

**KWAJALEIN SCHOOL SYSTEM
SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 20, 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
Victor Burnley, USAG-KA RTS
Chad Gibbon, RGNNext
Eric Corder, RITAKAK
Veronica Moos, TRIBALCO
Christina Dodson, ALUTHQ
Stacey O'Rourke, MIT/LL
Becky Foust, USACE
Jill Grabowski, PTO
Susan Davis, KSS Lead Administrator
Mallory Masciarelli, KSS Teacher Rep
Mackenzie Gowans, President, SGA

Visitors Present:

Anne Dowell	Dawn Gray
John O'Rourke	Karen Brady
Jane Sholar	Jane Premo
Rob Ewbank	Deirdre Wyatt-Pope
Don Engen	Leticia Sanchez
Stephen Robinson	Eric Miller
Kathleen O'Rourke	Julie Makovec
Kendra Robinson	Stephanie Finley
Maria Sadowski	Nikki Cote
Amy LaCost	Donald Cote
Morgan Dethlefsen	Hannah Finley
Karen Acosta	Stephanie McCutcheon
Kevin Melody	Mandy Melody
Don Engen	Cindy Engen
Kristen Hosek	Ellen Potts
Karyn Lundberg	Chelsea Reed
Derek Miller	Scott Hill

1) Opening Remarks

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

The Child and Youth Services Coordinator, Dr. Stephanie McCutcheon, shared information about the programs they will be offering to the Kwajalein youth this summer. This includes youth sports, summer camp with a new weekly theme, and activities through the Teen Center. Flyers and calendars were available to all in attendance.

2) Monthly Reports

SGA Report – Mackenzie Gowans, President

The May 16th SGA meeting was the final meeting for student government this school year.

The SGA was updated on the SAC happenings, which included information about the student SGA rep staying a non-voting member and SY21-22 school calendar update (at the time, there was no official approval). The music committee gave an update and said that they are still in the process of compiling a list of approved songs for school dances. We discussed the dance rules;

the freshman asked if we could allow homeschooled students to attend our dances as well as student guests from Ebeye. A group of students volunteered to read through the student handbook with questions/revisions.

New issues that were brought up include that the bike racks behind the high school library are falling apart, so students can't use them, the request for a longer soccer season, and to move the announcements to the first period because students are off campus during third. The Junior class asked what the school plans to do if we all remain on the island over the summer (i.e start earlier or keep the same school year start time). SGA discussed the idea of moving the early start calendar schedule (where the semester ends before winter break) to the school year 20-21, and they unanimously agreed that this would be the favored option. Note: This was solely the vote of the SGA, not the entire student body as the discussion came up during our lunch meeting and not in all class meetings.

Teacher Representative Report - Mallory Masciarelli

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

Thursday May 14 was our K-6 Spring Concert! This Friday we conclude our GSES concert season with our Grade 5 and 6 Spring Band Concert. Grade 4 is enjoying guests from our elementary, Jr High, and Sr High school bands to learn about different instruments and what band-life is all about. By the end of May, Grade 4 will complete the instrument tryout process to find the right fit for them in Grade 5 Band next year! Grade K-3 will continue honing their music literacy, composition, and creativity skills as we explore Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Finally, we are excited to announce the addition of PreK Music to our program next school year, in partnership with CYS! Thank you all for your support of music at GSES this year and we look forward to more fantastic music-making with students in the school year 2020-2021!

Carrie Maxwell: HS Math

Financial Algebra have started their family budget projects. Each student has received a job and family situation. They will construct a monthly budget to provide for their family, making sure to live within their income.

Ellen Potts: 1st Grade

First graders will be sharing their final draft stories with parents on June 3rd.

Colleen England: Elementary PE

Field Day will be on June 6, 8:30 - 11:30

Jane Christy: Art

We had a fantastic 7-12 grade Art Show on May 19th. The theme this year was IF. The students worked hard and everyone who came seemed to really enjoy seeing the amazing artwork.

Jamie Norton: K-6 Technology and Library

Each kindergarten student has researched and drawn two zoo animals. In groups of five, they have combined their research and pictures to create a zoo. Next up, presentations. First and second graders are discovering how core subject areas (math, science, reading/writing, and social

studies) and technology can be integrated. Third through sixth graders are completing typing units; focusing on speed and accuracy while using appropriate posture and finger position.

Jane Premo: 4th Grade

Parents and fellow dolphins visited our Living Museum to learn about the lives of such influential people as Sir Isaac Newton to Jesse Owens to Edgar Allen Poe. Our research papers on our subjects not only tell about their lives, but also about what we've learned about sentence structure and syntax this year! Additionally, we're putting the finishing touches on our Rube Goldberg machines. Determining how to add/subtract mass and/or speed to influence energy has been frustrating as well as fun.

Kyle Miller: Band

Jr/Sr High Band concert will be held tomorrow, May 21, where we will honor our Seniors on their final performance in the Spartan Bands! Stage band will perform some highlights from the dinner dance, Jr. Band has a variety of marches, and HS Band will feature environmental and astronomy themed music.

Lauren Wallach: Character Counts, Student Council and NWEA

Students are wrapping up a great year studying the 6 Pillars of Character. The SC finished projects and fundraisers and are ready to relax with the end of year "day at the movies." K-12 are rocking their NWEA assessments- lots of growth this year- Yay for teaching and learning! We were happy to welcome 5 Home School Students to join us for NWEA.

Mary Brown: HS Computers/Technology

Students in the Computer Repair & Networking classes have not only been preparing for CompTIA (pronounced Comp Tee Ah) A+ and Net+ exams, but also gaining experience troubleshooting and repairing desktop computers, LOTS of Chromebooks, graphing calculators as well as LCD projectors.

Game Design students have been learning the Javascript programming language as well as the mechanics of what goes into good game design, such as the theme, mechanics, rules, and victory conditions. They created a fun Kwajopoly game, which saw Connor Charlton and Ashley Homuth battle it out for who was the best Kwaj tycoon, as well as a game based on the tv series, The Bachelor, which saw a lot of back and forth movement as the bachelorettes jockeyed to win the engagement ring. It's been a fun class for everyone.

Steve Robinson: 6th Grade

6th grade is wrapping up their NWEA testing for the spring and the students are glad to be done with that. We are also starting the annual "Mars Project" which ties in Math, Science, and ELA skills as the students design and discuss a habitat that they would build on the red planet. We had a successful trip to the Middle/High School last week for the first annual Future Spartan Day where the kids got to shadow 7th graders for the day to help ease their transition from the elementary school.

Mallory Masciarelli: HS Math

Precalculus students are finishing up their cryptography project with matrices and Algebra II students are exploring the world of trigonometry. AP Calc successfully completed their exam last week! Good luck to Stats students this Saturday!

Kwajalein School System – Susan Davis, KSS Lead Administrator

Past:

- KSS Revised Policies were shared with the community in March and again in May. The focus this year was on the 3000 series, though minor changes were also made in the other series.
- Our feedback from the online trial was helpful. The school maintains that in-person teaching is our best method of delivery, however, the trial showed that working online with students in their homes is doable. Alternative plans for students with textbooks and hardcopies of assignments would also be an option. If this were required of us, we are prepared to implement.
- Yesterday, our Fine Arts and Industrial Arts Teachers held a junior senior high school art show from 4-5pm. We hope parents were able to get to the art studio to view the creative and skillful work students have produced this year.

Present:

- The ACT testing date will be June 13th, however, it is still possible that this could change. We will plan for the 13th, and keep you posted on any new developments.
- The SAT tests have been cancelled for the summer of 2020 due to Covid 19. No SATs are scheduled at this time.
- NWEA testing continues at the Elementary School this week. Students should be finished by next week and results will be shared for all students K-12 with final report cards at the end of the school year.
- The final AP exam will be held this week Saturday.
- Finals will begin on Saturday, May 22nd for Zero hour and continue May 27th-May 29th for all other classes. Wednesday May 27th will not be the normal early release for junior senior high school students. Students will have a final that day finishing at 3pm. Elementary will remain a shortened day as per the normal calendar.
- The week following finals, junior senior high school teachers will be going over NWEA and Finals results with students and working on special projects to enhance continued learning.

To Come:

- The school is working with the same company installing playgrounds for CYS to develop a plan for the new elementary school playground. The plan includes many students requests and upgraded materials to stave off rust. The timeline we are looking at would include installation over the summer.
 - KJSHS band concert Thursday at 6:30 pm in the MP room.
 - 5th and 6th grade band concert Friday at 5:00 pm in the MP room.
 - Next week, we have the junior senior high school awards assembly from 10-11:30 on Saturday, May 30th followed by the Service Hours Celebration at Camp Hamilton.
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Parents of students receiving awards will receive a notification to attend if they wish. We are not opening it up to all parents this year, in order to respect social distancing.

- On the same day, we have the elementary Awards Assembly from 12:30-1:15pm, May 30th. Students and teachers will all be traveling to Emon Beach for our LtoJ School-Wide Celebration from 1:15-3:30. Due to limited space in the elementary gym, we will be celebrating school awards with students and teachers only. Parents are welcome to meet us afterwards at Emon Beach. Please be sure to have your students apply sunscreen before returning to school after lunch and stop by to help reapply or make sure they have sunscreen to reapply themselves in their backpacks. More information will be coming out on the Portal.
- A promotion ceremony for 6th graders will take place at Emon Beach on June 3rd at 5:15pm. Parents and teachers are invited to attend. More information will be coming out on the Portal, for this event as well.
- Graduation will be held on June 5th in the MP room. We have modified our traditional graduation. Graduating seniors will have tickets for 10 family members or close friends to attend in the MP room. Educators, Scholarship presenters, and VIPs will also be seated in the MP room. This will cut our normal attendance in about half. All other community members are invited to attend a live video showing on the inflatable movie screen on Demeo Field, adjacent to KJSHS. Bring your lawn chairs. Seniors will move to the outside of the building and line up 10 feet apart so that we can all enjoy the tradition of congratulating our graduates and presenting them with leis.
- Please refer to the list of events sent out a few weeks ago to know what other special things are happening at the school. We also have copies of the Administrative Calendar available at this meeting.

KSS Enrollment Update:

As of Wednesday, May 20, 2020:

High School: 113

Elementary: 111

Total K-12: 224

KSS Staffing Update:

- The following staff members will be new next year:
 - Paul Uhren-Head of School/Elementary Principal
 - Christy Johnson- Speech Language Pathologist
 - Academic Support Teacher- Pending
 - Teacher Assistant- Kristen Behrends
 - Teacher Assistant- Brenda Jorlang
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Additional Information:

- Spring Climate Survey from Parents, Students, and School Staff: summary of results will be read
 - Moving? The school needs to know for planning purposes if you are moving and disenrolling your students from Kwajalein School System. Please contact either school office to get started on this process if you know your child will not be attending school here next year. A reminder will be going out on the Portal.
 - **School Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year is still in effect.** The school has not proposed any changes. One individual has shared two possible ideas with me for early start calendars. I have passed them along my chain of command for their awareness. The school, as a whole, has not endorsed any changes to the calendar and has not asked for changes.
 - I first want to thank the few people that have taken the time to email or speak to me in person about calendar ideas. My door is always open, and though I don't have all the answers, I do appreciate being given the opportunity to understand and process the issues in an honest manner. I respect the direct communication.
 - I understand that in the last 24 hours, there has been a sharp increase in community interest to make a late change to the 2020-2021 school calendar. I understand the desire for many of our families and our teachers to want an opportunity to travel off the island when travel opens up, and I am interested in what people have to say. I will be taking notes, but before hearing people out, I would like to share my own thoughts on the impact of changing the calendar.
 - First, I believe all students and teachers and staff need a mental break from the classroom. The teaching profession is emotionally demanding day in and day out. I believe a healthy break to recharge would take more than a week or two.
 - Second, it is not simple to open up the school doors to start a new school year. The summertime is when the lead administrator puts together plans, researches resources, prepares for new staff member arrivals, goes over curriculum maps, and approves new enrollees. They keep up with school maintenance projects, review handbooks, attend to the contractor's requirements, take care of last minute staffing issues, inventory materials, creatively plan for improvement in student programs and teacher professional development, and attend to other student and teacher needs that cannot be squeezed into the day to day during the school year. Starting up school in June or July would significantly impact the amount of time to prepare for the new school year. You have a lead administrator on the way out and a new one on the way in that very much wants to be a part of the start to the new school year.
 - Any change in the school calendar has a domino effect throughout the Kwajalein and Ebeye Communities. We plan the calendars out two years in advance in order to give people time for planning within their jobs and with their families. Making these changes very quickly to school attendance dates affects many more than just school stakeholders.
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- The CYS department would have to change all of their summer programming to accommodate school starts and vacations. This affects their staffing, programming, and the ability to stagger their employee's vacations.
 - Supplies have been ordered for the start of the new school year, with arrival dates in August and September. A June or July start would mean our teachers start the school year without all of their supplies. The office will have to operate without all of their supplies.
 - The summer maintenance projects would not happen. DPW would need to reschedule for winter break. They would need to ensure they have people in place to get them done in a shorter time frame over the holidays or put off til the following summer which is 2 years with no attention to major projects such as the science lab remodels or removal of asbestos flooring.
 - Food services would be impacted with a need to provide lunches during the summer. This would require high level conversations with the RMI government at an earlier than anticipated date to discuss funding of school lunches for Rikatak students.
 - MWR would have to adjust sports seasons and schedules or leave the school out of the leagues.
 - All Army, government, and contractor staffing will be affected when employees with families now all want vacations during the winter holidays.
 - Contractual agreements between KSS staff and DI HR would also have to be worked out to determine payment of one contract while working on the following contract.
- I am in agreement with the high school principal, that if an earlier start is strongly desired, that a good compromise would be to implement the 2021-2022 school calendar a year earlier. School would start the first week of August and end the last week of May.
 - Lastly, I would like to share the opinion of the new Lead Administrator, Paul Uhren. His recommendation to SAC would be to leave the calendar as previously approved starting the new school year in August.

3) Discussion/Action Items:

A. Committee Work Plan Development

- School Policy Review – 3000 Series: during the closed meeting, the committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposed revisions to the policies.

C. Public Feedback & Council Comments

Michael Makovec opened the floor to the audience.

- Stacey O'Rourke would like to see two versions of a calendar for 2020/21: the current calendar and the other calendar option presented last year with the fall semester ending

before winter break. Then, if the travel ban does not lift by a drop date, the school start date shifts forward by 2 weeks.

- Veronica Moos requests that if we do not change the 2020/21 calendar, she would like to delay the 2021/22 calendar until the following year to allow her child to have a full summer to visit colleges.
 - Chad Gibbon stated that RGNNext employees have been told they cannot go on leave unless it is emergency leave.
 - Audience member asked what will happen if the travel ban lifts and people start to travel. If the borders suddenly close again, will school be taught virtually? The concern goes beyond the calendar. We need more information. Michael Makovec assured the audience member that SAC would obtain as much information as possible and give the administration a better picture of all concerns.
 - All SAC members stated that they have heard that community members are interested in an earlier school start date for 2020/21.
 - Audience member asked what the criteria is for the RMI to open back up.
 - Mary Beth Taylor asked if companies other than RGNNext have restricted travel for this summer. This was confirmed by Berry Aviation, MIT, and USAG-KA employees in the audience.
 - Audience member voiced concern about the motive for the sudden calendar change. Is this for the benefit of the students or benefit of family vacations? Michael Makovec said that we are not pursuing a change. We are allowing the public to speak up about what will benefit the community the most. As of right now, this school is carrying on with the existing calendar while we listen to the concerns of the community and weigh out the different options.
 - Audience member asked where and when the idea came about. Susan Davis responded that it was shared with her the day before the last SAC meeting. Audience member said he feels that we should instead focus on what will happen if the borders open and we suddenly need an action plan to prevent the spread of the virus.
 - Another audience member said that there should be several different plans. Her goal is to have the students start their school year sooner if everyone is stuck here. She recognizes that everyone needs a break but expects everyone to be ready if we resume school sooner. There is only so much to do on this island. No one knows what the situation will look like throughout this school year. It would be good to be prepared for a few different scenarios.
 - Student in the audiences pleaded to not start school in June. Another student supported shifting the shorter summer currently scheduled for 2021 to this summer. This will allow him more time to tour colleges next summer before he begins his senior year.
 - Audience member said he intends to travel if the travel ban lifts later this summer. His son will be a senior and he does not want to miss out on an opportunity to travel if the ban lifts. His other concern was the new students trying to move to Kwajalein. Starting early will put them behind as well.
 - Audience member was concerned about keeping the kids occupied during the summer. CYS confirmed that they are staffed and ready to entertain the elementary students. Audience member was worried about the older students and what will keep them occupied.
 - Audience member agreed that it would be useful to be prepared for different scenarios. It will be very taxing on our community if COVID arrived. She would like to start the school year and get as far into it before COVID arrives.
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- Many expressed concern with the island's bandwidth. Will it be capable of supporting the students if they are learning from home?
 - The Speech Language Pathologist stated that an additional few weeks of summer assists with the maturity of our 4 and 5 year old children who will be entering kindergarten this fall.
 - Audience member feels that a 2 week shift is a good compromise. These two weeks could give the school more flexibility if the island suddenly needs to adapt to virtual learning. She voiced concern about the SAC board not filling the position of the Dyncorp Representative. She wants the voting representative to be involved in these conversations. Mary Beth Taylor turned to the audience to encourage anyone interested to let her know. Both Dyncorp SAC representatives that have filled that position this year have departed DI.
 - Audience member is wondering, does the school have all the resources and personnel it needs to start to the school year early?
 - Audience member asked about the travel ban affecting the teachers. Are teachers still going to travel if the incoming travel ban stays in place? If so, what will occur in the classrooms if they can't get back? He knows the 5th grade teacher has been instructing from off island. Will that be the expected protocol in other classrooms as well? What is the protocol for families and teachers stuck off island when school resumes? He would like to know if the 10-day absence rule can be changed for this school year so families can travel once the ban lifts without repercussions. Most likely, travel will need to be staggered because we can't all leave at once. Families staying on island for 21 months straight is a pretty extensive amount of time. Susan Davis expects the school to take into account the situation and the circumstances at the time. We can't reasonably request that everyone abide by the 10-day absence policy when considering the situation currently being discussed. She is not sure what the next lead administrator, DI, or the Commander will say about the matter, but she expects everyone will be reasonable. Misti French and Vanessa Wamsley have teamed up and created a great environment in the classroom. It will be a stretch to duplicate that in multiple classrooms. The Dyncorp IT department has been wonderful. They are currently putting together some suites with webcams and chromebooks to be prepared if this arrangement if it is needed in other classrooms. There are written plans that have been shared with Susan's supervisor. It has not been shared with the parents because the plan will continue to evolve around the circumstances. The school is preparing for what will happen if the borders open and there is a case of COVID. If the Commander closes the school, we do have plans.
 - Audience member was concerned about the slow internet at the end of the workday. How will our internet support all student learning online? Susan Davis responded that the school knows that the teachers cannot teach live or stream videos to their students at the same time. The school will balance the teacher availability. Some will do their planning in the morning and then be available to students online in the afternoon. Others will be available to students in the morning and do their planning in the afternoon. We hope this helps the community's bandwidth by not having everyone logging in at once to be online for school.
 - Audience member asked if the new superintendent would be working virtually or if Susan Davis' contract would be extended until Paul Uhren arrives on island. Susan Davis said she has offered to stay. The current plan is that Paul Uhren will arrive in July and Susan Davis will leave in July. Audience member was concerned that Paul would not be able to arrive as scheduled, and the school will have a hole in its leadership role.
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- Audience member then asked if the online learning will require more oversight from parents. Susan Davis said there are two scenarios here. If the teacher is stuck off island, we will try to replicate the environment in 5th grade with Misti French. This will require a substitute to partner with the teacher who will be instructing virtually. If the teacher and students are both here but everyone needs to stay home due to a school closure, the other plan would go into effect.
 - 5th grade parent said he has nothing but wonderful things to say about Misti French. However, it is not an ideal situation. He is very happy with what has been accomplished but there has been suffering this year. Important aspects are missing. He feels that any teacher who plans to leave for the summer should expect to not come back before school starts.
 - Audience member asked if teachers are being approved to go off island this summer despite the low probability of them getting back on time? Susan Davis said she approved one teacher to leave based on a personal reason. She personally hasn't approved any others, but she doesn't have the ability to keep them here.
 - Audience member was concerned that DI wasn't restricting outbound travel like other island contractors. As a parent of a 5th grade student, she does not want to normalize the arrangement that occurred in that classroom. She has a student who struggled despite having two of the hardest working teachers teaming up in the 5th grade classroom. Would DI consider implementing travel restrictions on teachers to avoid the virtual teaching arrangement that occurred? Tarah Yurovchak feels this is a decision for the Commander. We have key personnel who are stuck off island. She doesn't like that there is no anesthesiologist on island or that the surgeon is leaving. The Commander needs to address how we can keep key personnel here because no one should jeopardize our safety or health by staying here without basic medical support. This is not just a school thing. Another audience member explained that teachers have contracts that require that they work a certain number of days and then they have a certain number of days off. DI can't suddenly take that away. Teachers don't need to ask where they can go in the summer because it is already their time off. Another audience member suggested the teachers enjoy their days off without leaving the island. Someone else said that this is the time our community should be coming together and doing what we can collectively to keep ourselves and our neighbors protected.
 - Mary Beth Taylor provided her email address for all DI constituents who wanted to share their thoughts with Dyncorp. She validated that only one teacher has been granted leave for the summer. DI has not turned off leave for anyone at this time. Other teachers want to but whether or not they do is up to them. All teachers will leave lesson plans and curriculum so someone else can pick it up. There are new substitutes being processed. Anyone else interested is encouraged to apply.
 - Michael Makovec recommends that audience members contact their SAC representatives and discuss their feelings about an earlier calendar start. There will need to be only one alternate calendar proposed to the Commander. SAC may need to call for an additional SAC meeting in June depending on community feedback. Watch for communication from the school.
 - Masina McCollum reminded parents that the Junior Senior High School is starting their finals next week. Please don't stress them out over the possible calendar change.
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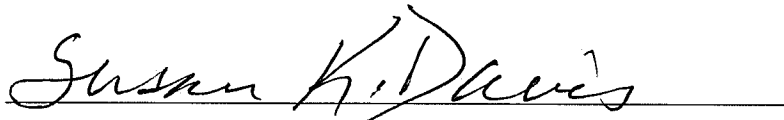
- Student asked who she should go to with her input on the calendar. She was encouraged to talk to her parents and her teachers.
- Susan Davis encouraged the audience to write their contact information on a list if they would like to be on the calendar committee.

4) **Closing Committee Remarks**

- **Future Agenda Planning:** Agendas will note future policy or non-policy issues up for discussion when SAC resumes in September 2020.

5) **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Susan Davis, K-12 Lead Administrator Kwajalein School System



Michael Makovec, Chairperson, SAC
