

SAC Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2011

I. Call to order

T.B. called to order the regular meeting of the School Advisory Committee at 2:50 p.m. on September 19, 2011 in room 106, Sigonella Elementary School.

II. Roll call

a. The following persons were present:

Mrs. S.D.	Special Education Director, representing the Principal
Cmdr. Eric Vosler	NASSIG
CMC Graham	NASSIG
Mr. T.S.	Food Services
Mr. J.G.	Transportation

b. School Representatives

Ms. L.S.	CSI Representative
Ms. T.S.	
Ms. J.S.	

c. Parent Representatives

Mrs. T.B.	SAC Chair
Mrs. L.T.	SAC Vice Chair
Mrs. L.M.	SAC Secretary
Mrs. L.S.	PTO Representative

III. Reports

a. Principal's Report (Mrs. D.)

- i. Total enrollment for the school this year is 327 students (Sure Start included).
- ii. The last Wednesday of the month Principal Coubrough will host a radio show on AFN. He will be looking for an assistant/guest host each month.
- iii. There will be 2 CSI days this month. One is on the 23 and the other on the 29. Parents are welcome. Contact S.M. for an agenda.
- iv. J.S. is starting an anti-bullying campaign. A memo was distributed to explain more.
- v. Immunizations are required. Mandatory flu vaccine will be available at a clinic at the school held the 3rd week of October. (They are always accessible at the hospital.)
- vi. End of year reports from the Mediterranean District are available. If you would like a copy, contact Mr. Coubrough.
- vii. New math curriculum is in. J.S. was trained before school started and then taught the rest of the faculty. Periodically, teachers will have more training throughout the school year. Grades K-2 do Everyday Math and grades 3-5 do Envision.

b. Command Report (Cmdr. Vosler)

- i. The drainage in the field was cleaned out and should not cause problems this year.
- ii. Stairs on the back side of the school are gone and will be replaced. School pays for the materials, Public Works does the labor.
- iii. Electronic lunch tickets will start throughout the region next month. Each student will have pin number.
- iv. DAC (District Action Committee) minutes have not been received by NASSIG.
- v. Computer problems at the school are being looked at by base. Recently, they were disconnected from the Naples server and hooked up to the Sigonella server.
- vi. 80 Marines without families arrive this week. In the future may bring dependents. Anticipate growth.

c. Transportation Report (Mr. G.)

- i. Regular riders are down to 465.
- ii. 11 buses are designated for homes in the economy, 7 for Marinai, and 5 for special education and Sure Start students (this has increased by 1 because more people are choosing to live in the economy).
- iii. 3 late buses this month. One was justified and the other two received CDRs (Conduct Discrepancy Reports).
- iv. 3 children were returned to the school because parents were not at the bus stop.
- v. All buses were inspected and corrected during the summer.
- vi. Mr. G. is trying to optimize buses so most of the buses on the economy are small. They fit easier down narrow roads.
- vii. Recently, the contract was renewed for safety attendants.
- viii. Mrs. T. added that smoking is still an issue with employees smoking near buses. Mr. G. confirmed that there should be no smoke residue in the buses. Mr. G. will bring this to the attention of the contractor as non-compliance of base issued orders.

d. Food Services (Mr. S.)

- i. Electronic lunch system arrived and they are waiting for instructions on implementation.

e. CSI Report (Ms. S.)

- i. Many training days will be focused on accreditation this year.
- ii. Accreditation will be conducted by AdvancEd. Process will begin at the end of April and into the beginning of May.
- iii. Seven areas of focus are: clear vision and purpose, governance and leadership, teaching and learning, how we use data, resources and support, how is

communication with base, community, parents, and staff, and CSI's commitment to getting better.

- iv. Our Smart Goals are writing and math.
- v. A trifold has been made to explain CSI. When someone asks, they will be given this trifold to help them understand.

f. PTO Report (Mrs.S.)

- i. E.T. is the new president.
- ii. Walk-a-thon will be the next fundraiser.
- iii. Nicola Davies is an author scheduled to visit beginning January 30-February 3. The program will include classes for all ages and include home-schoolers.
- iv. Mrs. T. asked if there will be a food drive again this year. Mrs. S. will ask about it at the next meeting.

IV. Open Forum

- a. Mrs. S. shared a list of parent concerns and suggestions from members of the community.
 - i. The new attendance policy could have been handled better.
 - 1. Parents could have been told at the beginning of summer before many vacation plans were set.
 - 2. There was not a clarification on absence limits of 5 days per semester or 5 days per year. The policy is 5 days per semester.
 - 3. There was also no school calendar distributed that includes scheduled CSI days to help parents plan travel.
 - 4. Ms. S. explained that the instruction for the school is that it would be handled at the local level and the school has the decision on what consequences will be.
 - ii. The number of injuries on the playground has increased. Is this due to a lack of supervision or just bad luck? Answer: This is just a strain of bad luck; however, some new playground rules have been implemented by playground supervisors which restrict the use and/or misuse of certain playground equipment.
 - iii. There was a suggestion to create a rain cover that goes from the kindergarten building to the main building. Cmdr. Vosler recommended that if the school can provide the funding for the materials, Public Works can perform the labor.
 - iv. Bird feces seem to be in excess. Can something be done about this? Answer: There is a man whose job it is to clean this up every day. The library has an acoustic, anti-bird system. Possibly the school can fund one that is similar.
 - v. One parent was wondering why if a child with a white bus pass can walk off the bus without a parent, why can't a child who qualifies for a white bus pass and lives on NAS 1 walk home without a parent. Answer: Capt. Quinn made a policy that no child under the age of 10 years old can self-release from school. This is

not consistent with the self-release bus policy. They will check the handbook to determine if this is a base policy or a district-wide policy.

- b. Mrs. M. also had a list of parent concerns and suggestions from members of the community.
 - i. Some parents came from various schools that switched classrooms to during the reading time and spent the entire reading period instructed at their appropriate levels. Many children even switched grade level teachers.
 - ii. One parent was told by a teacher that she did not use volunteers in the classroom. A suggestion to have a workshop during a CSI day on how parents can be used in the classroom was made. Answer: Volunteers in the classroom are at the discretion of the teachers. Parents who want to be more involved can volunteer somewhere other than the classroom, possibly the library.
 - iii. A mother was concerned about her son's gifted schedule. He was pulled out for gifted math during the classroom's language arts session, which caused him to miss a substantial portion of this instruction. Math was taught in the classroom in the afternoon. The son had already had math and was bored by the afternoon content. Answer: There is a new gifted instructor with a new philosophy on gifted education. It is no longer a single subject, but well-rounded mixed subject content.
 - iv. Last spring, CSI conducted a parent meeting to help get them prepared for the upcoming accreditation process. (Mrs. M. made it very clear that she did not share these feelings. The meeting, in her opinion, went very well and she is excited to be part of the team.) A few of the parents came out of the session unhappy with the way the meeting was handled. In particular, the instructor explained that the parents in Rota did not know the mission statement of the school. She further explained that CSI is going to help the parents learn how to answer the questions. The parents felt they were being taught the answers to the test, instead of the school proving their qualifications through their actions.
- c. Many of the questions will be addressed on the principal's radio show.

V. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 p.m.
- b. Minutes submitted by L.M.
- c. Next meeting: Oct. 24, 2011 at 2:45 p.m., Room 106.

