

**School Advisory Committee
OAES Meeting**

Subject: Meeting Minutes

Date: 24 September 2008

Time: 1500 - 1600

Location: OAES Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Linda Weston, Chairperson
Katie Stephensen, Parent
Monica Thompson, Parent
David L. Petree, OAES Principal
Clover Stephenson, Teacher
Rebecca Westlake, School Liaison Officer
James Lloyd, Vice Chairperson
Kristin Mitchell, Secretary
Peter Grenier, Acting District Superintendent

Meeting called to order: 1500

Welcome and introductions were made.

The School End of Year Report was distributed and reviewed.

Mrs. Weston, Mr. Petree, Mr. Grenier gave an overview of what the duties of the SAC committee are. Linda Weston attended the SAC training in Seoul. She will send all of us the Power Point slides, so we can review what the duties of the SAC committee.

Principal's Report

David Petree reviewed the following upcoming events:

- 7 Oct - PTO meeting
- 9 Oct - Sure Start, Kinder, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grade Study Trip to Fire Department
- 10 Oct- Half Day for Students/ Teacher In-service in the afternoon
- 13 Oct - No School Columbus Day
- 14 Oct - After School Activities Begin
- 14 & 15 Oct - School Pictures
- 15 Oct - Principal's Coffee
- 17 Oct - No School for Students- Educator's Day
- 30 Oct - KAYA program for students in the afternoon and PTO Family Fun Night
- 31 Oct - No School for Students - Teacher Work Day

Old Business

Approved Walkway from New Housing Towers – Defining and notifying the community of the designated walkway from the new towers needs to be done. A subcommittee was formed. Mr. Lloyd volunteered to oversee this subcommittee. He will work with Ms. Westlake, Security Forces, Safety and Civil Engineering do determine the safest and most effective way for students to walk to school, determine appropriate signage necessary and then work to educate the community on this matter.

Student Crossing Guards – The sixth graders will be trained again by the Security Forces this year. Ms. Hoagland is going to be the staff sponsor of the crossing guards this year and will begin training within the next two weeks. Mr. Dean volunteered to find out if we could get a bigger sign, like the one at the main entrance, for the cross walk /drop off area over by Mustang Valley.

New Business

Kindergarten Initiative – OAES parents are concerned with the kindergarten classroom size. The two kindergarten classes currently have at least 25 students each and continue to grow. The current DODDS ratio is 29 students to one teacher with one assistant. Mr. Grenier assured us that another kindergarten teacher would not be hired until the enrollment was 28:1 at OAES. The SAC would like to raise this as an issue for DODDS to review because of the following points:

- Each child's needs cannot be met in a class of 25, even with an assistant
- Smaller class size means more individualized attention which is crucial for a child's first school experience
- Smaller class size means better instruction and less disruption
- Best Practice Studies show that small class size improves achievement. (note the two references below)
- Large class size has adverse effects on personnel often times shortening their teaching career
- Recommend researching schools in the U.S. and updating kindergarten student to teacher ratio as soon as possible

References sighted:

1. Tennessee's Project STAR (short for "Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio") is one of the most respected education studies because of its rigorous scientific design. Project STAR measured the impact of small class size in kindergarten through 3rd grade and found that the children in small classes outperformed other students in every grade.
2. The gains from small class size in K-3 were both immediate and long-lasting. Follow-up studies found that by the end of 8th grade, students who had been in small classes in their early elementary years were still more than a year ahead of their peers in reading, math and science. Benefits persisted into high school

Kindergarten & Sure Start Playground – Parents have expressed concern with this playground regarding maintenance and equipment safety and replacement timeline. Mr. Petree stated that the playground equipment is inspected by the safety office annually. Mr. Grenier planned to tour the playground area with Mr. Petree immediately following SAC meeting. Mr. Petree will review OAES five year plan regarding plans to replace this playground equipment. Mr. Petree will see if the regular cleaning and maintenance of the playground can be added to the current OAES contract. Mrs. Mitchell will work with parents to see which things can be taken on as self help volunteer projects. The motion was made to begin locking this playground when the school is not open (nights and weekends). The committee voted and the motion was passed. The playground will not be open after school or on weekends.

New SAC Secretary - Mrs. Mitchell resigned as SAC secretary due to other obligations. Mrs. Stephensen volunteered to take the position and was unanimously voted into the position. She will assume the responsibilities of the position at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: 23 October 2008, 1500, OAES Room 107

Meeting Adjourned: 1600