

BASAC Minutes
15 November 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the 15 Nov, 2012 BASAC/IAC Meeting

- 1) The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and welcomed those in attendance.
- 2) Members attending: Three teacher representatives, the student representative and three parent representatives. Also attending were the School Principal and Assistant Principal, USAG Brussels Garrison Manager and Operations Manager, two Boy Scouts from BAS, the MWR Director and additional parents.
- 3) Minutes from the Sep 2012 meeting were approved with one editorial correction.

4) Old Business:

4.a) **NATO/BAS Holiday Schedule Alignment:** The BASAC Chairman provided a review of this issue, its origin, the conflicting concerns of a wide variety of stakeholders in the BAS Holiday schedule and the need for more research. The Chairman then presented the results of that research, in writing, to the BASAC. This research showed that the school had only a very small number of flexible holidays each school year: 2.5 – 3.5 days. There was a discussion of puts & takes of adjusting the school schedule. The Secretary highlighted that this issue appears in multiple BASAC Minutes over the past several years, without a simple or final resolution. This offers the conclusion that previously, BASAC may have repeatedly found the existing solution to be the best available, but that this is not recorded or publicized, and so it is forgotten. The BASAC decided (1) to recommend that the school Administration and representatives from the community (possibly BASAC) should meet specially for calendar synchronization annually, in May/June, when the following year's school calendar can be affected, and (2) to recommend that the school publicize the strong conclusions of BASAC (to be written by the Chairman) that the matter had been thoroughly considered and this decision in favor of the status quo was reached. The issue is closed.

4.b) **School Wellness Policy and Nutrition:**

The Assistant Principal provided an update on Actions taken in the school by the Administration and faculty on the basis of recommendations by the Wellness Committee after thorough review of the existing regulations and policies and development of an implementation plan for BAS. This included an agreement with the PTSO that the Snack Shack would reduce its hours after the Winter Holidays to 1 day/week (usually Fridays) and be discontinued at the end of this school year. There was a brief, positive discussion of how to deliver the message to students. The budget impact to the PTSO and its programs was highlighted. Other points of the wellness process and program were explained; these will now be familiar to the community through the daily updates from the Administration and e-mails from individual Faculty members, etc. The issue is closed.

5) Principal's Report:

5.a) The Principal provided an introduction to the DODEA "Whole Student Concept" and its implementation at BAS. This has recently included education for students on internet policy and anti-bullying, including experts from outside BAS. These

5.b) The Principal provided an update on the "Attendance Policy" issue, relaying the District Superintendents' explanation of his intent for applying the attendance policy in the Isles District. This intent emphasizes local determination by schools, some flexibility in the hands of Principals, adherence to the spirit and purpose of the policy, case-by-case consideration and decision-making, and the importance of the central issue of make-up work.

6) Garrison Manager's Report:

6.a) New Youth Center – no opening dates as yet. Late Winter remains a possibility.

6.b) USAG Brussels Facebook page will now also carry inclement weather info on impacts to the USAG and BAS schedules. This complements the AFN and telephonic systems already in-place.

7) Student Representative's Report: the student representative covered students' ecological activities including recycling and conservation, their planning for upcoming student and school events as well as their appreciation for, and avid participation in the Principal's Forum on issues such as academic flexibility and scheduling.

8) New Business: None

9) Open Session: a student requested BASAC consider adjusting the school schedule to start, and therefore end the school day later. A useful discussion ensued, which led to the BASAC and the student agreeing that a shift would not resolve challenging management issues for students. The BASAC complimented the student for his initiative and composure.

10) The Chairman announced the **next meeting would be held on 17 Jan.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Secretary