

School Advisory Committee

On January 22, 2015, School Advisory Committee members (SAC) and three guests attended the SAC meeting from 3:50-4:50 in the school conference room.

The first order of business was the principal's report. Dr. Schlueter reported there will be two teaching positions added next year (1.5 positions in grades 1-3, 0.5 counselor). She also addressed safety measures which have been implemented. First, there is increased MP presence, including foot patrols, on campus. Second, all doors, including the front doors are now locked. Parents are requested to only exit via the front door near the office. A camera will be installed at the front door to facilitate entry. Next, the schools have requested for busses to have priority at the gates. Moving on to academics, Dr. Schlueter informed us that AdvancEd will be coming February 9-12. AdvancEd is a board of professional educators who visit to make an external review and provide recommendations for accreditation and improvement (see <http://www.advanc-ed.org/about-us>, for more information). Two stateside evaluators and three DODEA personnel will be on the visiting team. SAC parent reps are requested to attend the Parent Interview on Tuesday 10 February from 3:45-4:45 and the Oral Exit Report on Thursday 12 February from 3:45-4:45.

According to the CSI Chair, Ms. Goldsmith, students are getting involved with the AdvancED visit, too. They are putting the school CSI goals (reading comprehension and math problem solving) in their own language.

Next, the committee welcomed the new CYSS School Liaison Officer (SLO), Mr. Marco Steinacker. He is busy getting his feet wet, so to speak, here at SHAPE as well as in Brussels. He reported there will be a new website for SLOs. He would like to be able to provide information to incoming families to let them know about our schools and community before they arrive.

The committee moved to old and new business. This year, the committee decided on several objectives to help meet the school's goals:

Goal 1: Student excellence: Challenge each student to maximize his or her potential and to excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically for life, college, and career readiness.

We hope by providing information discussed in our meetings to families, it can help to increase the transparency between school and home, in turn supporting the partnership between families and school educators, which facilitates student excellence.

Goal 2: School Excellence: Develop and sustain SAES to be high-performing within an environment of innovation, collaboration, continuous renewal and caring relationships.

The committee recognizes the efforts by the school community to increase communication with families, and also acknowledges the collaboration that has occurred through SAC this year. In addition, Dr. Angela Bell has presented workshops based on feedback from the CSI goals, and is willing to present on Cross-cultural understandings and misunderstandings this year.

Goal 5: Outreach Excellence: Foster family, school, and community partnerships to expand educational opportunities for students.

In order to support, encourage, and foster parent and international community partnerships, a list of translators/interpreters has been created, so the school has a resource to be able to communicate with parents who may speak another language, if needed. Also, a school guide for families is now available in sixteen languages. We encourage all parents to attend SAC and other school related events. If you are bilingual or multilingual, and you would like to be added to the translator list, please email Mrs. Tirtiaux at sophie.tirtiaux@eu.dodea.edu.

To foster cultural understanding through increased partnerships, education, and collaboration with other countries' schools and cultures, we invited a guest speaker, Mrs. Stanka Lunder Verlic, this month to discuss her research, which was a comparative analysis of two nations' school systems. Committee members and guests were intrigued by the similarities and differences between America's education system and Slovenia's education system. We discussed implications for both systems based on her work, and we pondered the impact these differences had on the children when first entering a new school

system. This discussion opened many more questions and a desire to continue these conversations, which are opportunities to learn more about each other.

The SAC committee has met four times this year as required by DODEA. Any future formal meetings this school year will be on an “as needed” basis due to the AdvanceEd visit, standardized testing, and school breaks. If you would like to contact SAC, please email angelabbell@aol.com

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