

School Advisory Committee
Sigonella MS/HS
NAS Sigonella, Sicily
PSC 812 Box 2630
FPO AE 09627

Meeting Minutes
10 September 2008

Note: For security purposes in accordance with the DoDEA Web Publishing Guidelines, all names have been replaced with initials, and meeting attendance has been deleted.

Call to order at 1445 by Mr. H.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from the May 14 meeting was moved by Mr. B., seconded by Mr. G., motion passed.

Reports:

Principal: The year started without incident. Our staffing situation is of concern. We are unable presently to fill all available support positions and we started the year with substitutes in two positions. Our Special Education Teacher died in early July of this year. Her position is being filled by Ms. B. who is also our high school chemistry teacher. I haven't received a list to hire from for that position.

Our biggest class is Spanish 1 class with 29 students. Classes are averaging around 16 students. Some are as low as 3 students in the more advanced areas. We are working on balancing some numbers as we go through the period of drop add which ended officially Monday. We increased the student contact hours with PE and health this year. Lunch time has been combined for middle and high school to eliminate split periods in the schedule. We requested and received additional hours for supervision allowing us to adequately supervise students. Some people have asked about our "Open Campus" policy. We really don't have an open campus. Our campus is extended. High School students may go to the food court for lunch. We have extended supervision to that area. Students may not go to other areas on the base. This is a work in progress. Advisory and Seminar teachers are involved in the process.

Our School Improvement goals remain in the area of Math and Science this year. We have some data to share with you later. The middle school teachers developed a required reading list last year. Language Arts teachers are developing an articulated writing curriculum in support of our School Improvement essence...communicating understanding... All grade levels are involved in student elections. When student leaders are in place we will continue the implementation of our Academy 9 initiative.

B. C. will be here 10 October to speak to members of the community and work with staff and students. We have a great opportunity for our students to participate in a financial planning through a base supported speaker. We are working on coordination of our focus on Graduation and Beyond with the community through a joint College Fair in November. The PTSO is on-board. Membership is strong and they are coordinating volunteers using a job description list we created last year.

School's Officer is working with Mrs. R. from MWR to set up the National Day for Kids event on September 20. Also is working with Safety and Security on evacuation plans which have changed from last year.

Command: The access road is only for pick-up and drop-off only; no parking.

PTSO has started the year with 144 members, 41 being staff members. The PTSO would like express their appreciation for all of the support from the faculty and staff. The PTSO wants to implement a room-parent program for seminar and advisory to help the lines of communication between the students, teachers, and parents. There was a board meeting last week with 14 people present; the budget proposal this year is over \$7,000, but they expect an income of \$11000. School photos will be taken on 17, 18, and 19 September for ES and MS/HS. They have also supported the new student orientation program. Thanks go to the entire community for those who have been willing to step up and help out. PTSO's new office is located inside the main office, in Chief E's old office.

Booster Club is having a table at Open House, recruiting parents for support, especially for the Early Boost (nutrition break). Groups can average \$75 income for working 30 minutes a day for one week. Come support the Jaguars at this weekend's games.

Transportation report: The numbers are down slightly from last year to 679 total riders. All buses were all inspected during the summer. The PTO donated anti-vomit kits. Bus safety and security training has been conducted with the contractor's employees. Required bus safety training for students is about half complete, and will be completed by 19 September. Bus drivers have been instructed to leave their engines running and curtains closed when parked during hot weather so the air conditioning can continue to cool the buses. A parent inquired about the loading order for the buses. Mr. G. explained that the older students were to load the bus first, since they go to the back of the bus.

SIP: Tomorrow is an early release day; all community members are welcome to come and participate. Mrs. L. discussed the results of last spring's Terra Nova scores. Overall, the students in our school at every grade level improved in every subject from last year. A new local assessment will be administered at the beginning of October.

Old Business: none

New business:

SAC goals: Mr. H. discussed the goals from last year and expressed his opinion that the goal of ensuring the transportation safety had been met. Mr. B. questioned the wording of the goal to “Increase performance on all assessments...”; he asked if the SAC has the ability itself to increase the performance. It was agreed that the intent was that the SAC would provide *support* which would increase performance. Mr. B. recommended that the improvement in communication flow between the SAC and the community be retained as a goal. Mr. G. also recommended that the previous goal that the community be made aware that the SAC is their voice be continued and improved upon. Discussion followed as to how this could be accomplished. The SAC members will meet in two weeks to develop and finalize the goals, provide the goals to the community, and ask for feedback at the SAC meeting.

Terra Nova scores: discussed earlier in reports.

Activity Bus: Mr. B. asked about approval for students involved in sanctioned MWR events to ride the Activity Bus. Command will have to approve this, but it not anticipated that there will be any problems.

Open Forum: Ms. R. discussed National Day for Kids sponsored by Boys and Girls Clubs and military installations across the country which will be held on the 20th of September. The visiting football team has also been invited.

Adjournment at 1602.