, and video games all chosen by the students.

Lauren Wallach, Character Counts: K-6th Grade students were focusing on setting and accomplishing short term goals. To celebrate Kindness month and 100 Days of School we all put our heads together to come up with 100 Words of Kindness. These are currently displayed around the door of the classroom building.

Mallory Masciarelli, AP Calculus: Students are working through the last big idea of calculus -- antiderivatives – in preparation for our May 5th Exam date!

Masina McCollum: Successful Military Fair - February 7, 2020; ACT - February 8

Matt Gerber: Engineering students have created flip flops, and other products, out of coconut husk! Hopefully those flip flops washing up on our beaches will be a thing of the past with these new inventions...someday!

Misti French: French's 5th Grade students welcomed 4 new students in the last month. After an American Revolution simulation on the playground, students began a month long unit on the formation of the government of the United States. The students are working on mastering American government information in preparation for the "Super Bowl of Government Knowledge" which will take place in the coming months.

An after-school group called "Mathletes" has started providing hands on math practice and intervention for 5th and 6th grade students. The group meets in room 21 Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

Robinson/French: KSS Chess Club recently held an afternoon of chess for the community. Twenty-four people stopped by Emon Beach and played chess on a variety of chess boards set around the main pavilion. Arrangements are being made to make this "Just Chessin' Around" event a monthly occurrence. Chess club currently has 31 members.

Kwajalein School System – Tarah Yurovchak, KJSHS Principal

Past:

The Military Fair was held on Friday, February 7th with 20 presenters and 43 students in attendance. Information about the ASVAB was given to all students by Mr. Norton, who explained how the test is helpful to them.

The Rikatak Parent Meeting was held in the MP room on Friday, January 31st. The Command Team, school faculty, Rikatak parents and students were in attendance to discuss important issues and resolutions that directly impact our Rikatak families. We appreciate how many parents and students were present for this meeting.

Winter Ball was held on Sunday, February 2nd from 7:30 to 11:30pm in the MP Room for high school students. The sophomore class did an excellent job providing a fun "World-Traveler" experience for students.

Congratulations to our GSE Student Council officers, who gave a presentation to community leaders about reducing waste in lunches (plastics, utensils, water bottles) with more eco friendly solutions. They represented their school well and we are looking forward to seeing these changes take place!

The ACT test was given on Saturday, February 8th, 2020. Five students were in attendance.

National Counseling Week took place the week of February 3-8. The counselors at both campuses celebrated their programs with staff and students throughout the week.

Coffee with the Principal at the Junior-Senior High School was held on February 15. Parents had the opportunity to discuss the course selection process for the 2020-2021 school year and to provide input for programming.

Present:

We are continuing to work on the 3000 series in the Kwajalein School System Policy Manual to update.

Our Spartan Water Polo teams are in playoffs and (hopefully!) the championship game that takes place this coming Tuesday.

Our high school Rikatak students are proposing an Ebeye Student Exchange to promote cultural understanding and build better relationships with our neighboring community.

For students who would like to play softball, sign-up sheets will be posted on the athletic board this week at the high school. For more information, please contact Rebecca Hiller.

To Come:

On the afternoon and evening of February 28th 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 from 1:00-6:30 p.m.

The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at 8:30am in CRC Room 1. All Juniors take the ASVAB to help them explore aptitudes they have for various careers. Any seniors that would like to take the test may also do so. Please contact Masina McCollum for more information.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Saturday, February 15, 2020:

High School: 112

Elementary: 115

Total K-12: 227

KSS Staffing Update:

We are currently in the process of hiring an Academic Support Specialist position vacated by Mary McCormick.

Mrs. Letitia Sanchez, our new teacher assistant arrived February 11 to work at the elementary school.

DynCorp is currently accepting applications for the Lead Administrator/Head of School position open for the 2020-2021 school year.

Additional Information:

Kwajalein Junior-Senior High School Social Science department will be modifying the sequencing of social science courses for the school year 2020-2021. The new structure will change which social science courses are offered at each grade level. The new sequence aligns with the DoDEA school system, as well as most stateside public schools. In addition, this sequencing will be supported by our new social science resources, materials, and curriculum that will be fully implemented next year. A representative from the social science department was present at the Coffee with the Principal on Feb 15th at 7:30 a.m. in the high school library. A representative will also be available at parent-teacher conferences on February 28th from 1:00-6:30 p.m. in the high school multi-purpose room, and the School Advisory Committee meeting on March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary Coconut Room to answer questions.

3) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Announce School Calendar 21-22 Committee Vote Results (5-4 Approved)

- The 2 committee members who were absent for last month's calendar vote are in favor of the proposed 2021/22 school calendar. SAC will advise the Commander to approve the calendar. The Commander will make the final decision.

B. Committee Work Plan Development

- School Policy Review – 3000 Series: the committee is collecting information. Parents are encouraged to go to the school portal and look over the policy.

C. Public Feedback & Council Comments

Julia Sektan opened the floor to the audience.

- Stacey O'Rourke asked if the SAC board could obtain a copy of the breakdown of students by employer. Mary Beth Taylor said she can send breakdown to Julia to distribute quarterly.
- Audience member asked if there has been further discussion for the teacher and student representatives to vote. Julia replied that tonight was the first time this question has been brought to her attention. Veronica Moos said this came up a few years ago and that Command had recommended that the student representative not attend the closed meetings. The teacher representative does attend the closed meetings. Audience member stated that he feels both the student representative and the teacher representative should have a vote within SAC since most matters needing a vote directly affect the teachers and students. Eric Corder said the teachers have representation with the Dyncorp Representative. Veronica Moos said teachers are also represented by the PTO vote. Julia said they will discuss this at the next closed meeting. There are many factors that determine the voting parties and the non-voting parties.
- Audience member expressed frustration that USAG-KA doesn't have a vote.

4) Closing Committee Remarks

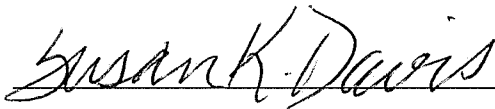
- Next SAC meetings will be March 18, 2020 and April 15, 2020.

Future Agenda Planning

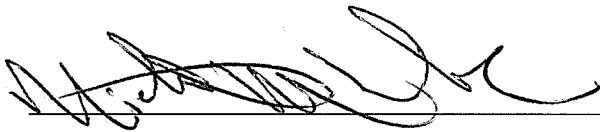
- Agendas will note future policy or non-policy issues up for discussion

5) **Adjournment**

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



Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC