

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

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## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Dec. 7, 2006 BASAC Meeting

- 1) The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.
- 2) Members attending: Three parent representatives, two teacher representatives, the student representative, the Principal, the USAG Brussels Commander.

3) Old Business:

After revisiting a previous meeting's discussion of Division alignment for DODDS-Europe Football, the SAC Chair stated an intention to work with the BAS Athletic Director in submitting a proposal to the DODDS-Europe Athletic Director.

Suggestions in the proposal will:

- call for a reasonable and equitable enrollment cut-off for 4 divisions, as in other sports (taking travel issues into consideration);
- address the possibility of playing 8-man football instead of 11-man.

4) Principal's Report:

- a) December 20, the last day of school before Christmas Break, is quickly approaching amidst an array of campus activities: sports trips and competitions, the Middle School Play, and Christmas Concerts.
- b) In response to a question about PSAT Test Results, the Principal stated that the College Board provides an option on the exam's biographical data portion for students to release scores to institutions that the students specify. Those who qualify as National Merit Semi-Finalists (eligible to compete for a National Merit Scholarship) are included in a list available to colleges and universities via The College Board.
- c) The next "team visit" from engineers and contractors involved in the new building projects at BAS will take place perhaps in January. The Principal and Vice-Principal will ensure that a wide range of stakeholders are represented when this visit occurs.
- d) In response to the USAG-Brussels Commander's concern that alterations to the aforementioned project plans may be occurring (i.e., whether or not the plan calls for "building to standard" regulations, and if not, what alterations are planned), the BASAC District Education Committee representative indicated a willingness to ensure--through EUCOM channels--better transparency between the European Corps of Engineers and the local Department of Public Works (DPW).

5) Athletic Director's Report:

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The Winter Sports season is in full swing. The Home Wrestling meet went very well and received a great deal of community support. The Basketball season is going well also, as the girls team convincingly defeated Division 1 ISB two nights ago.

## 6) Student Liaison Report:

- a) The Student Council President reported that after conducting a poll of 75 BAS High School students, 49 indicated that they would be “very interested” in a Driver’s Education Class if it was offered in the Brussels American Community.
- b) The Principal reiterated that while Driver’s Ed. is no longer a class offered by DODDS, books and materials used in the course are still available for use.
- c) The USAG-Brussels Commander indicated a willingness to look further into the possibility of finding resources and personnel (though currently stretched very thin) at USAG-Brussels to offer such a course. The Commander wants to first determine whether there is serious demand for such a course, and after surveying parents, will move forward.

## 7) USAG-Brussels Commander Report:

- a) The Commander had the opportunity to talk with a representative from the Dallas AAFEES Headquarters, and inquired about the availability of fresh fruit among other things on the AAFEES lunch menu. Karen Traver, the SHAPE Health Care Facility Dietician provided a report on the BAS School Lunch Menu. It is attached to these minutes. Students and faculty confirmed that there has been fresh fruit available from the BAS AAFEES lunch for quite some time.
- b) The Commander is currently looking into the possibility of contracting outside of AAFEES.
- c) The Principal indicated that discussions with the Isles District Superintendent have confirmed that the school lunch program is “the Commander’s lunch program,” implying flexibility in BAS’ choices for lunch services (which are contracted through USAG-Brussels).
- d) The Commander asked the SAC to help prioritize 3 engineering projects that are soon to be submitted:
  - A new gym floor for the existing BAS gymnasium, which will become the Garrison’s gym upon completion of the new gym project.
  - A pull-off lane for drop-off and pick-up in front of Gate 7 (the main entrance to BAS).
  - A Pavilion for Barbequing and seating near the athletic fields.

## 8) Open Forum Issues:

- a) Follow-up discussion on Block Scheduling:

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- While the SAC Chair acknowledged the Principal's compilation of research on block scheduling (submitted at the last SAC meeting), disappointment was expressed that no DODDS study has been done on Block Scheduling.
  - Restating the primary concern of the Principal, the SAC Chair stated that the central question which must be asked and answered is: What is the compelling need to change to a Block Schedule Format?
  - A variety of opinions were aired by parent SAC representatives and parents in attendance. Some parents promoted block scheduling based on previous experiences at other schools. Some wondered about the difficulties of making a block-schedule work in a unit school. One parent expressed a desire for definitive research on the topic. One parent promoted the advantages of being able to "go deeper" into concepts taught in science classes when given more time in a class period. Some parents promoted block scheduling as a way to reduce stress on students at such an academically-oriented school as BAS. Some saw an advantage in students being able to become acclimated to a schedule more similar to a college class schedule.
  - A parent SAC member asked the Principal what would "pull the trigger" for the Administration and Faculty to consider Block Scheduling. The Principal reiterated: When a compelling need is apparent. The principal encouraged the SAC to present a formal recommendation if the SAC sees a compelling need.
  - The Chair urged further consideration of the matter at the next meeting.
- b) The Chair presented (and authored) an Issue Form addressing the process for choosing Extra-Duty Activities, and assigning Extra-Duty Contracts, or sponsorship. The concern arose in response to the absence on this year's Extra-Duty Activity list of an FBLA program, a Middle School Student Council Program and a Talent Show. The Principal stated that the school was budgeted with \$100,000 to pay Extra-Duty Sponsors this year—down from 105 K last year. When some activities were not signed up for, the school was allowed to stay under budget. The Principal also noted that DODDS teachers have priority for these contracts before substitute teachers, and that sponsors must be DODDS employees. At the request of a parent in attendance, the principal will look into the specific reasons why sponsors must be DODDS employees. The Principal also gave the Chair a copy of the DODDS Regulation on Extra-Duty Assignments. Finally, the Chair asked the Principal to seek community involvement if in the future Extra-Duty Activities once offered lack a DODDS sponsor.
- 9) The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Secretary

# *Brussels American School Advisory Committee (BASAC)*

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE  
SHAPE HEALTHCARE FACILITY  
UNIT 21414, BOX 3530  
APO, AE 09705

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MCEUL-SH-PM

3 November 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Garrison Brussels, Army Family Action Plan

SUBJECT: School Menus

1. Independent analysis of the grades K-6 AAFES school lunch program was completed for 9-13 January 2006 and 16-20 October 2006, and comparison made to the January analysis provided by the AAFES dietitian. These figures were further compared to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Minimum Nutrient and Calorie Levels for School Lunches for grades K-6.
2. When available, nutrient content of foods was obtained via observation of product labels at the SHAPE high school cafeteria pantry and freezer. For those items not displaying a label, the food manufacturers were contacted by electronic mail for nutritional information. The majority of the independent analysis was done using the AAFES nutrient content spreadsheet; the same used by the AAFES dietitian.
3. The differences between the AAFES analysis and the independent analysis for 9-13 January 2006 are shown in the chart below. Both analyses do, in fact, meet the USDA standards for K-6 school lunches for calories, protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A, and vitamin C.

	Calories	Protein (grams)	Calcium (milligrams)	Iron (milligrams)	Vitamin A (retinol equivalents)	Vitamin C (milligrams)
January- independent	753	27	460	5.6	725	20
January- AAFES	885	33	550	5.7	591	18
October- independent	718	26	575	6.4	891	17
USDA standards	664	10	286	3.5	224	15

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4. The independent analysis for 16-20 October 2006 (there is no AAFES analysis for comparison) also shows that the weekly average meets the USDA standards.
5. Regarding total fat, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend no more than 30% of total calories from fat. This is typically meant to apply to the whole day and not to individual foods or meals. However, it is noted that the AAFES January analysis showed an average of

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29% of calories from total fat, and the independent January analysis showed 27% of calories from total fat. The independent October analysis showed 32% of calories from total fat.

6. Due to a lack of data, saturated fat and sodium content could not be fully assessed. The independent January analysis showed an average sodium content of 1242 milligrams for lunches. The actual amount would be higher if more data had been available (the AAFES spreadsheets do not include saturated fat or sodium content). The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend less than 2300 milligrams of sodium per day. The high sodium content of the school lunches is due to the heavy use of processed meats, boxed goods, and canned foods.
7. The fiber content was eight grams for both the January and October independent analyses. The general fiber guideline for ages three through 20 is age plus five grams of fiber. The fiber content of the meals is adequate. Trans fat information was not available.
8. The school lunches meet the defined USDA standards. Parents may wish to emphasize fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and minimally processed meats in home-cooked meals to provide a balance to the school lunches.
9. The Point of Contact is the undersigned at DSN at 423-5948.

KAREN TRAVER  
Registered Dietitian  
Preventive Medicine  
SHAPE Healthcare Facility