

Brussels American School Advisory Committee (BASAC)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the September 7, 2006 BASAC Meeting

- 1) The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- 2) Members attending: Three parent representatives, three faculty representatives, and the student representative. Also attending: School Principal and Assistant Principal, and the USA Garrison Brussels Commander.
- 3) Old Business:
 - a) The Vice Chairman reviewed highlights of the recent [DoDDS European] Dependents European Council (DEC) Meeting. Of particular note is the closure of London Central High School at the end of this school year 2006/2007.
 - b) The Chairman noted that the BASAC end-of-year report for 2005/2006 was being finalized and will be available soon.
- 4) Principal's Report:
 - a) BAS enrollment currently stands at 311; 14 countries are represented, and the school is 15% international this year.
 - b) The counseling staff did a great job of getting students registered, organized and settled in classes this fall.
 - c) The BAS School Calendar is on the school website, which is now up-to-date. Faculty and parents expressed some concern over the late dismissal for the December holiday, and the fact that the school break does not align with the NATO break. The Principal noted that the school calendar is fixed for this holiday break; however, future school years' calendar development will consider this and other factors.
 - d) The Principal will address SAC training at the October meeting.
 - e) In response to a SAC member's question about a Stars & Stripes report that BAS may lose the word "American" in its name, the principal indicated that there was no foundation to the report based on official information.
- 5) Vice Principal's Report:
 - a) Work on new lighting in the Media Center (Library) is complete.
 - b) Work on new sidewalks around the BAS campus is nearly complete.
 - c) A new bike/moped rack "square" has been placed near the flag poles in the front of the school. Painting of the parking areas adjacent to this square will be completed next week.

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- d) Work on a sinkhole outside the Media Center will begin in 10 days, when the Isles District releases funds for DPW. It may be necessary to remove sidewalks in the area in order to investigate the cause.
 - e) No new fence will be installed around the tennis courts until work on the proposed new gymnasium commences. Groundbreaking for the gym is projected to begin in 2008 or 2009.
 - f) The ABC group recently came to take lead samples on the campus and to check the safety of the playground.
 - g) In response to a SAC member question about bikes/mopeds being confined to the aforementioned square near the flagpoles, the Administration replied that this was a decision made by Isles District Engineers together with Force Protection personnel. Traffic safety was the primary concern.
 - The SAC Chair suggested future consideration of an “off-school-hours” parking area for bikes/mopeds near the gym in order to prevent students from parking in less desirable places.
 - h) In response to a question from a community member about the new fences and gates installed around the campus, the Administration indicated that the goal of Force Protection personnel was to limit the number of access points/entrances on campus to one in the event of an emergency/threat situation.
- 6) Athletic Director Report:
- a) The Fall Sports Season is underway, and participation in all sports is high—70 to 75 of roughly 100 high school students are involved.
 - b) The first weekend of competition is the 17th of September, which provides for a unique opportunity of 3 weeks of practice before competition.
 - c) In response to a question from the USAG Commander, the AD confirmed that there is a possibility for the BAS tennis team to make use of the NATO Staff Center Courts for practice one day a week, and for home matches.
- 7) Student Liaison Report:
- a) A High School Dance is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 8.
 - b) Homecoming is scheduled for Oct. 7th.
 - c) Currently there are no sponsors for the 9th and 10th grade classes.
 - The Principal inserted that no Extra-Duty Contracts have been issued yet due to contractual settlement problems within DODEA.
 - d) The USAG Commander asked the Student Liaison for future feedback concerning whether or not Youth Services is scheduling activities at opportune times for BAS students.
- 8) USAG Commander's Report:
- a) At the most recent DEC meeting, the USAG Commander raised 2 issues:

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- i.) Overnight bus security
 - ii.) Garnering support for purchasing land near the school for USAG expansion
 - b) During a VIP visit to Brussels on the 20th, the Commander wishes to present USAG Brussels/BAS as a worthy investment, and to once again, emphasize the unique community supported by USAGB.
 - c) Regarding the unresolved School Lunch/AAFES issue from the 2005/06 School Year:
 - i) The USAG Commander has referred the issue to AAFES for resolution.
 - ii) The USAG Commander has also asked the PTSO to form a committee to help make further recommendations.
 - The SAC Chairman asked what the next step would be.
 - The USAG Commander emphasized the need to broaden community support for action on the issue.
 - d) SLO Update: USAG Brussels is now authorized less than a full-time SLO position. As there is currently a hiring freeze, and as there are more urgent needs within USAG Brussels, the SLO position will not likely be filled.
 - i) The SAC Chair urged the USAG Commander to preserve any files/history left behind by the previous SLO.
- 9) Open Forum:
- a) A Community Member expressed concern about the amount of homework BAS students have. The Principal and a SAC member recommended consulting with individual teachers—as a first step—in order to resolve such problems.
 - b) A Community Member asked the Administration what options the 150 Middle and High School students have when they are finished eating lunch. The Principal indicated that due to past problems, students are to remain in the cafeteria, the library, Lincoln Plaza, the lobby (seniors only), with teachers in a classroom, or sometimes on the field between the art room and high school building. While indicating a willingness to change existing policy, the Principal noted that there is a requirement for supervision if students are to use the field in the future.
 - c) After much discussion, the Chair indicated a willingness to work with the community members in attendance via the BASAC Issue Form.
 - d) In response to SAC members' question about Driver's Education at BAS, the Principal agreed to pursue more information on DODEA policy regarding this issue.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Secretary