

Brussels American School Advisory Committee (BASAC)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the March 1, 2007 BASAC Meeting

- 1) The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
- 2) Members attending: Chairman, and two other parent representatives, three teacher representatives, and the student representative. Also attending: School Principal, Assistant Principal, and the Garrison Commander.
- 3) Old Business: Following up on an exploration of Block Scheduling, the Chairman reported that SAC members are aware of anxiety among some community members for SAC action to be taken regarding Block Scheduling. The Chairman also indicated that SAC members don't wish to rush into a recommendation to the Principal for Block before the issue has been properly vetted. The Principal reiterated that if SAC recommends Block Scheduling, the reasons for this recommendation will be taken to the teaching staff for consideration. After some discussion, there was general agreement that the Chair should try to craft a proposal for SAC members to vote on regarding Block Scheduling.
- 4) Principal's Report:
 - a) The Principal announced that over 50% of BAS families had responded to the Customer Satisfaction Survey, and that results will be available later in March.
 - b) Dr. Seuss Day is March 2. Many community volunteers will participate in Dr. Seuss readings at BAS.
 - c) Terra Nova testing is March 13-15, and other end-of-the-year standardized testing is in May.
 - d) Registration for next school year is underway; early registration is recommended.
 - e) 75% of high school students are out for a spring sport.
 - f) DODEA-Europe Headquarters has decided not to change the week of Soccer Europeans, despite conflicts with some AP tests. The BAS Athletic Director indicated that the European AD will try to arrange the game schedule to accommodate teams with the largest number of conflicts. Otherwise, students with conflicts have three options. They may:
 - skip the day of Europeans which conflicts with the test
 - pay \$40 dollars to take an alternative version of the test at a later date
 - have their coach/sponsor hand carry the ordered test to a test site near the European contests
- 5) Assistant Principal's Report: The visit of the MILCON group to begin the Design Phase for the new BAS Gymnasium has been postponed to March 19. The Chair and the USAG Commander expressed concern over the lack of transparency

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between MILCON, the DPW, Local Engineers, DODDS Isles District Engineers, the Corps of Engineers, and BAS. As one example, the Assistant Principal was told that the date for groundbreaking had slipped from 2008 to 2009; the USAG Commander was not aware of this new date. While acknowledging that funding has been dedicated to the project, the Chair urged the BAS Administration to do all it can to improve communication between all parties, and to involve the SAC in the MILCON visit.

- 6) Athletic Director's Report: Preliminary meetings for spring sport indicate that around 40 students are out for track, 14 for girls' soccer, and 24 for boys' soccer. Winding up the Winter Season, the Girls Basketball team repeated as Division 4 European Champions and the Wrestlers won their third straight Division 4 or Division 3 title. The Winter Sports Banquet is tonight.
- 7) Student Liaison's Report: There is a Band concert tomorrow at 1900 in the MPR, and the Sadie Hawkins dance is March 15. An AAFES representative asked for student input on a new food plan for BAS next year. The Principal confirmed the AAFES Director visited, promised a change, and clarified some things.
- 8) US Army Garrison Commander's Report:
 - a) The new General will visit with the BAS seniors next week to get a pulse on how they see their DODDS experience.
 - b) The seriousness of Force Protection in USAG-Brussels has been re-emphasized.
 - c) Construction for a pull-off lane by Gate 7 will be funded.
 - d) The \$65,000 to \$75,000 renovation of the existing gym's floor and a new pavilion near the playing fields will receive partial funding from USAG Brussels, but more funding from DODDS would be useful.
 - e) Real Estate agents will soon help USAG Brussels negotiate a deal with the owners of the farmland adjacent to BAS.

9) Open Forum Issues/Old Business:

SAC Elections need to be planned next month. All positions are up for election, though current teacher members and parent members who will have children enrolled at BAS may run for re-election.

The Principal reminded SAC that March 16 is a day for School Improvement Plan meetings among teachers, and students will not have school that day.

The Principal also indicated that BAS has made requests for materials from London Central, as LC is closing this spring.

10. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary