



**AFNORTH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
US ES/MS/HS Sections
Unit 21606
APO AE 09703**



Memorandum for Record

31 October 2012

SUBJECT: AFNORTH U.S. School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes, 16 October 2012

1. **Welcome and Introductions**—the meeting was opened at 16:01 by President Jack Bone with the following attendees:

- Mr. Jack Bone, ES and HS Parent (President)
- Ms. Amy Jecheva, ES Teacher (Vice Chair)
- Ms. Nadine Moore, HS Teacher (Secretary)
- Dr. Uwe Bettscheider, AIS Director
- Ms. Crystal Bailey, US Elementary School Principal
- Dr. Gloria Hajat, US Middle/High School Principal
- Dr. Doris Brodie, US Middle/High School Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Kimberly Wayland, Deputy Garrison Manager- USAG Benelux, Schinnen
- Mr. Ken Doland, School Liaison Officer (SLO)
- Ms. Jennifer Jarskey, Parent Representative, ES and HS
- Ms. Susan Houston, HS Parent
- Ms. Linda Silkman, ES Parent
- Ms. Amy Reimers, Geilenkirchen SLO
- Ms. Christina Moriconi, US HS Teacher/ CSI Co-Chair
- Mr. Johnnie Davis, US HS Parent
- Ms. Linda Maggio, ES and MS Parent
- Ms. Michelle Shavers, US MS Counselor
- Ms. Rita Bergstrom, US ES Teacher
- Ms. Cindy Gehrman, US ES Teacher
- Mr. Garry Phillips, Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC)
- Ms. Lorraine Huffaker, School Psychologist, AIS/DoDDS
- Ms. Isa Smith, ES Parent

Dr. Hajat introduced invited guest, Dr. Uwe Bettscheider, AIS Director. Dr. Bettscheider provided an overview of his history in academia. He is enjoying his first weeks at AIS, especially the ongoing compromising of the nations' ideologies towards the good of the school. Ms. Jecheva (re)introduced the newest SAC voting members from the elementary section—Ms. Gehrman and Ms. Bergstrom.

Minutes from the 25 September 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor changes.

2. **Deputy Garrison Manager's Report:** Ms. Wayland provided the following points of information:
- A. JFC/NATO personnel will be receiving US military ID cards to optimize participation in Schinnen Base activities.
 - B. Programming/Events at Schinnen will be available on Facebook; this is an official US government communication channel and may contain –primarily—ONLY U.S. government information. A brief discussion ensued as to alternate communication options—perhaps

AFN radio, noting simply that FB is an additional, but not the sole, communication channel. Dr. Bettscheider noted that the Directorate determines school closures (bus coordinators with MPs). The FB address will be added to the newsletters

- C. Although the Community Commander is located in the BENELUX, Ms. Wayland notes that she has an open-door policy for community members' concerns.

3. Principals' Reports:

High school principal, Dr. Hajat, shared the following points of interest:

- A. Homecoming this year was a success. The grade 10/Sophomore class won the award for best float. Greg Blankenship, U.S. high school teacher/football coach/ROBOTICS sponsor, noted in an Email how well our school was received/perceived by the many visiting teams that weekend—quoting “It’s like a fine-arts museum.” Kudos to the students and Art department at AIS.
- B. There is a Middle School “Dark Night” dance scheduled for 19 October.
- C. The Grade 10 Parent tea was a success.
- D. 19 October marks the end of quarter 1. Report cards will be mailed to families on 2 November 2012.
- E. The 17 October PSAAT results should be available by late December.
- F. The next SAT is scheduled for 27 October; the ASVAB is sponsored in late November. AIS is hoping to provide transportation.
- G. Fall break is from October 22-26, 2012.
- H. Golf Championships in Heidelberg: One participant increased their standing in this first year of golf at AIS. The remaining fall sports schedule was listed.
- I. Parent feedback from last year’s parent conferences is under consideration for the planning of this year’s parent conferences, Nov. 20-22.
- J. Bullying Committee met on 10 October. Amy Reimer will lead a student task-force. A survey is in the works.
- K. Parents are invited to join the SILT.
- L. The nurse sends her requests that parents update their children’s vaccinations, especially the Hepatitis vaccination. Currently the GK clinic is out of the serum.
- M. The academic support program is looking for qualified math and science tutors for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1545-1730.

Elementary principal, Ms. Bailey, provided the following points of interest:

- A. Currently 542 students comprise the elementary section of AIS, 366 of which are US enrolled students; 100 Canadian; and 76 from the United Kingdom. 44 of the US students are enrolled in the German section.
- B. Currently no funds are available. Monies may arrive in November.
- C. Red Ribbon Week will be appropriately promoting “Healthy Habits” at the elementary level.
- D. The M2 classes will be presenting at the Nov. 9 Remembrance/Veteran’s Day assembly and adopting a grave at the Margraten Veteran’s Cemetery.
- E. Reading Week is scheduled for 29 October-2 November; see newsletter for details.
- F. Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for 20-22 November with early release of students at 1225. Conferences begin at 1300.
- G. December Events are as follows: Dec. 4, Winter Concert; Dec. 5 Schinnen Tree Lighting at 1700; Trevor Romain’s Anti-Bullying Presentation is now scheduled for 7 November (7 December was given as the date at the meeting).

- 4. **Student Report:** No Student Report was available due to student illness.

5. Old Business:

- A. HS Clubs and Activities: In reference to the hosting of the annual Dodgeball Tournament—an AIS fundraiser for the last few years, Ken Doland noted that the Youth Services might be able to sponsor the now DoDEA-wide banned activity, but Regional

Director Joe Martin and local coordinator, Mr. Alex Russ, will have to coordinate training prior to the event. Additionally, Mr. Doland provided the following update from Thom Eaton, Youth Center Director, concerning availability of after-school activities:

- a. Snack Making Club (Mondays);
- b. Tech Club (Tuesdays);
- c. Adventure Club (Wednesdays)
- d. Music Club (Thursdays);
- e. Skateboard Club (Fridays).
- f. Drama Club will be added beginning November 2012.
- g. A special program for October break offered geo-arching; archery; hiking; swimming and a trip to Phantasialand amusement park.

Mr. Eaton welcomes suggestions at thom.w.eaton@us.army.mil.

Dr. Brodie followed-up that there isn't a budget for additional funding of sponsors for school-sponsored activities. A school-wide request for volunteers received no response(s).

The request for Self-Defense classes was addressed through Ms. Wayland and ACS Victim Advocate offerings, but would require clarification. This item remains open.

Note: at publication of these minutes a community and school announcement has been noted that advertises self-defense classes for youth ages 16 and older on 12 November from 1730-1930, GK Old NATO Gym, open to all US and NATO ID card holders with parent accompaniment for those under 18.

- B. Parent and Student awareness of the dangers of inappropriate Internet sites has been publicized. A parent noted that "it is still going on." Additionally—along the lines of Internet safety--, a community sponsored Cyber-bullying Awareness presentation by Mr. DeVreis will be (re)scheduled for the school at a later date. Originally the presentation was set for 19 October. A motion was made and seconded to close the issue.

6. New Business: The following items were under review:

- A. SAC Goals and Objectives: All SAC goals can fit under Goals 1 and 4. While focus suggestions ranged from 21st Century Schools to Improved Two-Way Communication (it was noted that not only teachers/administration need to optimize communication channels, but also that the school would like to see parents/family members reach out to and respond more fully to school offerings), a motion was made and seconded to accept Goals 1 and 4 as the SAC focus for SY 2012-2013. Already underway will be a "SAC Highlights" section in the school newsletter(s), as well as a more publicized web page on the school site.
- B. Nut Aware School: The Nut Aware directive was reviewed in alignment with a response/explanation from the school nurse (see attachments). Dr. Bettscheider provided the additional information that in Canada all schools are "Nut Free"/"Nut Aware" zones. One elementary school parent shared her child's highly allergic reaction to peanuts, pleading for a consideration of the ramifications of not remaining nut-aware. While no one can guarantee a nut-free school, "risks can be minimized" for these highly allergic children. A motion was presented to vote in support of the current school policy. All voting members were in favor. The question then arose how to present the information clearly and succinctly to all stakeholders. Dr. Bettscheider offered a Directorate generated letter together with the Canadian head(s) that would be added in all registration packets and shared with the school community.

- C. Revision of By-Laws: Mr. Bone suggested an ad-hoc committee of parents and faculty be formed to review and potentially revise the existing SAC By-Laws. Ms. Gehrman, Ms. Jarskey and Mr. Bone will serve on this committee with Ms. Moore and Ms. Jecheva present as necessary.
 - D. Meeting dates for the remainder of the school year: Ms. Bailey offered a set of dates based on the applicable timelines for agenda publication/distribution as well as minutes compilation and distribution. Mr. Bone presented dates as well. Ultimately the following SY 2012-2013 SAC meeting dates were selected: 11 December; 5 February; 19 March; and 14 May.
7. **Open Forum:** the following questions were posed:
- A. A parent inquired about the required flu shots and if it could be arranged to have them administered school-wide on a single day by the clinic officials. ***The elementary and high school nurses are already in process of arranging the mass inoculations; at press time, however, it was noted that this would not occur.***
 - B. A request was made to somehow more widely publicize the calendar information available to staff via the Outlook calendar. Also, the parent wanted to know the protocol for submitting SAC issues via the official form. ***The newsletters remain a communication tool for school events. All SAC issues can be submitted via the school website at http://www.afno-is.eu.dodea.edu/school_advisory_committee.html.***
 - C. Could childcare be offered during SAC meeting to encourage attendance? ***It would prove challenging to have qualified students provide childcare during SAC meetings since many are involved in after-school activities. Requests for the volunteer support have gone out to the school community but were not answered.***
 - D. A general announcement was made that the Tri-Border community is working on bringing all community calendars and events together to maintain the program offerings and optimize attendance; also, the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) now has a Facebook page.
 - E. Mr. Garry Phillips, the new Military Family Life Consultant, was introduced. He shares that counseling services are at no cost with no records kept of consultations—except in “duty to warn” situations. He can be located at the CYSS, CDC/Youth Center and at the school. Ms. Wayland lauded the program’s usefulness in easing the transition for her own children several years ago when they first arrived to the community.
 - F. It was suggested that meeting times be extended to 1730 to avoid the sense of “over drawing” meeting times, since 60 minutes rarely proved enough time to cover all agenda items.
8. **Closing:** the meeting was adjourned at 1730.