

KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 15, 2020

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
Victor Burnley, USAG-KA RTS
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Becky Foust, USACE
Mary Beth Dawicki, PTO
Susan Davis, KSS Lead Administrator
Mallory Masciarelli, KSS Teacher Rep
Mackenzie Gowans, President, SGA

Visitors Present:

David Dethlefsen
Morgan Dethlefsen
Christi Cardillo
Mary Beth Taylor
Dawn Gray

1) Opening Remarks

Michael Makovec opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2) Monthly Reports

SGA Report – Mackenzie Gowans, President

SGA has not met since the last SAC meeting, but we will be meeting this Friday, April 17th.

Our next school spirit day is tomorrow, and it is Spartan Spirit Day. The May spirit day will be “focused on my future day” where students will dress up in something that represents their future (college sweatshirt, dress up like a career, etc.)

Prom and Romp are still on and will take place on Sunday, April 26th.

The Sophomore class will be holding their Tie Dye fundraiser at the Memorial Day celebration on Memorial Day weekend.

Teacher Representative Report - Mallory Masciarelli

Ashley Wright: General Music K-4, Band 5-6

K-3 welcomes Mrs. Masina McCollum as a guest artist in hula and Hawaiian culture as we learn the Hukilau song. Grade 4 students are enjoying learning to play recorder and are building responsibility by practicing at home and with friends and remembering to bring their instruments

and music to school. G5/G6 are almost finished learning choreography to the cardio drumming performance, a collaboration between PE and Music at GSES. The Kwajalein Band Family BBQ was a fun success with over 130 students and family attendees, and students are excited to keep this new tradition as a yearly event. Thank you to our Band Parents who helped set up, cook, serve, and clean up! GSES Band t-shirts have been ordered and shipped! We look forward to receiving those later this month.

Carrie West: Kindergarten

Kindergarten is learning how to identify coins and their value. We are working on Haikus that we are writing in honor of Earth Day.

Ellen Potts: 1st Grade

We are working on a nonfiction reading and writing unit. Students are researching an animal and will be writing a nonfiction story after.

Gary Stein: Speech/Language Pathology

A big shout out to the teachers with whom I have been working. They have been so gracious to assist with reminding speech & language students when I am not in the classroom with them. It is such a big help when students are reminded to use 'good speech' habits. Thank you.

Jane Premo: 4th Grade

Students are working on their Biography assignments involving reading biographies, and performing online research on their subjects, culminating in both 5-paragraph essays, and a class wide timeline covering all of our subjects. Upon completion, students will put on our Living Museum to demonstrate what we've learned! Additionally, we're just beginning to explore our Rube Goldberg experiments involving simple machines, forces, energy, waves, etc.

Kendra Robinson: HS English

10th grade is really getting into researching great inventions to write a research paper. 8th grade is really enjoying researching sea creatures to create a children's nonfiction book that they will read to students at the elementary when complete.

Kyle Miller: HS Band

The Band Family Beach BBQ was a huge success! Congratulations to the clarinet section, they were the overall winners of the event's competition. They will adorn the Spartan Band Spirit Drum with their names, and it will be displayed in the MP room. Major thanks to all the parents who helped prepare and serve the food, and to the band council members for planning the day's activities.

Lauren Wallach: Counselor, Character Counts and Student Council

Students are talking about being worried for family and friends at home. It is important that children discuss their concerns and get honest age-appropriate answers. Students in K-6 are connecting interests and skills with the world of work. Student council is revving up for a campus-wide service project on Earth Day (April 22).

Mallory Masciarelli: AP Calc, Algebra 2, and Precalculus

AP students are adjusting to new information about the online AP testing method for this year's exam. Algebra students are exploring radicals and exponential function properties. Precalculus

students would be happy to tell you their favorite trig identity or share the results of our version of March Madness where we faced off in an intense Tic-Tac-Toe Trigonometry bracket!

Steve Robinson: 6th Grade

The test run of work from home was successful. Students and teachers worked from home with minimal issues. Some students had connection issues, but everyone was working very well. There were some issues with video conferencing, but the test went as well as we could have hoped. The class has started listening to a podcast to tie in our listening comprehension skills with our Language Arts Standards and we have begun exploring Ancient Greece.

Karen Brady: 2nd Grade

2nd graders are investigating how the actions of heroes from long ago and the recent past have made a difference in others' lives. We also have just completed a book study on Charlotte's Web and are beginning a new book "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane." In our latest STEM challenge, each student designed a perch for their puffball using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Kwajalein School System – Susan Davis, KSS Lead Administrator

Past:

- Covid Preparedness meetings as a staff have covered hygiene, social distancing, and possible learning from home. We are grateful for the lack of Covid 19 in the Marshall Islands and for the time we have had to see how other schools are navigating the pandemic with school closures.
- We had our trial run of learning from home last week Friday, April 9th in the afternoon. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders were all allowed to borrow a ChromeBook for the afternoon and checked into their classes through Google Classroom. The feedback is still being gathered, but the early take-aways are:
 - The use of the internet did not show much of an impact on the residential network with these approximately 50 students using it.
 - Some students and teachers did notice that people dropped off when trying to have multiple people on Google Meet at the same time and video streaming was sometimes glitchy.
 - For the majority, connections seemed to work ok.
 - Communicating expectations to parents, students, and teachers so that we are all understanding the process will be the main issue. We are working on a set of instructions for online learning to include:
 - How to log in on your home network (have those passwords handy)
 - Minimizing other bandwidth uses during school and work time. This will take planning on the family's part to prioritize adult work, schoolwork, and recreational online activities such as Netflix and internet phone calls.
 - A list of phone numbers and emails for school help. This would include teachers, principals, and IT.
 - Basics of how to use Google Classroom and Google Meet

- What amount of time is expected for schoolwork?
- How can we do school if there is no internet or my device doesn't work?
- What will grades look like if school closes?
- How do we take tests?

Present:

- Currently, we have had conversations with students about good hygiene, handwashing techniques, hand sanitizer use, and social distancing.
- DynCorp has installed hand sanitizer dispensers throughout both campuses. Teachers spray and wipe down high touch areas after students leave at lunch time and custodians do so again at the end of the school day.
- Activities and events have been approved to continue for the remainder of the school year with some modifications for Covid19 prevention. A few examples of these modifications include:
 - Graduation: limiting attendance to family members only and live streaming for others, with a possible parade through the housing area on golf carts for friends and community members to cheer on the graduates
 - Field Day: use of hand sanitizer and small groups of students rotating through field day events
 - Spartan Espresso: the tables will be spread farther apart and the customer line will use markers on the floor to keep people 6 feet apart
 - Prom: expand the spacing of tables and provide social distance "breaks"
- The KSS policy documented has years and layers of varying Word Formatting that makes it difficult to revise yearly. Anne Dowell is currently working on retyping the entire document using the latest software available to fix the formatting issues. This is much appreciated and the Draft that was shared in March, will have the same content, but will be easier to read when she is done typing. The school requests the SAC's advisement on the policies.
- The Junior Senior High School schedule is tentatively completed at this time. There are usually a few changes before the school year starts, but all students should be aware of their schedules for next year. If there are any questions, Mrs. Yurovchak and Mrs. McCollum are the ones to direct them to.

To Come:

- AP tests have been scheduled for May 9-22nd.
- The ACT testing date will be June 13th.
- The SAT testing date will be June 6th.
- We have been watching the school playground closely over the past several months and the cracks in the beams were continuing to grow. The patches were no longer closing the gaps on the bridge and support decks, screws were starting to protrude from under the slide, and it was deemed unsafe in the playground inspection report. It has been taken

down and we have submitted our request for a replacement playground at the elementary school. We are collecting student ideas and are hoping to get approval to order new equipment for the 2020-2021 school year.

- NWEA testing will be occurring at both campuses in May. Homeschool students are invited to join for testing by calling the office and speaking with a counselor to make arrangements.
- There are many activities coming up that can be found in our Administrative Planning Calendar. Please pick one up before you leave.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Saturday, April 15, 2020:

High School: 113

Elementary: 112

Total K-12: 225

KSS Staffing Update:

- We are still looking at only replacing three positions for next year: The new Lead Administrator/Elementary Principal, the Speech Language Pathologist, and one Teacher Assistant. These positions have been filled. As I mentioned last month the new Administrator's name is Paul Uhren and he will be moving here with his wife from Wisconsin. He has 30 years of experience in education as a teacher, principal, and district administrator. The plan is for him to arrive July 15th with some time to prepare for the new school year. The new Speech Language Pathologist is Christy Johnson and the new teacher assistant is Kristen Behrends. These ladies will be arriving in August to start the new school year.

Additional Information:

Spring Climate Survey from Parents, Students, and School Staff: summary of results will be read. This information will be shared with staff to help us in continuing to grow and strive for excellence in all we do. Your feedback is important to us and we appreciate the feedback and the journey it helps us with in offering the best education that we can for your children.

3) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Committee Work Plan Development

- School Policy Review – 3000 Series: the committee is finalizing the proposed revisions. The revised policy will be voted on in the May SAC meeting.

C. Public Feedback & Council Comments

Michael Makovec opened the floor to the audience.

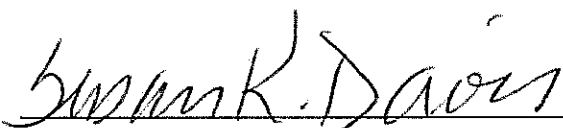
- Michael Makovec had some clarification on voting and nonvoting members of SAC. The nonvoting positions are the School Administrator, Teacher Representative, Student Representative, and the USAG-KA Education Services Representative. The School Administrator should be voting on the school's policies. The Teacher Representative should not be voting on his or her own duties. Two concerns came up about the Student Representative voting. In the past, there have been scheduling conflicts with extracurricular activities. There are also many adult level conversations during the closed meetings. Without access to these discussions in the closed meeting, the Student Representative would have information on which to base his or her vote. These are the justifications SAC has been following. A meeting with CSM Gaskins will need to occur if a revision is requested.
- Victor Burnley referenced an article he read about some universities not requiring ACT or SAT scores for admission. Has the school heard anything about these tests getting cancelled later this year? Susan explained that the April tests have been cancelled, but the June tests are still scheduled as of now.
- Audience member said that her kids came home talking about a possibility of school starting early for the 2020/21 school year if we are all landlocked on Kwajalein through the summer. She fully supports the idea since she expects the kids to go stir crazy if they have nothing to do all summer. Susan Davis stated that the idea was shared with her the day before and she has not had the opportunity to discuss this option yet.
- Audience member verified that he should talk to CSM Gaskins to pursue allowing the Student Representative to have a vote.

4) Closing Committee Remarks

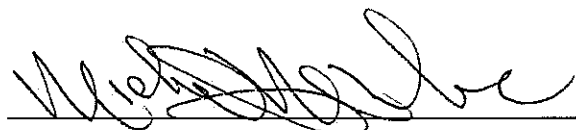
- Next SAC meetings will be May 20, 2020
- **Future Agenda Planning:** Agendas will note future policy or non-policy issues up for discussion.

5) Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC