SCHWEINFURT ELEMENTARY MIDDLE SCHOOL

SAC MEETING

13 December 2011

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Phyllis Fuglaar, Principal

Dr. Lee Hill, Principal

Mr. Bob Nicholson, Assistant Principal Ms. Jenni Lowell, parent

Mr. Chris Bradford, professional school employee Ms. Shannon Luzzato, parent

Ms. Nancy Eisaman, professional school employee Ms. Constance Pitre, parent

Ms. Laura Lynn Elgin, professional school employee Ms. Patricia Sligh, parent

Ms. Gina Feldt, professional school employee Dr. Azure Utley, parent

Herr Heribert Hieke, professional school employee Ms. Beth Potter, school liaison

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES:** The October minutes were sent out after the meeting in October. Corrections were made and minutes were finalized. Ms. Elgin made a motion to approve the minutes as stated from October. Ms. Luzzatto seconded the motion. All approved and motion passed.

**REVIEW OF GOALS:**

1. **Attendance – As a SAC, we want to stress the importance of student attendance. We want to make the community aware of the new DODEA attendance policy.**
2. **Deployment Reintegration – As a SAC, we want to dedicate several means in order to assist soldiers and families during and after deployments.** 
   1. A question was asked of how this will be done. A reintegration team from the garrison provides the data to Beth Potter, who forwards it to the school. The school is able to pull which students have parents coming home. Last time we had parents coming home, we had a breakfast with the parents, and we did a ceremony at the flag. The parents were also invited to come join their child in their classroom at the beginning of the day.
   2. Hundreds of soldiers came home last week. We will celebrate these when we get back in January.
   3. We would like to create a more specific list of names of soldiers who have students in the school. On Day 3 of integration, we want to invite them to the school. We are struggling with dealing with the list and knowing which day all the soldiers are on. We need the assistance of the different units to make the list easier to handle.
   4. It would be helpful to have a contact person from each unit to help plan the events ahead of time. This would allow us to get input from the soldiers as to what they want to do with their students.
   5. Shannon Luzzatto shared her family’s experience when her husband came home and how the school treated the situation. Her husband was very excited to be able to come into the school and appreciated the welcoming.
3. **Academic Awareness – As a SAC, we want to encourage our community to be actively involved with the students’ academics, enabling them to be successful.** 
   1. A concern was raised about the communication between the school and parents. There was a request for the school website to be redone. Some individuals would like for each teacher to have a website where the parents can go, instead of sending papers home. This will get rid of the problem of papers not finding their way home. An example from Ft. Leavenworth was showed as a possible template. The administration thought the idea of putting up our standards and curriculum could be easily added. Administration will discuss what changes will be made and talk with the webmaster.

**DRESS CODE AD HOC COMMITTEE – Presentation of Survey**

Mr. Wilson, a chair of the Dress Code Ad Hoc Committee, thanked those on the committee for helping to create the survey. He talked through the survey, explaining each part and why it was included. The survey will be given to each family and only one per family, not per child. The survey will be given out to the oldest child if there are multiple students per family. A summary of facts and websites has been included on the survey to give parents an opportunity to do their own research and become more knowledgeable of the subject. The bottom half of the survey includes the questions. The families are given several options ranging from a more strict dress code to an acceptable attire dress code. Below that, there are several more questions that the parents can rate from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The committee’s time line for the survey was presented to the SAC. The goal is to present the findings and recommendations to the SAC at the January 31st meeting.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE SURVEY AND DISTRIBUTION:

* A point was brought up about the vocabulary used when talking about low-cut shirts.
* A request was made to add the word “may” in the third option about choosing which type of dress code. “I support a modified dress policy that “may” include ….”
* How are we going to make sure that each family turns in only one survey? We need to use Aspen to figure out who the oldest child is. We will hand out the survey only to the oldest child to take home to their parents.
* The question was asked about who has the final say about the dress code next year. It was described that the SAC advises the principals and the principals get the final say. The principals have stated that they will go with the recommendation from the SAC. The garrison command does not have to approve the decision.

**Vote:** Each voting SAC member was given an opportunity to vote. The vote was completed by secret ballot. The results of the vote showed 100% support to the current survey with the minor corrections stated above. The committee will make the changes and prepare the survey to be sent out.

**PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS**

**Ms. Phyllis Fuglaar:**

* Tomorrow, Wednesday, December 14th at 1730, we will have a preview of our drug awareness program for our 7th and 8th graders. We have no one available in the community to offer us a DARE program. MAJ Stoffel and CPT Mooney will select a representative to present this modified program.
* The Junior Leadership Seminar is coming up in February. We are the only school in Europe sending ten students. To qualify, the students had to write an essay and get recommendations from their teachers.
* We have a marked improvement in the number of absences among our students. We still have the usual R&R and block leave, but the other every day absences have decreased.

**Dr. Lee Hill:**

* We have restarted our Reading Counts program. Ms. Elizabeth Brencher has gone around to the different grades to explain the program. The program will beginning in January.
* The school wide Spelling Bee is coming up in February.
* STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is being done by Ms. Kenny in her after school program. We are creating a partnership with 15E to work on robots. We are also inquiring with 9E to see what they have to offer. We have a science fair at the end of the year.
* Math night was held last week for the lower elementary grades. We had a great showing of parents and students. It was a neat way to show that math can be fun. Teachers presented several different games and activities that can be done with math.
* We need to move quicker with our School Improvement. Our goals are reading comprehension and problem solving throughout the curriculum. Our school wide CSI day is January 13th. We would like parent involvement at this meeting. This will support our SAC goal of academic awareness.
* February 3rd is a parent-teacher conference day. This fall, PreK-5th grade had 86% attendance rate. The middle grades had 90% show up for their student-led conferences.
* New flashing lights and speed limit signs have been put out in front of the building. We have had help from DPW to make this work. The speed limit out front is 10 kph/6mph. We would like to have parent volunteers help to control the traffic and the cross walks, but we are struggling for support.
* There is a new TV monitor right outside the front office in the elementary. It will not only give information, but will show what our students are doing in the school.

**SCHOOL LIASON OFFICER REPORT: Ms. Beth Potter**

Ms. Potter has attended the soldier reintegration. She is explaining the new attendance policy and inviting them into the schools. She is also working on establishing relationships between German schools and our school. We are looking to invite German schools to participate in our Science Fair later this spring. We would also like to have at least two students from each of the German schools to be judges during the fair.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Jenni Lowell and Mr. Dan Wilson will represent SEMS at the IAC meeting on Thursday.

Nancy Eisaman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shannon Luzzatto seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1605.