

Brussels American School Advisory Committee (BASAC)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the October 5, 2006 BASAC Meeting

- 1) The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and welcomed those in attendance.
- 2) Members attending: Three parent representatives, three teacher representatives, and the student representative. Also attending: the School Principal & Assistant Principal.
- 3) Old Business: The Chairman asked the Principal if there were any more developments regarding after-lunch free time—an issue from last month's Open Forum. The Principal replied that one request by a student to use the field between the Art Room and the High School Building had been granted, and that no problems are foreseen if students ask as individuals.
- 4) Principal's Report:
 - a) The Principal distributed to all members District SAC Training materials and presented a brief in-service, highlighting the following:
 - (1) The basic functions and role of BASAC as both a school and an installation advisory committee;
 - (2) That monthly BASAC meetings are to be open to the public;
 - (3) That the SAC is expected to set goals, strive to achieve them during the course of the year, and submit an End of the Year Report.
 - b) The Chairman, upon viewing the DODEA SAC By-Laws, expressed a desire to republish a cleaner version of BASAC By-Laws.
 - c) The Principal reported that the week's Homecoming activities were proceeding smoothly.
- 5) Assistant Principal's Report:
 - a) Parking lot lines are scheduled to be painted on Monday, Oct. 9 in the morning.
 - b) Solutions to lingering tennis court problems were to be explored today by contractors. Tomorrow the BEST team will attach the bottom of the tennis court fences to the ground—as a temporary fix—and tend to the moss.
 - c) A group of Engineers and building designers will visit at the end of the month for Phase 2 of the new Gymnasium/Fine Arts Building project. The Administration agreed with SAC members that this visit would be the time for all community stakeholders to have input on the finer details of the building's design. Following this visit, a design will be created over the next six to twelve months.

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6) Athletic Director's Report:

- a) We now know that the Football team is assured of a 1st round playoff game on Oct. 21.
- b) European Championships for Tennis, Volleyball and Cross Country will be at the end of this month.
- c) The Fall Sports Banquet is scheduled for Nov. 9.
- d) The AD thanked the Boosters Club, parents, and other community members for their recent help in housing the visiting Menwith Hill football team.
- e) The Chair added that it was nice to see such strong parent support for the sports competitions at London Central last weekend. (A bus was chartered for the events.)

7) Student Liaison's Report:

- a) A Homecoming pep rally and powder puff game are scheduled for 6th and 7th period Friday on the football field, weather permitting.
- b) The Homecoming Dance is scheduled for 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7.
- c) As a follow-up to the USAG Brussels Commander's request for student feedback regarding Youth Services Dances, the Student Liaison reported that students feel Saturday nights are better for these dances than Friday nights. Overall, students are very happy with these dances and do not want them to be discontinued.

8) The USAG Brussels Commander's Report:

- a) While the Commander was not present, the BAS Principal addressed the issue of cooperation between the school and USAG Brussels. An assistant in the USAG Commander's Office was complimented for creating links from the USAG web page to all relevant BAS web page calendars, and information.
- b) The Chairman inserted that SAC will coordinate with BAS' School Improvement Plan (SIP) Chairs concerning how to best represent SAC at the upcoming SIP In-service Day.

9) Open Forum Issues:

Parents in attendance presented an Issue Form regarding Block Scheduling. Citing personal experience at previous high schools, the parents referred to many positives their own children had enjoyed under a block schedule. SAC members concurred that there were many potential pros and cons to a block schedule format. The Principal acknowledged advantages for both block and traditional scheduling. While commenting that research reveals no clear advantage in student outcomes for either scheduling format, the principal said that the block format can be brought before the school staff again for consideration. While also acknowledging the unique challenges block scheduling

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presents to a small Unit School such as BAS, the principal recommended another look at other schools' more recent experiences. A parent member urged the establishment of clear benchmarks if the Committee agrees to study the issue further. The Principal agreed to compile some data; the parents in attendance agreed to help; the student liaison agreed to informally poll the student body; all agreed to revisit the issue with more data and ideas at the December meeting.

- 10) The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Secretary