

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
**SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 18, 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 7:01 p.m. in the Coconut Room.

**Committee Members Present:**

Michael Makovec, USAG-KA  
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO  
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ  
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL  
Eric Corder, Rikatak Representative  
Becky Foust, USACE  
Ashley Howe, PTO  
Susan Davis, KSS Lead Administrator  
Mallory Masciarelli, KSS Teacher Rep  
Mackenzie Gowans, President, SGA

**Visitors Present:**

Melissa Dethlefsen	Chelsea Reed
Morgan Dethlefsen	Doug Hepler
Deidre Wyatt Pope	Barbara Bicanich
Brad Reed	Dawn Gray
Andrea Strong	Conrad Acosta
Stephen Robinson	Jane Sholar
Mary Beth Taylor	Julie Makovec
Mindi Gerber	

**1) Opening Remarks**

Michael Makovec opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Student Exchange Presentation: Kwajalein Junior-Senior High School welcomed 22 students and 3 chaperones from Ebeye for a day. The visitors joined the KHS Rikatak students for the school day. It was a great experience everyone involved.

Social Studies Department Presentation: 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. Teachers presented the changes to the SAC board and audience members.

**2) Monthly Reports**

**SGA Report – Mackenzie Gowans, President**

At the March 13th SGA meeting, the SGA officers updated the class officers on SAC happenings.

One of the students on the Service Hour Celebration gave an update on their progress for planning the event. Class officers were informed that the school did their best to provide the

desired classes for the 2020-2021 school year. There is a Spartan Spirit Gear design competition. The deadline for students to hand in their designs was pushed to April 16th, which will also be our next spirit day, which is Spartan Spirit Day.

### **Teacher Representative Report - Mallory Masciarelli .**

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

March is Music in Our Schools Month! We are highlighting the positive impacts school music programs have in our community. Morning announcements and a bulletin board in GSES share with students the KSS teachers who also participated in music and what it means to them. Be on the lookout in the upcoming Hourglass for Music in Our Schools Month features. K-2 continues practicing self-managed learning in centers and preparing to begin spring concert practice. Grade 3 will soon begin transitioning to reading standard music notation (ie notes on the treble clef staff, etc). Grade 4 has started playing recorders (to the joy of all our ears!) Grade 5 and 6 band continue rehearsing for the spring concert in May. Links to purchase band t-shirts are up, as well as a sign up for the Band Family BBQ Saturday March 28! KHS Senior Kayla Hepler is doing a great job as our K-2 music student teacher, as well as our Saturday teaching assistants Kim O'Rourke and DJ Chong Gum!

**Carrie Maxwell:** Geometry/Financial Algebra

Financial Algebra just finished working on their taxes and are now starting to look at the Stock market and how it works. Geometry is finishing up their unit on right triangles and trigonometry. We took Saturday off to celebrate Pi day with a few fun activities and ate some Pie.

**Don Engen:** Math

ACT/SAT Prep sessions continue on Sundays from 1-3 pm; hoping the students' efforts pay off on their ACT and SAT scores! The Math Clinic meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 - 4pm.

**Jane Christy:** K-12 Art

The elementary students had a wonderful art show last night! The theme was IF and there were lots of fun costumes and a great turn out to support our young artists. The kids really enjoyed seeing each other's artwork and loved showing off their creativity and talent to parents.

**Kyle Miller:** Band

March is National Music in our Schools Month. Thanks for kicking off this month at the Kwaj POPS concert. There have been daily announcements highlighting the musical journeys of many of our KSS faculty and staff. Jr and Sr high band students have been following Nashville Public Radio's March Music Madness, gaining exposure to great classical music. We will finish celebrating Music in our Schools Month with a Band Family Beach BBQ on the 28th.

**Masina McCollum:** KJSHS Counselor

7th-12th grade Rikatak students successfully hosted the first Exchange Program with students from Kwajalein Atoll High School and Ebeye Public Middle School. Thanks to NHS for providing breakfast. A spaghetti lunch was served and cooked by the Rikatak students. 22

students and 3 chaperones spent the day shadowing our Rikatak students. It was a great day for all!

**Mallory Masciarelli:** AP Calc & Algebra 2

Calculus students are wrapping up their chapter on differential equations/slope fields this week, and Algebra 2 students will start their polynomial projects this Saturday!

**Kendra Robinson:** English

Tenth grade students are having a lot of fun building their own Kahoots to review their knowledge of To Kill a Mockingbird. Eighth grade students are gearing up to write a persuasive essay, and seventh grade is excited to be reading Ender's Game as a class and completing vocabulary Sketch notes to strengthen and process the vocabulary in the novel. I have also been seeing K-6 students for a couple of weeks now and they are working great in their reading groups with me. There have been a variety of activities to learn reading strategies to help support them in the classroom.

**Steve Robinson:** 6th Grade

6th grade is wrapping up our latest novel study. Once we complete the novels, we will be starting a project based around the themes within the two stories. In science we finished a unit on the hydrosphere last week with 5th grade.

**Carrie West:** Kindergarten

Kindergarten is learning about how to tell time to the hour, about how rainbows are made, and writing complete sentences. They are doing a great job! The Leprechaun came to our classroom Tuesday morning and left a mess, to the delight of the class!

**Lauren Wallach:** Character Counts

Students in grades 4-6 are taking interest surveys and exploring career options and goals. Kinder – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are discussing the habits and skills needed to be successful in college.

**Misti French:** 5th Grade

Ms. French and her 5th Graders are trailblazing into the future with instruction through technology. The teaching and learning continued uninterrupted thanks to Ms. French, Ms. Norton, Ms. Brown, Ms. Wamsley, Ms. Graboswski and Mr. Robinson.

**GSES Student Council** is gearing up for exciting projects in April: Service projects are planned for Earth Day and be sure to stop by our table to purchase hand painted reusable shopping bags at the Craft Fair. We are “Saving the World One Island at a Time.”

**Kwajalein School System – Susan Davis, KSS Lead Administrator**

**Past:**

- Monthly fire drills were held in February at both campuses without issue.
- Parent Teacher Conferences were held at the end of the month and well-attended.
- Parents and students provided feedback on the Spring Survey to assist in our school improvement efforts. The school will share those results at next month's SAC meeting.

- Basketball season ended with some exciting championship games attended by a spirited crowd!

**Present:**

- We still welcome any feedback on the proposed KSS policy revisions to the 3000 series. There are formatting issues with the document due to software application changes over the year. The school hopes to have the policy reformatted by mid-April and will ask SAC to vote on the policy at the April meeting.
- Students at the junior-senior high school registered for next year's classes this afternoon during Mentorship meetings. Our registrar and counselor will begin the process of creating the schedule based on their selections. As always, the selections students made, which required a signature from parents, will be worked out to the best of our ability. In a small school, this can be a challenge.
- Physics will be in the schedule this year, regardless of the numbers.
- At the elementary campus, we have Vanessa Wamsley substitute teaching in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom each morning due to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher being caught off-island during the travel ban. Misti French is teaching remotely via the Zoom app and Google Classroom while Mrs. Wamsley supervises the students. In the afternoons, 5<sup>th</sup> graders are joining the 6<sup>th</sup> graders for science with Mr. Robinson and then when not in their special's classes, they are with Mrs. Norton in the computer lab working independently on their online assignments with Mrs. French via the internet. It has really been something to witness! The kids are doing well and excited to see their teacher each morning, even if she is only 2 dimensional.
- In the midst of the world-wide Covid 19 pandemic, we are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to keep students and staff healthy.
  - Students have been instructed on good handwashing techniques and reminded to cough into elbows. We have hand sanitizer in each room and encourage frequent use.
  - We are wiping down desk and table surfaces with a bleach and water solution after students leave for lunch, and the custodial staff is wiping things down again at the end of the school day.
  - Drinking and eating from shared containers is highly discouraged.
  - Currently, there is NO plan to close the school. If the Garrison decides that this is necessary at a future date, the school will be ready.
  - Today, we spent the time to make sure all teachers used the Google Classroom platform to set up their classes. This was part of a goal for school improvement for next year, that we just moved up a few months as it will be a useful tool IF a school closure were needed. Administration chose this online platform for ease of use for all families. It will be easier if families know that all their children sign into their online classrooms the same way, rather than seeing a variety of different platforms among the various grades and classes. Our hope is that we would not need to extend the school year if we keep students engaged in school activities online.
  - I will share with you a more detailed plan IF we do move towards needing a school closure.

**To Come:**

- The ACT and SAT testing dates have been cancelled for the month of April. ACT has rescheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> and SAT does not have information yet on new dates. Right now, we do not have any details about new testing dates for us or for stateside testing locations. The school counselor is communicating with this agency to discover what our options are on Kwajalein and will share that information with high school families soon.

**KSS Enrollment Update:**

As of Wednesday, March 18, 2020:

High School: 113

Elementary: 112

Total K-12: 225

**KSS Staffing Update:**

- The Academic Support Specialist position has been offered and we are awaiting an acceptance of the offer. The new teacher would begin in August of the new school year.
- We are saying goodbye to our Speech Language Pathologist, Gary Stein, this June. She will join her husband on a new adventure, and she will be missed. We thank her for her work with our students and wish her well.
- We have offered the SLP position to another applicant and are awaiting an acceptance of the offer.
- The interviews for the new Lead Administrator and Elementary Principal have been completed. The new Administrator's name is Paul Uhren and he will be moving here with his wife from Wisconsin in late July or early August. He has 30 years of experience in education as a teacher, principal, and district administrator. He is excited to be coming on board. I look forward to having some time with him before I PCS to share information and help make his transition a positive one.

**Additional Information:**

- We have a lot of wonderful activities planned to enhance our students' school experiences between now and the end of the school year. These include:
  - Prom
  - Senior graduation
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade promotion
  - Field day
  - Service Celebration
  - Beach Day
  - Stem Day
  - Concerts
  - Ballroom Dinner Dance

**3) Discussion/Action Items:****A. Committee Work Plan Development**

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

### C. Public Feedback & Council Comments

Michael Makovec opened the floor to the audience.

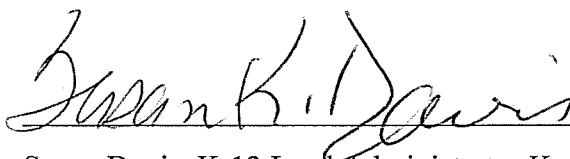
- Audience member asked for clarification. In the event the school is closed, and we rely on a Google platform for interaction with the teacher, can it be scheduled for set blocks of time? Families with multiple children in the school cannot be expected to use their home computer at the same time. Susan Davis responded that the school hasn't worked out those details. The school has discussed setting check in times for students. It is a great reminder that there may be multiple students sharing one computer. It gives the school something to think about.
- Audience member asked about the possibility of offering the SAT and ACT in June due to the recent postponement of the upcoming college entrance exams. Susan Davis replied that the school is looking at all possibilities. The school will be gathering information to find the best option for our students.
- Audience member said it would be best for her family if the tests could be offered here in June. There is a chance they will not be going anywhere this summer so a locally administered test would be their only option.
- Audience member asked about how a potential school closure would impact the Rikatak students. Is there a plan to put physical packets together so they don't fall behind? With power on Ebeve being so inconsistent, it may not be good to rely on the internet. Susan Davis said the school was looking at loaning Chromebooks to the Rikatak students. For the students without access to internet, the school will provide textbooks and homework packets. All options are being considered.

#### 4) Closing Committee Remarks

- Next SAC meetings will be April 15, 2020 and 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 7:24 p.m.



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Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



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Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC