

# ***Brussels American School Advisory Committee (BASAC)***

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## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Feb. 1, 2007 BASAC Meeting

- 1) The Vice Chairman (the SAC Chair was not in attendance) called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.
- 2) Members attending: Two parent representatives, three teacher representatives, a student representative, the BAS Principal & Vice Principal. Also attending: the Community Coordinator.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Block Scheduling: The Vice Chair reported that in response to a request in the Parent Newsletter from the SAC Chairman soliciting input on Block Scheduling, the “four or five” emails received from parents (most of whom have experienced the Block format at different schools) have all been in favor of Block Scheduling. The Principal indicated that 52% of BAS parents have now responded to the DODEA Customer Service Survey (CSS) which has been advertised in the Parent Newsletter and the Daily Bulletin, and hoped that this survey might offer more insight into parent opinion concerning Block Scheduling. After some general discussion of the issue, the Principal reiterated the process for handling such a proposed change--that if the SAC makes a recommendation for Block Scheduling, the Administration and teachers will then consider the idea. The Chair proposed that SAC should make a decision by March, or no later than April, after receiving further input from parents. The Principal agreed to help communicate to parents the need to provide feedback specific to Block Scheduling directly to the SAC.
  - b) Extra Duty Activities: At the December meeting, an Issue Form regarding the assignment of extra duty positions evolved into a discussion concerning exclusively the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) program, and the reasons behind the Administration’s decision this Fall to omit FBLA from this year’s extra-curricular offerings for students. Today, Feb. 1, a parent member shared with all SAC members and the Administration another plea—in the form of a student-signed letter, received the day before the final FBLA Conference sign-up deadline—for special consideration which would allow student participation in the March 2007 FBLA Conference, despite the decision made in August. Therefore, the Vice Chair asked the Principal if there were any options remaining regarding FBLA for interested BAS students. The Principal indicated that though any extra-curricular sponsor must be a BAS/DODEA employee (none of which had applied for the duty), an employee can volunteer to perform the duty without pay. [There are no remaining funds to pay an FBLA sponsor.] In light of this, and after further exploring—earlier in the day—BAS student interest in this program, the Principal asked the Vice Principal (who has experience with the

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FBLA program as a former Business teacher) to sponsor the activity, which occurs during the first week of March. Also earlier this day, the Vice Principal put together preparation FBLA packets, canvassed students, presented students with the extensive list of requirements for participation, and had begun requesting exceptions for FBLA Conference deadlines which have already passed. One SAC member then questioned why the administration had not—today—canvassed a wider range of students for possible participation in the conference. Another SAC member asked the Administration for clarification on whether it had—during, or shortly after the last SAC meeting (in December)—indeed conveyed a willingness to change its Fall decision regarding FBLA. After further meandering discussion, the SAC Vice Chair expressed gratitude to the Administration for “going the extra mile” in trying to accommodate the request for participation in the March event. Other SAC members concurred. The Principal stated that unfortunately, if BAS students do attend FBLA 2007, they will be at a disadvantage at this competitive conference, as other schools have been preparing since August.

- 4) Principal’s Report: The Principal reiterated that 52% of BAS parents had responded to the CSS survey, and that more responses were anticipated.
- 5) Vice Principal’s Report: There are no updates on the MILCON projects for BAS (a Gymnasium & Fine Arts Center). A SAC member, responding to an announcement in the Parent Newsletter, seconded the importance of informing students about the lack of privacy inherent in websites such as Myspace.com.
- 6) Athletic Director’s Report:
  - a) End of season tournaments are just around the corner: Wrestling Europeans will be held in Wiesbaden and Basketball Europeans at Mannheim.
  - b) The Draft of the Spring Sports Calendar has been published. The first day of practice is March 5.
  - c) Dead Week—the one week between seasons during which students are not to be involved in any school-sponsored athletic activities—is the week before March 5.

- 7) Student Liaison Report:

The dates for Prom and the Sadie Hawkins Dance are set, and Field Day is being discussed, though no date has yet been set.

- 8) USAG-Brussels Commander Report:

The Commander was not present. A question regarding follow-up about a Driver’s Education Program (a topic at previous SAC meetings) at USAG

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Brussels was raised to a SAC member/representative from USAG. While there was no new information from USAG Brussels, the Principal indicated that the DODEA Isles District Superintendent had indicated that Drivers Ed. was being considered as a Long Distance Learning option for the future. Finally, SAC members expressed gratitude to a BAS science teacher in attendance for continuing efforts in recycling paper products at the school. The teacher, in turn, wanted to acknowledge those responsible for placing new recycling bins on the BAS campus.

- 9) New Issues:
  - a) The Vice Chair asked the Principal when the District Area Council meeting will be. The Principal had not yet heard from the Superintendent's Office on this topic.
  - b) The Community Coordinator reported that the new ranking Military Officer in Brussels will be visiting BAS tomorrow, and was expected to be very supportive of BAS and the community.
  - c) The Vice Chair announced that March 1 is the date of the next SAC meeting.
- 10) The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Secretary